

ARTFUL GIFTS

'Tis the season for elevating gift-giving to a fine art.

BY DENISE BATES ENOS

If you're looking for gift ideas that go beyond the usual socks/slippers/robe formula, look no further: on these pages you'll find items of beauty, eco-friendly gifts, and presents of wit and charm. There's something here for everyone, from the corporate executive, to Junior's favorite teacher, to your very best friend.

The Art of the Deal

For gifts with true originality, stop by the gift shop at the Orlando Museum of Art, which offers original works by emerging Florida artists, including Vera Sattler's whimsical three-dimensional fish of fused and slumped glass, \$350-\$750; mouth-blown vases, bowls, vessels and paperweights by Barry Hepner priced from \$50; and birds carved of wood and adorned with vintage found objects by Jim Mullan, \$325-\$775.

The shop carries a variety of other *objets d'art*, including clocks made with found objects by Debra Dressler, \$350; wooden vessels hand-turned by Jeff Matter, starting at \$100; and colorful mobiles of anodized aluminum by Marvin and Michelle Shafer - Q3 Art, \$32-\$247.

And when only a fine pen will do, the museum has an excellent selection. The Paraferalia Revolution Pen is entirely hand-made with minute metallic details and push mechanism, \$91, and the Free Ride pen by French designer Jean Pierre Lepine is a piece of usable sculpture for

an executive's desk, \$212. Or, for do-it-yourselfers, Paraferalia also offers the Falter 2D, a build-your-own pen kit that allows the recipient to pop the pieces out of a metal sheet and put it together, \$45. For additional information, log on to www.omart.org or call 407.896.4231 x 268.

The Morse, of Course

The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art is famous for its collection of Louis Comfort Tiffany stained glass works, and you can purchase items based on many of the most notable pieces in the museum gift shop.

Glass panels from Laurelton Hall have been recreated in the form of throws,

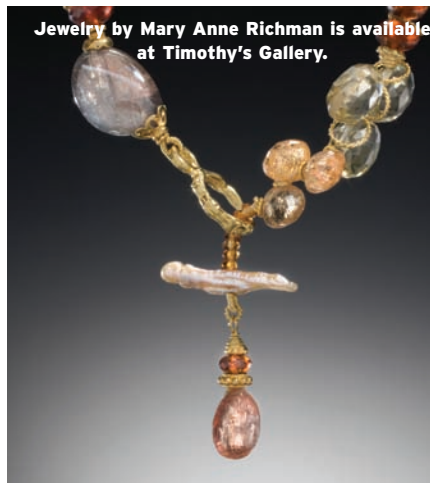
tote bags, table runners, placemats, coasters and other decorative items, priced from \$12.95 to \$72. Motawi ceramic tiles, \$25-\$132, are another great



Florida artist Jim Mullan creates carved-wood birds adorned with found objects.



Fine vases are offered at the gift shop in the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art.



Jewelry by Mary Anne Richman is available at Timothy's Gallery.



A nativity scene crafted from recycled materials from Ten Thousand Villages.

gift idea, as are luster-glazed ceramics from North Carolina, \$65-\$320. Or, for something completely different, there's a tapestry pillow adorned with Michelangelo's *God Creating Adam* from the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel — wind it up, and it plays "I Want to Hold Your Hand," \$34.95. Call 407.645.5311 or visit www.morsemuseum.org for more information.

Smartly Artzy

For sophisticated gifts, Park Avenue is an ideal shopping locale.

At Scott Laurent Collection, shimmering mosaic glass vases by Orlando artist Lorrie Adams, \$90 and up, make an impressive present. Or, consider Orlando octogenarian Rhoda Phillips' pottery leaf bowls, \$120 and up. Additional gift ideas from the gallery include Joan Wetsler's hand-colored etchings, \$48 and up, and ceramic raku kimono by Arlene Stern, \$400 and up. Call 407.629.0278 or go to scottlaurentcollection.com for more information.

