

DEPARTMENT OF commerce



GO | The good folks of **Bukowski Tavern** are holding a fundraiser at The Lower Depths for their friend Karen Rand, who lost both her left calf and her best friend Krystle Campbell to the Marathon bombings. Come lend a healing hand at **The Lower Leg**. [Sun 5.18.13. 476 Comm. Ave., Boston. 1pm/21+/\$20 min. @LowerDepthsBOS. thelowerdepths.com]



BUY | Higher Ground Farms are going to grow a farm on top of the **Boston Design Center**, which is awesome enough to celebrate the first growing season with nosh from **Tavern Road**, **Sweet Cheeks**, booze from **Harpoon** and **Bully Boy**, and *spirited* lawn games. [Tue 5.21.13. 1 Design Center Pl, #114. 6pm-9pm/\$100. @HigherGroundMA. higher-ground-farm.com]

Take time to stop and stick your face in a lilac bush. (Suck it, roses.)



BY ALICIA HAHN | @ASHHAA11

ASSEMBLED

SOMERVILLE'S NEW ARTS MARKET OPENS FOR BUSINESS



It's a fact that may surprise you: Somerville has the second largest population of artists per capita in the country, second only to New York City. And some of these artists will be participating in the city's newest weekend hot spot: Assembled Arts Market, going down every Saturday afternoon in Somerville from May 18 to September 21.

Featuring over 50 artists selling a variety of goods with prices to fit any budget, this family-friendly market will have handmade jewelry, purses, trinkets, T-shirts, and more, with live music and food trucks like Lobsta Love and Grilled Cheese Nation to satisfy hungry shoppers.

Dara Cheek, president of the **Etsy Artists of Boston** Meetup group (and an **Etsy** artist herself), assured that there will be a diverse selection of quirky and surprising items. "We're looking for something different, not something that anyone can find in a mall."

This includes pieces that are made using traditional cultural techniques, like purses made with fabrics woven by hand, sculpted ceramics, and colorful clay figurines based on Chilean mythology.

Also important for Cheek was finding experienced artists making high quality, lasting items. She reached out to local artists and shops, recruiting via **Etsy**, **Facebook**, and word-of-mouth, looking for varied art mediums in a full price spectrum. And Cheek practices what she preaches: "I specialize in miniature terrarium jewelry. I also make jewelry using an African beading technique I learned in Tanzania."

Several themed markets are in the works, too. The opening market on May 18 features artists exclusively from popular retail website **Etsy**,

so shoppers have the chance to handle the crafts in person before they commit to buying. Special events, like a workshop on how to successfully run an **Etsy** shop, will also be featured. Director of Marketing Andrea Simpson emphasized the importance of partnering with someone who could bring brand recognition to the market. "A lot of people know the **Etsy** name. **Etsy** has amazing artists and great loyalty—people use **Etsy** over and over again."

Cheek stresses "bringing the things you see on the computer to life, and allowing people to touch the things they see online." It's also a chance for shoppers to get up close and personal with the artists themselves, hearing the fascinating and often surprising inspirations and processes involved in creating the piece. Other themes to look for later in the summer include **Steampunk** and **Upcycled** markets.

Besides giving a face to **Etsy**, the Assembled Arts Market has another vital role: lending a breath of life to **Assembly Row**, a new destination neighborhood due to fully open next year. Says Simpson, "[The market] reflects the community that's being built. We want Assembly Row to have DNA and a heartbeat, not just be a concrete jungle."

So whether you're looking to spruce up your closet, need a unique gift for a friend—or maybe you're just hankering for some gourmet grilled cheese—come out and enjoy the summer weather, along with the art, music, and food. One thing is certain: whatever you buy, you're bound to walk away with a conversation starter. ☺



NATALIE WEST OF **RCWESTCOLLECTION** TAKES IMAGES DRAWN IN HER GRANDFATHER'S WORLD WAR II JOURNAL, DIGITALLY ENHANCES THEM, AND SCREEN-PRINTS THEM ONTO TEES AND TANKS. "I'VE ALWAYS LOVED ART MARKETS, AND THIS WAS A GREAT WAY TO GET INVOLVED." [**ETSY.COM/SHOP/RCWESTCOLLECTION**]

LEAH VANWHY OF **LEAH-VANWHYDESIGN** BEGAN HER CRAFT OF MAKING SMALL PIG FIGURINES WHEN SHE COULDN'T FIND WHAT SHE WAS LOOKING FOR AS A GIFT FOR HER FRIEND. "I SCULPT THE PIG BY HAND AND THEN PAINT THEM." [**ETSY.COM/SHOP/LEAHVANWHYDESIGN**]



ANA DOS SANTOS OF **GARNETGIRLSTUDIO** HAS A BACKGROUND IN FINE ARTS AND ILLUSTRATION, AND HAS BEEN AN **ETSY** MEMBER SINCE 2007. SELLING HANDMADE CERAMICS AND JEWELRY, SHE FINDS INSPIRATION IN FLEA MARKETS, AND OFTEN REPURPOSES FLEA MARKET FINDS IN HER WORKS. [**ETSY.COM/SHOP/GARNETGIRLSTUDIO**]

ASSEMBLED MARKET. SATURDAYS 5.18.13-9.21.13. 1 ASSEMBLY SQUARE DR., SOMERVILLE. 11AM-4PM/ALL AGES/FREE. @WHATISASSEMBLY.ASSEMBLYROW.COM.