



Clockwise from top: Christiane Barbato of Blue Door Ceramics says these gold-rimmed plates were inspired by her daily meditations; ceramicist Judith Amiel-Bendheim explains of this set: "I wanted to create contrast between the white clay body to the black glaze and between the simple shape of the pieces to the texture outside"; a collection of earth-toned functional ware from David Guynes' C.O.W. Gallery.

HAND TO TABLE

## SHAPEWARE

Handthrown ceramic dishes by these popular local artisans add a touch of artful elegance and original flair to the holiday dinner table.

By Teresa K. Traverse

### Blue Door Ceramics

Six years ago, Christiane Barbato—a former native of Brazil—decided to turn her passion for ceramics into a full-time job. Today, her posh handcrafted tableware can be found in top Valley restaurants, including Talavera at The Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale, Bourbon Steak at Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, Binkley's and Christopher's at Wrigley Mansion. Her favorite hues are whites, off-whites, grays and blues—a nod to the aquamarines mined in Brazil. *Set of four from \$140, [bluedoorceramics.com](http://bluedoorceramics.com)*

### Ceramics by Judith

Pharmacist-turned-potter Judith Amiel-Bendheim launched her full-time art career back in 2007 after she and her husband decided to return to his home state of Arizona. The Israel native draws inspiration for her pieces—which range from sculptural to utilitarian—from her desert surroundings and world travels. Amiel-Bendheim is not only gratified by the artistic expression, but by the

relationship-building it brings: "I like the connection between what I create and what people buy from me." *Pieces from \$30, Phoenix Art Museum store, 1625 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, [yamiel@cox.net](mailto:yamiel@cox.net), [ceramicsbyjudith.com](http://ceramicsbyjudith.com)*

### C.O.W. Gallery

David Guynes handfashions one-of-a-kind cups and plates out of his Central Phoenix C.O.W. (an acronym for Crafted Original Works) Gallery. Guynes has a long history as a potter—he discovered ceramics as a student at University of Oregon and became a professional potter in the 1970s before moving to a corporate career path. Ten years ago, Guynes started throwing clay again and has not stopped since. "As a designer, I use clay to fulfill my artistic urges by creating useful items that are functional and beautiful," he says. "Even after hundreds of pieces are made, the next one is always a challenge and a new revelation." *By appointment only, sets of two plates from \$98, 480.399.1627*

FAB 5

## PRESENT STATE OF MIND

In search of some unique gifts this holiday season? Here are some of our favorite specialized boutiques and stores in the Valley. —Ty Fahlman

**1 FLOWER BAR** Far from a traditional flower shop, this unique store is so bursting with eye-catching flora and unexpected locally made gifts like candles, terrariums and objects, that it's easy to lose yourself when browsing. 4200 N. Craftsman Court, [azflowerbar.com](http://azflowerbar.com)

**2 QUEEN CREEK OLIVE MILL** For over two decades, this family-owned business has been cultivating olive trees near Queen Creek, and its Kierland storefront is the perfect place to pick up artisanal olive oils, vinegars, stuffed olives, sauces and more. 7122 E. Greenway Parkway, Ste. 120, [queencreekolivemill.com](http://queencreekolivemill.com)

**3 R.C. GORMAN NAVAJO GALLERY** Dubbed "the Picasso of American Indian artists," the late R.C. Gorman's work masterfully encapsulates the Southwestern aesthetic, and this Old Town showroom is filled with colorful prints and original pieces that would make a welcome addition to almost any Arizona home. 7116 E. Main St., [rcgormannavajogallery.com](http://rcgormannavajogallery.com)

**4 VIBE BOTANICS** One of the best places for all-natural bath, body and beauty supplies, Vibe offers 100% organic, wild-harvested, plant-based skincare products with ingredients that are independently tested for toxins and free from any synthetic colors, fragrances and preservatives. 4225 N. Marshall Way, Ste. I, Scottsdale, [vibebotanicals.com](http://vibebotanicals.com)

**5 WILLOWS FINE GOODS AND DESIGN** Offering a classically elegant collection of beautiful finds, this lifestyle atelier and showroom features a carefully curated collection of artisan decor, luxury furniture, apparel and one-of-a-kind pieces with an emphasis on soothing colors and textures. 5625 E. Indian School Road, [willowsdesign.com](http://willowsdesign.com)

Flower Bar boasts beautiful blooms and fabulous gift finds.