Ten Thousand Villages, which works with artisan groups in more than 30 countries, offers a variety of fair trade jewelry, home décor, gifts and holiday-themed pieces. Its nativity scene offerings include a grouping carved of mwenga wood from the Congo, \$125, and one made of rolled, recycled paper and wood from the Philippines, \$94.

New this year is a soapstone set with a leather case from Niger, \$98. From the West Bank, there are several carved olive wood pieces available, including a sculpture of the holy family, \$34, a nativity scene set in a double star ornament, \$6, and another set in a bell-shaped ornament, \$10. Call 407.644.8464

or log on to www.tenthousandvillages.com.

At Timothy's Gallery, Alan "The Egg Man" Traynor's hand-painted wooden eggs, \$35-\$80, are great for under the tree, and are available in a variety of holiday designs. Acme Animals' metal animals, \$20-\$40, are whimsical creatures created by Canadian artists Don Gidley and Sue Parke. Additional animal-themed gifts include the soulful dog and cat art by artist Jody Wright, \$250. For the jewelry lover on your list, artistically crafted pieces by Mary Anne Richman feature 22K gold, freshwater pearls and semiprecious stones, \$250-\$4,000. See more at www.timothysgallery.com or call 407.629.0707.

Presents of Mind

At Rollins College's Cornell Museum, thought-provoking gifts include a wide assortment of art-themed books, DVDs, posters and cards. Consider, for example, *Beyond the Woodcut in Florida*, organized by Richard D. Colvin, \$7; *The Independents: The Ashcan School & Their Circle from Florida Collections*, by Valerie Ann Leeds, \$25; *Treasures of the Cornell Fine Arts Museum*, by Arthur R. Blumenthal, Ph.D., et al., \$25; or *The Synthetic Image: Fabricated Photography in Florida*, by Ronald B. Larned, \$10. Visit www.rollins.edu/cfam or call 407.646.2000 for ordering information.

Gifts at a Grand Scale

The Gallery at the Grand Bohemian is a great place to find unique and upscale gifts. Tasteful suggestions for her include jewel-encrusted decorative figurines that open to reveal an exquisite necklace



The Parafernalia Falter 2D Pen is sold at the Orlando Museum of Art.



A hand-painted egg by Alan Taylor, available at Timothy's Gallery.



Above: Gifts at Orlando Museum of Art include three-dimensional glass fish sculptures by Vera Sattler. Left: Cornell Fine Arts Museum offers a selection of quality books.





Waterlilies at Beaver House La Mance by artist Jean Claude Roy is just one of the fine gifts at the Gallery at the Grand Bohemian.



Handtooled Leaf Leather bags are portable works of art available at Timothy's Gallery.



Jeff Matter hand turns wooden vessels, which start at \$100 at the Orlando Museum of Art.



The gift shop at the Morse Museum of Art features reproductions of Tiffany windows on a variety of items.

bearing a miniature matching figurine, \$55-\$185, or one-of-a-kind handmade jewelry created with unique natural elements, antiques and found objects by Lorena Lacayo, \$55-\$350.

For him, there's London Badge & Button cufflinks in sterling silver and stainless steel, with award-winning designs that combine vibrant enamels and a selection of unusual materials, \$75-\$150.

For both, consider ORIS Swiss-made automatic mechanical watches, \$1,200-\$3,600 and up, or original oil paintings from French "Expressionist-Colorist" Jean Claude Roy, represented exclusively by The Kessler Collection stateside. Roy will be in Orlando in mid-November for an art exhibition at the Grand Bohemian Gallery. Prices range from \$950-\$18,500 and higher. Call 407.581.4801 for more information or log on to www.grandbohemiangallery.com.

Quality Tharoo and Tharoo

Tharoo & Co., located at Pointe Orlando on International Drive, boasts a bounty of sophisticated gifts, including quality jewelry and watches, timeless grandfather clocks, Lladro collectible porcelain; crystal from Waterford,

Swarovski and Lenox; and other sought-after pieces from renowned companies such as Giuseppe Armani, Maasai, Legends, Thomas Blackshear and Kitty Corners.

