

WHAT AN EYEFUL

Nashville's cup runneth over when it comes to talent. Just take a closer look at that server at The Frothy Monkey or the fellow who fixed your car. There's a pretty good likelihood he or she has some mad skills that have nothing to do with their regular job.

Case in point: Amanda Nagy. A recent graduate of Watkins College of Art, Film and Design, Amanda calls on nature and technology to create provocative work. Her latest installation, *Reflective Identity*, "encompasses our self-image as seen from the perspective of others," she says. "Our culture has a strong influence on us; it helps mold our personality, self-image, and identity. My identity has been shaped by my family, friends, and peers. I am using the reflection in the eye as a self-portrait and as a way to explore self-identity. By seeing myself through the eyes of my subjects, in a way, I see what they see. It is a unique environment that can only be experienced through macro photography." Amanda uses audio, video and photo transfers on gel medium suspended from the ceiling with clear filament. Other examples of Amanda's work are on permanent display at the Hutton Hotel. Celebrate our local artists. To contact Amanda or learn more about her work, email her at anagy07@yahoo.com. *EN*



CLEAN, CAFFEINATED AND COMMUNITY-MINDED

When Brian and Courtney Hicks set out to invigorate a South Nashville neighborhood through Harvest Hands community development corporation, the couple launched two cottage industries to engage young people in entrepreneurship. In a former church on Humphreys Street—in the shadow of Greer Stadium—Courtney and Brian oversee the production of WOW! soap (which stands for Women of Wisdom) and Humphreys Street Coffee Company. Once a week, Courtney, along with Jael Fuentes and apprentices Brittany Pantoja and Melody Williams, brews up a batch of soap made from all-natural vegetable and essential oils. The soaps are available in scents such as lavender, honey-almond and peppermint and come in standard bars, as well as shapes of insects and flowers. Packed in a delicate sachet, with a brochure about the work of Harvest Hands, WOW! soap is \$5 per bar and \$20 for five.

In an adjacent room in the historic church, Brian oversees Humphreys Street Coffee Co., the entrepreneurial project of Harvest Hands' Men in Mentoring in the Community (MIMIC) program. Brian and Luke Lancaster work with a group of young men to roast beans from Central America and Africa, which they package, label and distribute. One-pound bags are available at Harvest Hands (424 Humphreys Street) for \$12. Dose Coffee and Tea on Murphy Road brews Humphreys Street Coffee on a regular basis and sells the whole beans for \$14 a pound. You're going to start your day off with soap and coffee anyway. Now your personal wake-up ritual can help energize a whole community. *CF*



EVERYTHING OLD...

Furniture with a story, a history that's rich with the mystique of days gone by, seems so much more appealing than your dime-a-dozen furnishings found in a large retail chain. Whether it belonged to your great-grandmother or it's a simple flea-market find, you want the buffet, occasional chair or demilune to be in tip-top shape as it sits on display in your home. Enter Rosewalker Design Project, where husband and wife team Richard and Carolyn Sullivan offer a beaucoup of specialty services. Their skills run the gamut: high-end antique restoration, architectural woodturning (think custom balusters and sconces) and even their own line of hand-made decorative art pieces, which are available from Rosewalker. For more info, log on to torosewalkerdesignproject.com. *MM*



FACE PAINT

We love it when new makeup collections come out. They're the perfect way to indulge in the newest trends in fashion without investing an arm and a leg in a \$5,000 military jacket that makes you look a little bit like Napoleon.

It's even more of a thrill when one of our peeps—or local businesses, we should say, is the purveyor and creator of those goods. Therapy Systems has just released its fall line of oh-so-wearable colors, inspired by the runway. A nude face with subtle eyes and neutral cheeks and lips is one must-have trend for the season, and the polished proper lady is the other. The eye-shadow shades had all the *Nfocus* girls atwitter, pouncing, grabbing and pulling hair as we fought for the Bourbon and Blue Slate (which also make great eyeliners!).

Stop on by the shop and let the ladies demonstrate how to put the perfect polish on that pretty mug of yours. Go on—get on your way. We don't want to be off-trend, now do we? *EN*