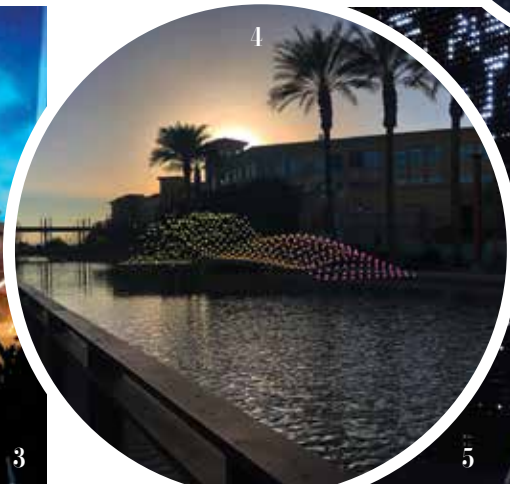


LEFT, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP, PHOTOS: COURTESY OF CHRISTIANE BARBATO; BY JUDITH; COURTESY OF JUDITH AMIEL-BENDHEIM; COURTESY OF DAVID GUYNES; RIGHT PHOTO BY JESSICA SAVIDGE, SAVIDGE PHOTOGRAPHY/COURTESY OF FLOWER BAR

INTERACTIVE ART

# WATERWORKS

Illuminating the Scottsdale Waterfront this fall is **Canal Convergence** (canalconvergence.com), which returns from Nov. 8 through 17. This year, the 10-day public art event is themed The Story of Water, with multiple large-scale, light-based installations by innovative artists from around the world—playing on the site-specific waterfront surroundings and exploring sustainability in support of Canal Convergence's goal of becoming zero waste. The event will also feature live music, dance performances, food vendors, a beer and wine garden, family-friendly activities, artist talks and creative workshops throughout its duration. Here are five of the installations we can't wait to see. —Taylor Transtrum



## 1. "Digital Tintamarresque" by Izobrulo Polylight (Russia)

This Instagram-friendly installation randomly generates one of three historical clothing types through colorful LEDs. As guests step up and pose for photos behind the work, LEDs place the clothing onto them, adapting to and moving with their bodies.

## 2. "HeartHug" by Izobrulo Polylight (Russia)

Utilizing artificial intelligence, this heart-shaped installation can not only sense hugs, but encourages them. If just one person stands under the light-based work, only half of it shines. But, if two people hug beneath the installation, the entire heart illuminates.

## 3. "Light Orchestra" by ATOMIC3 and Ottomata in collaboration with Jean-Sébastien Côté (Canada)

Viewers become conductors in this interactive light and sound installation. By stepping up to the podium, the "conductor" directs an orchestra of motorized projectors by moving their arms, creating moving lights that dance in the sky while producing musical sequences.

## 4. "Standing Wave" by Squidsoup (United Kingdom)

Squidsoup returns the Valley—the group has previously exhibited at the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art—with an immersive audio-visual experience. The site-specific work uses approximately 600 interconnected orbs of light and sound—which are choreographed in harmony—to simulate a wave over the controlled waters of the Arizona Canal.

## 5. "Waterlight Graffiti" by Antonin Fourneau (France)

In this electrical canvas, water becomes the medium in which to draw or write ephemeral messages of light. Made of thousands of LEDs, visitors can create an image on its surface by using paintbrushes, spray bottles or even dampened fingers.



CHECKING IN

**SUNSHINE STATE** This holiday season, the **Westin Kierland Resort & Spa** welcomes visitors with 732 renovated guest rooms—including 55 suites—and elevated corridors designed in partnership with Parker-Torres Design Inc. The aesthetic is a new interpretation of modern eco-luxury inspired by the Southwest. Upon entry into the guest rooms, the color palette and artwork are marked by soft, neutral desert hues. Inlaid wood patterns in sun-baked tones speak to modernized Sonoran Desert patterns, while fabrics capture the labors of Southwestern artisans. Accent wallcoverings reflect the sun setting on desert sand, paying homage to the omnipresent Arizona sunshine. 6902 E. Greenway Parkway, 480.624.1000, [marriott.com](http://marriott.com) —TT

TOP PHOTOS BY: 1. ARAM BOGHOSIAN 2. IZOBROLO POLYLIGHT 3. ATOMIC3 AND OTTOMATA 4. SQUIDSOU 5. ADRIEN FRAPPAT; BOTTOM PHOTO COURTESY OF HOTEL



TRENDWATCH

# UTILITARIAN STATE

The fall season elevates the practical above the trendy, proving that luxurious wear-anywhere pieces are the pinnacle of powerful style.

By Connor Childers

Avalon Pangram pillow, \$1,000, hermes.com

Lipstick case, \$1,390, Louis Vuitton, Scottsdale Fashion Square



Gate Bumbag, \$1,550, by Loewe at Saks Fifth Avenue, Biltmore Fashion Park

Leather belt with chain, \$850, givenchy.com



Midcalf boots in Storm, \$1,150, Bottega Veneta, Scottsdale Fashion Square

Clash de Cartier earrings, \$3,900, Cartier, Scottsdale Fashion Square



Leather trim overcoat, \$16,400, knit pullover, \$4,350, woven pants, \$2,950, and suede low boots, \$1,275, all at hermes.com.



