

Corn Angel
New Mexico
History Museum



Brian Yatsattie fetish
Museum of Indian
Arts & Culture



By Wendy Ilene Friedman

This year, make time and head to the New Mexico Museum shops for your holiday gift-giving needs. You are certain to find something special for

everyone on your list-and the purchase doubles as a gift to yourself and the community.

All goods are tax-free and 100 percent of proceeds directly support the Museum of New Mexico Foundation, a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to the state's four museums, six historical state monuments along with actively support the New Mexico Creates program that aims to promote and encourage New Mexican artists and artisans.

And while there is plenty to choose from, with more than 18,000 items within all five museum shops, we decided to narrow it down and share our favorites.

NEW MEXICO MUSEUM OF ART

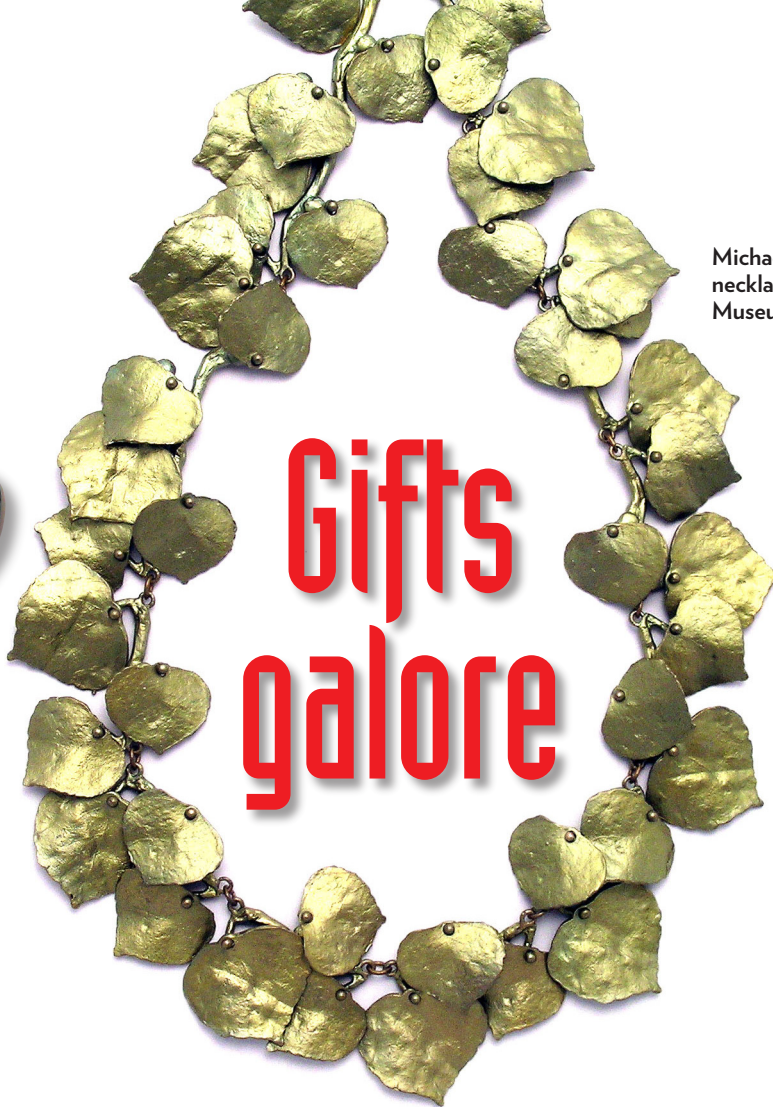
107 W. Palace Ave.
www.nmartmuseum.org
505-476-5072

The glass pieces by artists included in the museum's summer exhibition, *FLUX: Reflections on Contemporary Glass*, are on display throughout the store and make wonderful holiday suggestions. Each artist featured participates in New Mexico Creates and comes from different parts of the state. The mystery opal paperweight by Elodie Holmes of Santa Fe priced at \$125 is an item to consider, as are any of the colorful plates and bowls by Melissa Haid of Chimayó, priced at \$35 and up. "She has quite a following," said Sandy Culver, a gift store volunteer. She says people come from all over to find her work. There are plenty of coffee table books on famous artists and photographers, both local and non-local, to select from as well.

NEW MEXICO HISTORY MUSEUM

113 Lincoln Ave.
www.nmhistorymuseum.org
505-476-5200

There are simply too many fantastic gift ideas to list at the Spiegelberg Shop at the history



Michael Michaud
necklace
Museum of Art

MUSEUM SHOPS OFFER THE BEST OF NEW MEXICO ARTISTS

Museum of Indian
Arts & Culture



museum. There is certainly something for everyone. All artists shown in the shop are a part of New Mexico Creates.

Traditional and modern pottery, hand lotions and body rubs, pillows and textiles, picture frames and more can be found. The food and kitchen section alone has plenty to choose from, like the Museum of New Mexico Foundation-produced cook books, decorative pottery and even a pot holder with Joan's Famous Green Chile recipe decaled on the front for \$13 (That's Joan from Dixon, New Mexico, by the way.)

Sara Birmingham, a buyer for the store, suggests the ceramic bowls by Andrea Ponzini of Rio Rancho, which run from \$14-\$40. "They are very popular and great for the kitchen," she said. "And of course we have our own salsa exclusively made for us by The Shed with a neat image of all the cowboys coming to dinner on the label." Ceramic corn angel wall hangings (\$28) that 80-year-old Harry Benjamin from Silver City hand-crafts are another good idea.

PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS

105 W. Palace Ave.
www.palaceofthegovernors.org
505-476-5100

Chipper Harris, a sales clerk at the shop, suggested special ordering a print from the more than 8,000 archived images held in the museum's library. "It's nice for people to have images of their family," he said. "Many families here date back 400 years." However, images of times past in a book, print or photo can make a good present for anyone, local or not.

For the kids, be sure to pick up one of the many child-appropriate reads, such as, *One World. Many People. Anthropology Made Easy for Kids*, or the *Wild West* pop-up book. The DVD history of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, *El Corazon de Santa Fe*, created for the 400th celebration of the historic church works for the history buff in your crew. "It's quite popular with the local people," Harris said.

MUSEUM OF INDIAN ARTS AND CULTURE

710 Camino Lejo
www.indianartsandculture.org
505-982-5057

For sophisticated tastes, the Colleen Cloney Duncan museum shop, named after a long-time museum shop volunteer, offers many outstanding

Museum of Indian Arts & Culture



Cippy Crazyhorse double
cross, Museum of Indian
Arts & Culture

Native American crafts and jewelry made by both lesser-known and award-winning artisans.

One unique gift idea that people certainly do not find on a regular basis are the Navajo dance sticks. Hung as wall décor in the store, the hand-carved wood items with colorful ribbon streamers are priced at \$700 for a set of four.

Or perhaps the Zuni fetishes and carvings might work for someone you care about. Dating back to pre-Columbian times, these figurines carved from various colored stones in a variety of animal shapes make a thoughtful and interesting gift. Used as personal charms, talismans and amulets, they are regarded as sacred and meant for blessings. These items range from \$30 up to \$500 for work by better-known artists. And of course, the authentic Hopi kachinas are a memorable gift. Prices begin at \$120 but can run much higher for kachinas made by the more noted artists.

And those are just a few selections among the many books, beaded and silver jewelry, rugs, pottery and other traditional Indian arts you will find in the store.



Reindeer
Museum of
International
Folk Art

MUSEUM OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK ART

706 Camino Lejo
www.internationalfolkart.org
505-476-1200

The slogan of the museum reads, "The Art of the Craftsman is a Bond between the People of the World," and the work displayed in the museum store by modern day artisans throughout the globe beautifully represents that notion.

From the moment you walk into the lobby, the sparkling artistry shown on the hand-beaded flags that hang in the two stores immediately capture your attention. Available in small and large sizes, the flags make an out-of-the-ordinary gift. Originally created as voodoo flags, they now depict universal symbols of crosses and hearts. Made by Haitian artists, like well-known George Valris, they range in price from \$45 up to \$400.

Ruth LaNore, a sales associate at the shop, suggested the locally made pot holders from Embudo (\$12-\$13) or any of the items contained in straw baskets throughout the store. She says there are plenty of small, affordable gifts that make great stocking stuffers. "The little wool animals from Chiapas, Mexico are a big hit," she said.

Clothing, hand-made wall mirrors and other home décor items also are available.



Einstein, Palace of the Governors

More shopping around the corner

In addition to the state-run museums, several other notable institutions have gift shops worth taking a look.

The Case Trading Post located on Museum Hill at the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian is certainly one to keep in mind this holiday season.

Fashioned after a trading post traditionally seen on Navajo reservations in the early 1900s, the shop, with its traditional vigas ceilings, pot-belly stove, wide bullpen area and raw, rickety-sounding hardwood floors has a wide selection of items.

In particular, the hand-painted silk and velvet "pottery motif" scarves by Patricia Michaels from Taos Pueblo are a special one-of-a-kind gift (priced at \$50-\$300).

The artist will be in the store on Dec. 20 as part of the Partners in Design: Native Chic series, which features cutting-edge Native designers and jewelers.

The Museum of Contemporary Native Arts (formerly Institute of American Indian Arts) shop focuses solely on works made by contemporary artists from indigenous cultures throughout the world, and of course New Mexico.

One universal gift idea for practically anyone on your list is a mixture of soaps (\$7.50), creams (\$15.50-\$18), candles (\$19.50) and other Native-made beauty products. Throw in some of the flavored coffees (\$9.75) or rose hip jelly, place it all in one of the New Mexican made Tewa Tees cotton totes (\$24) — *et voila*, the perfect gift bag. Given, this is just one suggestion.

The Navajo "mutton stew" aprons for \$20 are a good idea for people in your life who love to cook.

For more generous budgets, the shop features jewelry and other art by some of the best-known contemporary Native artists around.

Finally, the ever-timeless floral items inspired by the work of Georgia O'Keeffe at the museum's gift store are something to consider.

Any of the jewelry items in the store will be welcome. And the flower-engraved wood rulers (\$20) or stenciled bookmarks (\$5.95) work well for students or avid readers.

There's also the possibility of a set of note cards with images of O'Keeffe's New Mexican landscapes for \$20 or one of the 2010 wall calendars for \$14. The box of 20 cards with three images is exclusive to the museum and sure to delight a fan of O'Keeffe.

All store items are available for online purchase at www.okeeffestore.org.

Teri Greeves bracelet, Museum of Indian Arts & Culture