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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 available upon request

ARMADILLO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR RETURNS FOR 44TH SEASON WITH NEW PROGRAM, INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES AND HOLIDAY CHARM

December 13 – 24 • Palmer Events Center

(Austin, TX) – The Armadillo Christmas Bazaar marks 44 seasons as an Austin holiday shopping staple, treating around 40,000 Texans and tourists to a family-friendly, entertaining holiday shopping experience. Featuring award-winning art, live music and local food, this season the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar makes holiday shopping fun with new interactive activities and features along with updated Christmas Eve hours. The Armadillo Bazaar will run December 13-24, open 11am-10pm through December 23 and 11am-8pm on Christmas Eve at the Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road, Austin, Texas 78704.

The Armadillo Bazaar offers shoppers the opportunity to personally meet local and touring artists. For the first time this year, Art Concierge services will be available to the public. Shoppers can schedule an appointment with an Armadillo Art Concierge to help them select original works of art and handmade gifts for everyone on their gift giving list. With nearly 200 curated artists to shop from, Armadillo Bazaar is the holiday shopping destination to build an art collection while discovering new, local, and award-winning artists.

Additional new features this season include:

- **The Wishing Trees:** Write down your holiday or New Year wish and tie it to one of the Wishing Trees located in the Sun Radio Bench Plaza.
- **“Capture the Moment” Corner:** Take a selfie or photo with family and friends in the photo booth or at art activations by local artists.
- **The Armadillo Shopping Scavenger Hunt:** Purchase five or more items on the Armadillo Shopping Scavenger list to win. The more you match, the better the prize. Scavenger lists are available in the program upon arrival and can be redeemed at the Armadillo Store in the foyer.
- **Kids Coloring Corner:** Let the kids get creative and color in the Robo Roku booth.
- **Art Concierge Service:** Schedule an appointment to have a personal shopper help you select the perfect piece of art or gift for everyone on your list. Email annie@armadillobazaar.com to schedule a complimentary appointment.

Each year, the Armadillo Bazaar commissions a Texas artist to create a signature piece to be used as the featured artwork for the season. The 2019 featured art is by mixed media artist Lisa

Morales, who ironically didn't start her art career until in her 40's. Vibrant and intricate, Morales' collage work is full of small details waiting to be discovered when enjoying the art. Her work has been licensed and transferred to an assortment of gifts all over the world and appeared last season in "Grey's Anatomy". Houstonian, Morales' re-counts her favorite part of creating this year's featured art, "The artwork has armadillos hidden all throughout the piece and the lyrics to "London Homesick Blues" which is kind of an inside joke to all the artists who participate in the show. This song is played every morning to start the show, and every night as the shoppers are leaving the venue. By the end of the show we know all the words by heart."

This community-driven institution prides itself on being a family to artists, musicians, and independent local businesses. When asked, newcomers and participating artists are quick to explain why the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar is so special. Returning artist Cameron Dunk gives their take on the overall Bazaar, "The quality of this show is unmatched in the art show world." Boston raised, and Austin based, Mark Puente of Nailivic returns for the community, "Art is only as strong as the community that creates and supports it, two things that Austin and Armadillo do well." Natalie Tischler of Ornamental Things and participant for almost a decade expands on this sentiment, "The cozy and relaxed atmosphere, wide selection of high-quality artisan goods and great local music coming from the stage is what's special about The Armadillo."

Newcomers Jason Schroder of Spitfire Girl and Lauren Briere of Robots in Rowboats give the newbie take on this Austin staple. Jason explains, "This being our first year at the Armadillo we are very excited to see the local artist community in action. My wife Kristin lived in Austin in the 90s when it was definitely still "weird". We are excited to get to be part of such a long tradition of artists and creators in the Austin area." Briere adds "The Armadillo is so much more than a shopping excursion, it's more so an eventful experience." A full list of artists and a photo gallery of their work is available at ArmadilloBazaar.com.

Holiday shoppers can discover 36 bands ranging from breakout musicians, touring singer-songwriters and Austin legends playing the intimate Armadillo stage over the 12-day event. Music lineup to be announced September 24.

There is no better place to shop this season for art and gifts than the Armadillo Bazaar. Experience new additions including kids activities, an art concierge service and a shopping scavenger hunt all while listening to live music, sipping a craft beer or cocktail and enjoying food from local eateries.

The Armadillo Christmas Bazaar is open December 13-23, 11am – 10pm and December 24, 11am – 8pm at the Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road, Austin, Texas 78704. Tickets are \$10 for a single-day entry; available at the door, or in advance beginning September 24. For best value, purchase a season pass for \$50, which allows for entry throughout the duration of the 12-day show. Free admission for children 12 and under. More information at ArmadilloBazaar.com.

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