Tharoo & Co.'s web site offers gift ideas in categories ranging from under \$100, including the Nike Electrolite watch for \$69; \$251-\$500, with suggestions such as the Lladro "Love Nest" figurine for \$350; \$501-\$1,000, with Guiseppe Armani's "Liberty Enlightening the World" figurine, \$550, as a top choice; and \$1,001 and up, which spotlights a ladies' stainless steel and diamond watch for \$1,650. Find out more at www.tharoo.com or by calling 877.4.THAROO (484.2766).

So check your list and start shopping. With the creative and unique offerings throughout the Orlando area, the gifts you give this year will be the most popular ones under the tree. **oam**

Freelance writer Denise Bates Enos is a regular contributor to a number of local and national publications, including Pool & Spa Living magazine, The Orlando Sentinel and Orlando magazine.



Debra Dressler's clocks are made with found objects and are available at the Orlando Museum of Art.

Sights & Sounds of the Holidays



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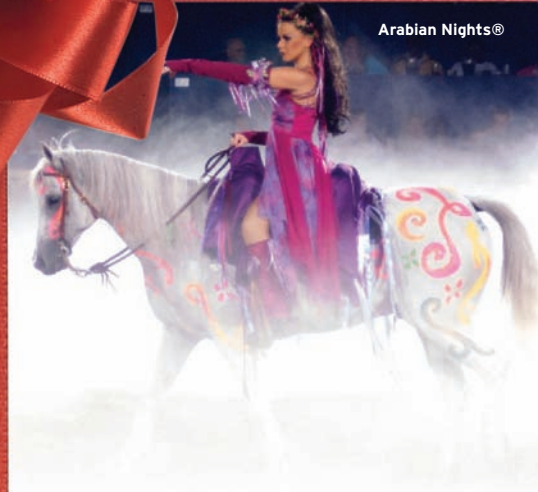
P O L A R



SeaWorld® Orlando



Holy Land Experience



Arabian Nights®

There's no better time to experience Central Florida's renowned theme parks and dinner shows than during the holidays.

One of Orlando's premier dinner theaters, Arabian Nights, puts on a spectacular holiday show. Guests will be entertained by toy soldiers, gingerbread men, sugarplum fairies and Santa Claus and his elves, all while enjoying a three-course meal. The evening's entertainment encompasses 60 horses and 40 performers, pyrotechnics, snow and special sets. The Holiday Show runs from November 17 to January 1. For more information, call 407.239.9223 or visit www.arabian-nights.com.

The Holy Land Experience brings together the sights and sounds of the world of the Bible. Special Christmas concerts include Martha Munizzi on November 3, Jason Crabb on November 4, Michael English on November 5 and Avalon on November 6. On New Year's Eve, there will be a special presentation by guest Pastor Mike Hayes. For program and ticket information, call 407.872.2272 or visit www.holylandexperience.com.

Make yuletide memories at SeaWorld® Orlando, which features festive decorations, snowfalls at The Waterfront and live holiday music from classical musicians and carolers. From November 14 through January 4, guests can experience the Polar Express, and the holiday season also brings a special Shamu Christmas Miracles Show. On December 31, Shamu and friends are throwing a big New Year's Eve party complete with live music and fireworks. For more information, call 407.351.3600 or visit www.SeaWorld.com.

From December 6 through January 1, celebrate the season at "Grinchmas" at Universal's Islands of Adventure®. Next door at Universal Studios, the Macy's Holiday Parade will fill the streets with balloons and floats from the world-famous Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Guests can also enjoy a nightly Christmas tree lighting, as well as holiday-themed shows.

Ring in the New Year at Universal CityWalk, where the evening will feature live entertainment, an expansive gourmet buffet and a champagne toast. For more information, call 407.224.4233 or visit www.universalorlando.com. **Oam**