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Media Contact: Motley Crew Media for Armadillo Christmas Bazaar
Nicole Shiro / 512.740.6665 / nicole.shiro@motleycrewmedia.com
Amy Layton / 512.695.0799 / amy.layton@motleycrewmedia.com



Photos and video available upon request

AUSTIN ANNUAL TRADITION NOW WITH 12 DAYS OF SHOPPING TO FIND THE PERFECT ART AND GIFTS

December 13 – 24 • 11am – 10pm daily • Palmer Events Center

(Austin, TX) – The Armadillo Christmas Bazaar celebrates 43 seasons of treating Texans and tourists to a festive, holiday shopping experience for art and live music lovers. This iconic cultural event features 175+ contemporary touring artists, award winners and local favorites. With lights down low, spirits high, and the music just right, the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar makes holiday shopping fun December 13-24, 11am to 10pm daily at the Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road, Austin, Texas 78704.

This community-driven institution prides itself on being a family to artists, musicians, and independent local businesses. Each year, a featured artist is commissioned to create a piece to be used as the artwork for the season. This year's featured artist, Christopher Smith joined the Armadillo's artist roster in 2010 showcasing illustrative maps. Using his medium, Smith created the 2018 featured art with the legendary armadillo amidst an illustrative map of Austin. Re-counting his favorite part of creating the work, "Creating the armadillo illustration, giving it an illustrative pen and ink look. The armadillo was most challenging, trying to recreate an icon for the 'Dillo that is "fresh" or has a new look from any previous 'Dillo designs." Smith explains why he loves being a part of the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar, "It's musical/historical significance to Austin and the fact that this show helps support local artists. Without art shows like this I wouldn't be able to continue my full time art career."

Of the 175+ locally and nationally acclaimed artists, art lovers have the opportunity to meet and buy from more than two dozen carefully curated newcomers this season. New additions include Minnesotan Sam Spiczka, a sculptor inspired by natural bone forms, rural technology and geometric structure, globetrotters and multifaceted artist couple Julie Dwyre and Kevin Zuckerman with mediums from oil painting to sculpture in bronze, pastel and watercolor and fellow newcomer, born in Bulgaria and now by way of Arizona, Tanya Doskova known for her magical surrealism, socio-political satire, and modern folks tales.

After needing a quality belt, but not being able to find one in stores, first time Armadillo Christmas Bazaar participant and local artist Andrew Soderlind of Humble Goods, expresses why joining the Armadillo is important to him, "I love the way Austin embraces local makers and champions artists and creators! Being a part of this community is a joy and honor."

Artist's Mick and Paige Whitcomb create fine art by converting 19th century mechanical and

scientific innovations into light fixtures using Edison and Tesla's original patents in alternating current and the incandescent lightbulbs using glass and copper. The couple is thrilled to return to the Armadillo for a second season, "We love the energy and Christmas spirit at the Armadillo. Since everyone involved is either selling their own artwork or buying from a small artist, it is a calmer more pleasant shopping experience for everyone. We fell in love with all the incredible musicians that play every day, and the sense of family the artists have together. Last year was an incredible experience, and one of our favorite Christmas's we have had."

Armadillo Christmas Bazaar veteran artists returning include renowned poster and comic book artist Nakatomi, National Geographic Creative Photographer Greg Davis, beloved local jeweler Limbo, and wood working master David Levy with Harwood Creations.

With 37 bands performing over the 12-day event, the Armadillo stage treats holiday shoppers to breakout musicians, touring singer-songwriters and Austin legends. Music lineup to be announced September 25. There is no better place to shop than the Armadillo Bazaar, where you can listen to the best live music from Texas, while sipping a craft beer or cocktail and snack on Austin classics, DFG Noodles and Southside Flying Pizza. The Armadillo is the best place to build your art collection and cross off everyone on your shopping list with perfect gifts in every price range. A full list of artists and a photo gallery of their work is available at ArmadilloBazaar.com.

Tickets are \$10 for a single-day entry; available at the door, or in advance beginning September 25. For best value, purchase a season pass, which allows for entry throughout the duration of the show. Free admission for children 12 and under. More information at ArmadilloBazaar.com.

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