

SERENDIPITY *locally* MADE

Immensely gifted, fearlessly driven, and fueled by innovation: these are just some of the attributes shared by the artists and designers featured in our third annual Locally Made round-up. Here's an introduction to the area's most awe-inspiring talent.

BY MOLLY FAHNER CALHOUN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY HOLLIE BERTRAM



celle
NAHMIA'S ET FILS
SINCE 1900



Mahia
Spirits distilled from
figs and infused
with figs and infused
40% ALC/VOL - 80 PROOF - 750ML

“Eat like you mean it.”
jane's
GOOD FOOD
Pickled
Carrots
18 FL OZ .473 L REFRIGERATE AFTER OPENING

SINCE 2015
BROWN DOG FARMS
MADE IN THE USA
PROWLENCE
ORGANIC
**Spicy Horseradish
Mustard**
Net Weight 8 oz
brownfarm.com

JANE'S GOOD FOOD
WESTPORT, CT

Founder: Jane Costello, janesgoodfood.com

With a motto of "eat like you mean it," Jane Costello is serious about quality food. The Lancaster, PA, native grew up road-tripping in her family's station wagon to see relatives in Nebraska and Wyoming, where home-cooked meals were important. "When we'd arrive there was always a huge meal, and we just ate really well," she says. "We'd start talking about dinner at breakfast." Today, Costello makes a variety of pickles, jarred fruits and vegetables, chutneys and relishes, all true to her family's roots. For instance, her Dilly Beans are her aunt Helen's recipe, and her Bread and Butter Pickle recipe came from her mom. "Most people refer to me as a pickle person, but it was my spiced peaches that told me I had a business," she says. "I'd give them as gifts and people would beg me for more." Costello sells her artisanal goods online and at several local farmers markets. But get them while you can—her seasonal fare goes fast.



COLLIER ROSE INK
GREENWICH, CT

Founders: Cooper Collier and Nicki Rose, collierroseink.com

Graphic designer Cooper Collier has worked for big names such as Caspari and Williams-Sonoma and Nicki Rose spent more than 12 years in interior design. So when both wanted to try something new, it was an easy decision to collaborate. "Two minds are always better than one, especially in the creative process," Rose says. Sensing a gap in the tabletop market, the duo set out to create designs that are unique, accessible, and not overly formal. "Our goal is to provide a really fun, chic, usable product," Rose says. Collier Rose Ink's line consists of hand-screened linens (including napkins, placemats and coasters), fabric by the yard, pillows, custom stationery and original artwork. "We created the different collections with the idea that you can mix and match them," Rose says. "Also, almost everything we make could integrate easily into an existing home, so it's a great way to refresh what you have." Stay tuned, because Collier Rose Ink plans to begin producing wallpaper next.



ANNABELLE'S COLLECTION GREENWICH, CT

Founder: Annabelle Marvin,
annabellescollection.com

When Annabelle Marvin's friends began turning 50, she started making bracelets to give as gifts. "They really came about as friendship bracelets," says Marvin, an Aussie transplant with three teenage boys. "I wanted to get back into something creative that wasn't SAT scores and college applications." Her jewelry consists mainly of 3mm, 4mm or 6mm beads in gold, rose gold or sterling silver. The pieces are versatile (easy to wear with jeans and a tee or a little black dress); functional (the beads won't chip or tarnish); and chic (it's a classic look that's quietly sophisticated). Not surprisingly, people quickly took notice. Shreve Crump & Low and Housewarmings in Old Greenwich, CT, began carrying Annabelle's Collection, and the bracelets have caught on as high school graduation presents for girls to give their classmates. The support of her friends isn't lost on Marvin: "We're all coming of an age where our kids are going off to college and we're still young and want to stay involved." To put your own stamp on a design, Marvin also takes custom requests for charms and engraving.