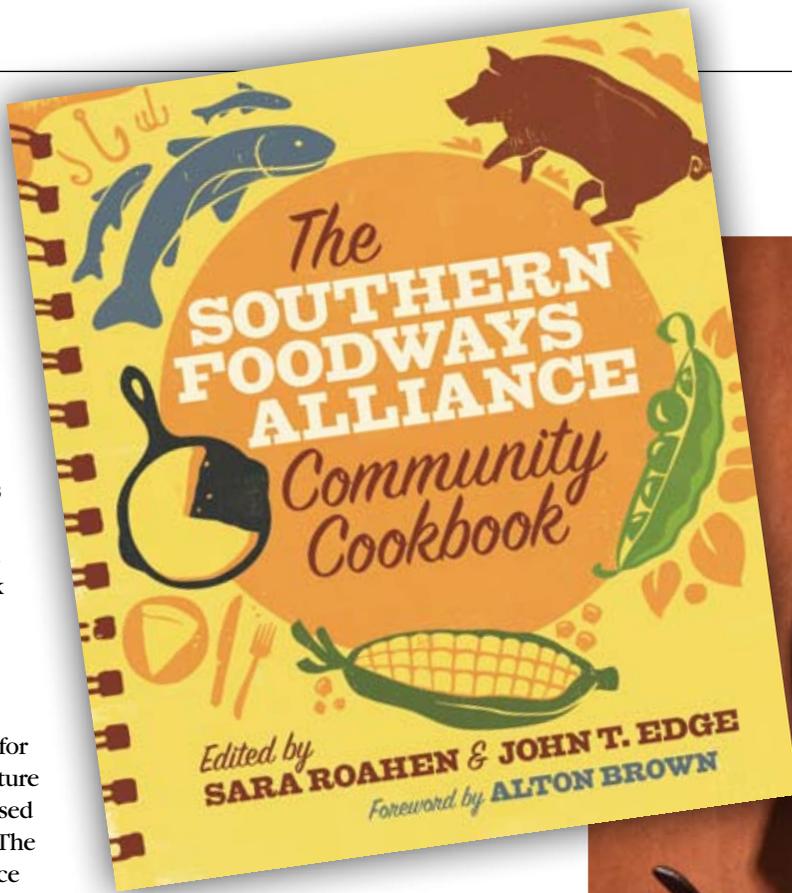


COOKBOOK RE-MIX

You know that tattered, old beloved Junior League treasure trove of recipes, bound with duct tape and dusted in flour, holding prized position in your kitchen? We'd never recommend getting rid of it, but let's be serious. What's it doing to that new granite counter you just put in alongside that copper sink and hood?

We've got the solution. The wonderful folks at the Southern Foodways Symposium at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at Ole Miss have just released their latest gift to foodies: The Southern Foodways Alliance Community Cookbook. Edited by John T. Edge and Sara Roahen, the book is chockfull of "local recipes from the worldly South," and a darn good read (even if you don't cook). The editors have taken the best of classic, traditional southern recipes and bound 'em in one pretty package. Your kitchen will thank you.

With 170 recipes that you will most certainly make, this is a must-buy. The recipes—nothing fancy, just darn tasty—come from chefs, writers, lawyers, friends and family. Simple, good southern classics—that's what we have here. Check out your local bookstore or amazon.com to purchase. *EN*



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M-E-O-W.

Elvis knew what he was doing at Graceland when he commissioned the Jungle Room. Everyone needs a little wildlife in the home, and no, that doesn't mean you should go hunt, kill and stuff something for display. Leave the shooting to the professionals like Christian Sperka. Or at least let him teach you.

Originally from Germany, Christian is a wildlife photographer who has roamed the world, photographing animals in the wild game preserves of South Africa, the jungles of Costa Rica, as well as zoos in Switzerland and the United States. Now a resident of Nashville, he has partnered with the Nashville Zoo to offer photography classes for all skill levels. Christian is also currently developing a special one-day course for Zoo field guides instructing them how to help guests take better pictures of its residents.

While he has photographed numerous species around the world, his passion is wild cats, and he is an active supporter of wildlife conservation, working with the Munyawana Leopard project in South Africa, The & Beyond Foundation and Panthera.

To see Christian's work, stop by his gallery, Animal Art Photography, in the Downtown Arcade or go to sperka.com for more information. *EN*



COLONEL'S GOT A BRAND NEW BAG.

No, not *that* famous Colonel! Of course we respect the late Kentucky colonel-cum-chicken-connoisseur that Nashville business tycoon Jack Massey took to Wall Street, but you really *ought* to know of our own very-much-alive Tennessee colonel, Colonel Littleton.

Colonel Littleton, based in Lynnville (Giles County), Tennessee, is a purveyor of distinctive gentleman's accouterments but most—if not all—of his goods would be equally appreciated by anyone that admires style, superb workmanship and value.

All of the Colonel's products also have an alluring quality that we call the "time warp" factor. How can holding a circa 2010 leather iPad® bag in your hands create a sensory distortion, making you think you are actually holding an artifact from another time and place? We'll be damned if we know how the Colonel does it, but we *like* the feeling.

Colonel Littleton's iPad® bag combines new technology and uncommon craftsmanship. Handmade of dry-milled, chocolate brown leather, it is edge-stitched and has solid brass hardware, including a snap-style closure, the same as those used on WWII-era leather goods. The bag may be personalized with three initials below the closure tab and will accommodate an iPad® with or without the standard case.

Visit colonellittleton.com to see a video with the Colonel or for an even greater sensory experience, visit his Nashville outpost, Abernathy Road, 123 2nd Avenue North, 891-3362. There is also a store in Lynnville and at The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. *MLT*