



## What to buy

## 2016 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

# LOCAL ART

**30**  
SHOPPING  
DAYS LEFT

**A**rt produced at the hand of a creative mind is not only priceless, but personal. This region is brimming with a slew of artists who work in so many media, it would be a challenge

not to find the perfect gift for family members and friends of all ages.

— ROBERTA GEDERT, BLADE STAFF WRITER

### Personalized paintings

A personalized painting is always a keeper, and local artist **Nora Sallows** accepts commissions for such things as paintings of homes, portraits, and even pet portraits. As a plein air painter, Sallows has many paintings with local scenes available for sale. She works in oils and acrylics and offers classes. Prices range from **\$120-\$500** and are dependent on size. **dancinglightstudio.com, Facebook,** or **516-200-8153**.



### Holiday paintings

If it's an abstract painting you are looking for, **Shared Lives Gallery**, 20 N. St. Clair St., has you covered. The visual arts studio provides studio space for artists with developmental disabilities to create and sell art. Artist **Jennifer Schefft** of Sylvania paints large abstract paintings with broad strokes that are perfect for over the mantle. If it's a holiday-themed painting you are looking for, artist **Craig Toczynski** has done a 12 Days of Christmas series on canvas. Abstracts, **\$150-\$300**; 12 Days paintings, **\$95** each.



### Glass up Christmas

It is the Glass City, after all, so buying glass art for a friend or family member is always appropriate. Local glass artist **Brien Strancar** offers a wide variety of hand-blown glass pieces from his studio, including holiday-themed snowmen and pickle ornaments. He also creates vases, bowls, business card holders, and other vessels. His work can be found at **brienstrancar.com**, at **Handmade Toledo**, **Hudson Gallery**, or **Fire Nation**, where he is also an instructor. Pickles **\$35**; cup and pitcher sets (four cups, one pitcher) **\$100**; mini clam shell bowls **\$50**; vases **\$45**; snowman **\$50**. **brienstrancar.com**.



### Glass art

Tucked away in the downtown art district at 340 Morris St. is **Schmidt Messenger Studios**, a collaboration by artists Jack Schmidt and Shawn Messenger, who have been creating glass pieces and sculptures for more than three decades. Messenger creates individual glass-blown pieces in the spirit of her garden and Impressionist artists. Her work is found at her studio, at **artfulhome.com**, at the **Toledo Museum of Art**, **River Centre Gallery**, or **Hudson Gallery**. Heart paperweights, small, **\$40**, large **\$65**. Layered flower vases in blue, yellow, green, pink, tangerine, and a cherry blossom series, **\$200-\$265**.

### Gem art

Local artist **Elyssa Brady** gets creative with bones, gemstones, herbs, and flowers when designing one-of-a-kind jewelry with a mysterious feel under the name **RustBeltGems**. Coyote teeth, raccoon bones, deer vertebrae, sometimes paired with blue quartz, rubies, crystals, and other gem baubles are transformed into pendants for necklaces, bracelets, and other jewels. Customers also can find glass vials filled with lavender, sunflowers, or other natural materials. Average prices range from **\$20** to **\$30**. Brady takes custom orders and her work can be found on **Etsy**, **Pinterest**, **Facebook**, or by emailing her at **rustbeltgems@gmail.com**. She also sells her creations locally at **Handmade Toledo** on Adams, **Claudia's Health Food** on Secor Road, and **Allied Record Exchange** on Navarre Avenue. **etsy.com/shop/RustBeltGems**.



### Screen prints

Show your hometown pride by wearing a screen-printed, personally designed shirt by Printed on a Lark. Give a 419 fistbump, sport a pennant from Team Toledo, or wear your pride for Toledo on an old cassette tape or high-top tennis shoe. All shirts are designed and screen printed in Printed On a Lark's Toledo studio. Available at **Taste of Toledo**, Levis Commons in Perrysburg; **Rustbelt Coffee**, 119 Ontario St., and **Handmade Toledo**, 1717 Adams St. Or go to **printedonalark.com**.



### Baby items

Even babies can have an artistic flair. **Dearly Made** of Toledo offers baby items custom-made from soft and repurposed materials. Choose from teething, pacifier clips, Einstein-inspired carseat strap covers, and baby blankets made from cotton and swirl minky fleece. Price range, **\$10-\$35**. Items available at **Handmade Toledo**, 1717 Adams St.



### Ceramic creations

Meghan Yarnell of Perrysburg uses her love of the natural world to create hand-crafted ceramic bowls, mugs, and plates organically decorated with poppies, birds, tree branches, and fish. Made from clay and porcelain, with a glaze, Yarnell's creations are dishwasher and microwave safe. She takes personalized orders on **Etsy**. Also available at **Handmade Toledo**, 1717 Adams St. Prices range from **\$18-\$36**. **etsy.com/people/Meghcallie**.



### Card art

This holiday season, put a personal touch on the messages you send in the mail with a pack of "A Holiday Hello from Toledo" cards. Each card is screen printed by Toledo artist Michelle Carlson, and are available in silvers, reds, greens, and golds. **Handmade Toledo**. Single cards, **\$4**; three-pack of cards, **\$11**.



### Bright color paintings

If you are looking for whimsical and fun, local painter Greg Justus is your man. Done in bright colors with thick paint, some of Justus' popular commissions have been wine and beer bottle themes, landscapes (birch trees are a popular one), nautical, and Day of the Dead pieces. Sizes and prices range between **\$60** for an 8-by-10 canvas, up to **\$360** for a 20-by-30. To commission a painting or check out his current stock, go to **artofjustus.com**, call **419-340-2568**, or email **artofjustus@gmail**.

\* Prices and availability subject to change.



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**Toledo Museum of Art**