CALCUTTA KITCHENS NORWALK, CT

Founder: Aditi Goswami, calcuttakitchens.com

As a child, Aditi Goswami would go to bazaars in India to shop for food with her father, and she was cooking entire meals by the time she was 14. "In India, food is the foundation of a healthy family life and community," she says. When Goswami moved to the U.S. 20 years ago, the mom of two would often cook and entertain. "It was very natural to me," she says. "I was just doing what I knew." At the prompting of friends, she began selling chutneys at the Rowayton Farmers Market, where customers requested Indian sauces to take home. "I kept my methods of home cooking but made Indian flavors more convenient for consumers," she says. These days, her four different sauces are sold at stores and butcheries throughout Fairfield and Westchester counties and are especially great when used in fish, chicken or eggplant dishes. Goswami also continues to do markets: "I love meeting people, and it's fascinating to hear what they use the sauces for," she says.



HONU UKULELES DANBURY, CT

Founder: Michael Antici, honuukes.com

Danbury native Mike Antici has lived in the Northeast his entire life, but he's had a special love for Hawaii ever since he and his wife went there on their honeymoon. For their fifteenth wedding anniversary in 2010, he decided to pick up the ukulele. "I had this vision of myself playing on the beach," he says. Disappointed by the quality of instruments he purchased, Antici—a computer programmer who also has a background in woodworking and music—started making ukuleles himself in his home studio. He works with koa wood from the Big Island of Hawaii, and incorporates other materials such as mahogany, rosewood and abalone. His creations, which are sold on etsy, are not only beautiful, but also achieve the perfect intonation. So what does his beloved wife, the one who was the inspiration for it all, think? "She thinks I'm crazy," Antici says. "She calls herself a ukulele widow or a woodshop widow because I disappear for hours making them."



APRICOT HOME
GREENWICH, CT

Founder: Abby Potts Pillari,
apricothomellc.com

As a stylist for *GQ* magazine for 10 years, Abby Potts Pillari is well versed in the world of style. And as an extremely busy mom of five, she's learned the importance of practicality. When Pillari's children began making messes on one of her favorite rugs, she knew she needed a solution. "I felt that I could make good-looking, simple rugs that could also be hosed down and were very practical for indoors and outdoors," she says. So, she created several designs and tracked down a factory that could produce the handwoven, recycled PVC items. The "family proof" rugs can be washed and don't skid or fade; plus, they're available in a variety of colorful, modern prints. Clearly, others have embraced the appeal, because Apricot Home indoor/outdoor rugs are now in more than 100 stores, including Kirby and Company and Darien Sport Shop, in Darien, CT, and have made their way into countless kitchens, bathrooms, mudrooms and beach houses. Pillari's designs, she says, "are all named after my kids, pets and friends who have helped me along the way."



CHEEKIE CHARLIE
MAMARONECK, NY

Founder: Carla Palmer, cheekiecharlie.com

Baby clothes often seem to be cute or functional, never both. Graphic designer Carla Palmer set out to change that. "Every day as a new mom, I'd just think of things like, why don't they have that?" she says. "Our daughter, Charlie, was teething and drooling like crazy, and it was gross." Tired of having to change her daughter's wet outfit every ten minutes, Palmer—a graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology—sketched a bib that could be snapped on and off a onesie. She didn't have to think hard for a company name. "From day one, Charlie had this mischievous cheekiness about her, so the name stuck," Palmer says. Cheekie Charlie snapsuits come with patterned bibs in a variety of prints; plus, the bibs are organic, backed in terry cloth, and the snaps are neatly tucked under fabric. Now that Charlie is older, Palmer has expanded into creating t-shirts with funny, toddler-inspired phrases, which are printed in New Rochelle, NY.

AVIVI BEAUTY
GREENWICH, CT

Founder: Cheryl MacCluskey, avivibeauty.com

Disillusioned by expensive skincare products with endless, indecipherable ingredient lists, Cheryl MacCluskey envisioned creating a simpler, safer beauty product. "I wanted to do something green and all-natural that would have really nice benefits." So, MacCluskey painstakingly researched the properties of essential oils and became a self-described "mad scientist" in her kitchen, whipping up various combinations and then working with a chemist to perfect her formulas. This January, she teamed up with business partner Arthur "Kitt" Watson, to launch Avivi Beauty, a line of avocado-oil-based body oils and scrubs, as well as a facial serum. True to her vision, MacCluskey's subtly scented, seriously hydrating products also have major beauty benefits: "We did a clinical study that showed [our serum] diminishes fine lines and wrinkles by 45 percent over eight weeks," she says. It's already been a big year for Avivi, as the brand was recently the recipient of a prestigious American Package Design Award for its sleek bottles and boxes. Next, MacCluskey plans to create a night cream and day cream as well as a men's line of oils. "I really believe business is business and if you run it with passion and determination you can make anything happen," she says.