Eden handbag, price upon request, givenchy.com



02 sunglasses in Metal, \$460, by Celine by Hedi Slimane at Neiman Marcus, Scottsdale Fashion Square



30 Montaigne bag, \$3,550, dior.com



Bell leather boots, \$1,495, by Chloé at Neiman Marcus, Scottsdale Fashion Square

SMOKE SIGNALS

## Waiting to Exhale

**El Septimo Premium Cigars**—made in Costa Rica and previously only available in Europe—has landed stateside. And it chose Scottsdale for its first U.S. debut. The handrolled stogies will be available at Cedar Room Cigar Lounge, which the brand picked specifically for its prime location and impressive collection of wines, craft beers and vintage ports to pair with its already expansive collection of cigars. “We only offer El Septimo in spaces that provide a unique and exclusive experience,” says Zaya S. Younan, CEO and owner. \$16-\$68 each, 20715 N. Pima Road, Ste. F100, cedarroomcigars.com; el-septimo.ch –TKT



TRENDWATCH PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRANDS; PHOTO OF CIGAR BY KARANDAEV VIA ISTOCK



CHARITY WATCH

## WILD TIMES

Swiss watchmaker **Hublot** reinforces its dedication to the environment and wildlife through a new partnership with Save Our Rhino Africa/India (sorai.com.au). The organization, led by former cricket star Kevin Pietersen, is committed to protecting rhinos, which face global extinction. “There are around 28,000 rhinos remaining worldwide—23 times fewer than there are African elephants!” Hublot CEO Ricardo Guadalupe passionately explains after his recent return from visiting with the organization in South Africa. “If Hublot can play a role in raising awareness,” he says, “then I would be delighted.” To benefit the cause, the watchmaker produced a special-edition 45 mm Big Bang Unico SORAI timepiece, with a large portion of the proceeds going to SORAI-approved agencies that conduct vital relief and protection efforts.

The Big Bang Unico is rendered in a striking safari-style microblasted beige ceramic case with a rugged camo rubber strap and is a full-fledged in-house-designed chronograph with a legendary HUB1242 Unico movement and a 72-hour power reserve. Now, lucky owners of the watch, which is limited to only 100 versions, will be able to wear their dedication to wildlife protection proudly on their wrists. \$24,100, Hublot, Scottsdale Fashion Square, hublot.com —Mike Espindle

From left: Hublot CEO Ricardo Guadalupe, naturalist Petronel Nieuwoudt and Save Our Rhino Africa/India founder Kevin Pietersen in South Africa; the special-edition 45 mm Big Bang Unico SORAI timepiece.



AU NATUREL

# Whish GRANTED

After running out of shaving cream one morning, Aimee Werner decided to use her husband's. “I got an amazing shave, but it smelled horrible and was loaded with harsh chemicals,” she recalls. “I thought we could make something better that was natural and smelled good for both men and women... and we did!” Hence, **Whish** was born. The local skincare line focuses on healthy, clean ingredients and products driven by results. Recently, the company has been collaborating with FabFitFun on a blue matcha restoring face mask (\$58) and plans to unveil its new showroom and boutique this month. 15649 N. Greenway-Hayden Loop, whishbody.com —TT

Whish recently unveiled a brand-new and expanded showroom in Scottsdale.



TOP SHELF

## GRAND DEBUT

“I don’t want to say it’s effervescent,” says Mitch Bechard, “but it does have a nice dryness that you would enjoy with Champagne.” The dashing Scotsman, a brand ambassador for Glenfiddich, doesn’t want to refer specifically to Champagne, either, but it’s hard not to mention. He’s tasting the brand’s newest, **Glenfiddich Grand Cru**, a 23-year-old whisky that ages most of its life in ex-bourbon barrels, but is finished for up to six months in oak casks sourced from a broker who handles used material from Champagne houses (with a promise not to reveal their identities). The result remains distinctly Glenfiddich, a Speyside-style single-malt label. “What I love about this is it very much has that distillery characteristic,” Bechard says,

sneaking a sip. “With the 12, 15 and 18, and even here at 23 years, it’s not overcooked. You get fresh fruits coming through—apple, a little bit of pear. For me, what the casks give here also is a baked-bread note.”

The storied maker uses no peat and has been an innovator in cask influence for decades.

And, except for a few efforts that employed American wine barrels (notably, the 19-year-old Age of Discovery bottling), Glenfiddich Grand Cru, Bechard says, “is one of the few times we’ve messed about with wine casks. And it lets the whisky shine. With American wood and French casks, it pops—it’s bright and vibrant.” Scotch and Champagne, he rightly observes, are the drinks of celebrations. With this beauty, simply opening one up makes for a special occasion. \$300, glenfiddich.com —David Zivan

For its latest gem, Glenfiddich, longtime expert in cask aging, has turned to ex-French wine barrels.



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRANDS