

**ART FOR YOU, GIFTS FOR THEM AND MUSIC FOR EVERYONE
AT THE 42nd SEASON OF THE ARMADILLO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

(Austin, TX) — The Armadillo Christmas Bazaar, held December 14-24 at the Palmer Events Center is an 11 day fine art shopping destination featuring national and local award-winning artists, a live music stage with big acts and quality sound, two full bars and local food, all in a festive, lively atmosphere. Meet and shop from over 175 carefully curated artists. Fill your holiday season with great stories and handmade gifts with an exciting variety of fine art, heirloom pieces, and stocking stuffers. Armadillo makes holiday shopping a fun Austin tradition in an upbeat, family-friendly environment.

This year the festival boasts nearly two-dozen hand picked newcomers. New additions include local favorites such as Dan Grissom of Biscuit Press and Mark Puente of Nailivic Studios alongside a mix of select artists from across the country. For example, Artifacts by Nomad, a husband and wife team from Missouri, who specialize in one-of-a-kind furniture and lighting made from architectural and industrial salvage, and Deborah Dupont of Agave Sky who creates artistic boots and handbags.

Armadillo Christmas Bazaar veteran artists returning this season include Japanese woodblock printmaker artist Daryl Howard. Daryl has participated for over 35 years, she says: “Absolutely would never miss this event”. Returning for his 10th year, master wood worker Craig Timmerman with Armadillo Woodworks comments: “It is a truly authentic/original Austin show and an Austin tradition. It features some of the finest art and gift items in the area and in the country. I like the fact that all booths are not cookie-cutter spaces, each has its own personality. The Armadillo has provided me with a client base and the funds to continue to do what I love to do. Without this show I would not be able to continue as an artist.” In his 22nd year, local jeweler and 2nd generation Armadillo artist Brandon Eastes with Walkabout Jewelry comments: “The collection of artists and people that come together to create the show is truly magical. It is probably one of the greatest gatherings of wonderful people in a single building that happens around the country. And we do it with such style. A great art show that provides stability in an industry that is anything but stable. And a clientele that is more receptive to creative works...Best customers all year for me.”

Associate Producer, Anne Johnson speaks about the hand selection of curated artists: “We want it to be unique, appealing, intriguing and as sometimes art goes, strange and weird, which fits perfectly in the Austin scene. The team takes great care in selecting and nurturing the careers of artists and curating the show to ensure a creative mix. In doing so, the customers have a special place to meet talented artists and add to their art collection.”

Take your shopping breaks by the Armadillo stage and enjoy a craft beer or your favorite cocktail. This year, features a new selection of food with Korean BBQ from Chi’lantro, as well as hand tossed Neapolitan style pizza, fresh salads and delicious desserts made from scratch in the Southside Flying Pizza kitchen.

Enjoy at least three live bands a day on the Armadillo stage with performances beginning at noon and playing in to the night. The intimate stage is reminiscent of old Texas dance halls, expressing

the spirit of the Live Music Capital of the World. With a collection of musicians as well curated as the art, the Armadillo stage boasts greats like **Ray Wylie Hubbard** (a leading figure in the Austin music community), **Nakia** (soul singer, songwriter and entertainer), **The Watters** (stirring vocals and road-weathered musicianship), **Ruthie Foster** (three time Best Blues Album Grammy nominee, seven times Blues Music Award winner and three time Austin Music Award Winner), **Charley Crockett** (performing his honky tonk jubilee) and **Shinyribs** (hip shaking, country-soul, swamp-funk and tickle).

Armadillo is also known for its special performances. In celebration of longtime Armadillo musician, Jimmy LaFave, Eliza Gilkyson will host a tribute to his life featuring several of Jimmy's acclaimed musician friends. Later in the week, notable masters of the keyboard hit the stage when Marcia Ball hosts her rarely seen and famous Pianorama. Everyday is special but you'll never know when a surprise guest might show up at the Armadillo.

The combination of listening to your favorite band perform live while shopping for fine art is the ultimate Austin experience not found anywhere else. Find gifts from the heart in every price range, build an art collection year by year, personally meet the artists, and commission custom pieces. The Armadillo will continue to be the place for an authentic Austin live music and art buying experience, where creativity, originality, and fun are celebrated in the true spirit of the holidays. The Armadillo Christmas Bazaar is a necessary pilgrimage for new Austinites, it's a local experience you can't miss.