BAKED BY SUSAN
CROTON-ON-HUDSON, NY

Founder: Susan O'Keefe, bakedbysusan.com

As a stay-at-home mom with three boys, Susan O'Keefe often baked for friends and even local restaurants. But what pushed her from "baker" to "bakery owner" was when she had the opportunity to make homemade cookies for the United Nations: she had to quickly come up with a company name and label. "It was a little bit of luck and timing and hard work," O'Keefe says. "And then everything kind of just happened." She sourced vintage equipment to open her bakery—a repurposed oven from a ShopRite in Bedford, NY, two mixers from the early 1960s, even a 1982 Dodge delivery van. And the old-fashioned vibe is the cornerstone of her baking philosophy. "What makes us different is that we make everything from scratch," she says. "A lot of people say that, but we really do it. It just tastes better." O'Keefe—who today makes cookies, brownies, pies, muffins and more in her bakery—loves to accommodate requests from customers, including gluten-free, vegan, sugar-free, you name it. "I want to be your personal baker who can make whatever you want," she says. Baked by Susan is sold at Whole Foods and Mrs. Green's markets, among other purveyors.



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NAHMIAS ET FILS DISTILLERY
YONKERS, NY

Founders: Dorit and David Nahmias, baronnahmias.com

If you've never heard of mahia, it's time to get to know this traditional Moroccan spirit, which is akin to a fig grappa and produced at only one distillery in the U.S. (Hint: It's in Westchester County.) "Historically, every Moroccan town or village would have a Jewish family that was known for making mahia," Dorit Mahias says. "My husband grew up [in Morocco] watching his mother and grandmother making it and selling it." Fast forward to 2009, Dorit and David—who worked in banking and software, respectively, in the U.S.—both lost their jobs, and they decided to follow David's dream of opening a distillery. Nahmias et Fils mahia is now featured on cocktail menus at a variety of local restaurants. "It has great mixology applications," Dorit says. "You can use it in a margarita in place of tequila and it makes a great mule with lemon juice and ginger beer." The distillery also produces rye whiskey and plans to release an apple brandy soon. They're open for tastings and tours as well.

DISTILLED AND BOTTLED BY BARON NAHMIAS, INC., YONKERS, NY
40% ALC/VOL • 80 PROOF • 750ML

DISTILLED AND BOTTLED BY BARON NAHMIAS, INC., YONKERS, NY
40% ALC/VOL • 80 PROOF • 375ML

CARO HOME
GREENWICH, CT

Founder: Carolina Feinstein, carohome.com

On her business card, Carolina Feinstein is simply referred to as “Mom and Designer.” “At Caro Home, we don’t have official titles,” she says. (Her head of customer service and logistics is dubbed “Awesome Girl,” and one of her designers refers to herself as “Early Bird.”) A Buenos Aires native, Feinstein had a career in textiles for 20 years, but it was the birth of her now five-year-old twins that prompted her to launch a home goods company. Caro Home—which makes bath and beach towels, bath rugs, robes, and countertop accessories for the bath—isn’t defined by a singular design sensibility, Feinstein says. Instead, she draws inspiration from everything from tiles to woven textiles. Her Shades of White collection makes white towels a bit more interesting and exciting with added texture, a pop of color, or even hand-knotted fringe. The driven mother’s focus on creativity and quality has quickly earned her a loyal following: Caro Home products are sold in Nordstrom and Macy’s, and will be launching in Bloomingdale’s this fall.

AUBURN JEWELRY
CHAPPAQUA, NY

Founder: Samantha Auburn Levine,
auburn-jewelry.com

After graduating from law school in 2013 with a promising job, Samantha Auburn Levine quickly discovered she was burnt out. So she switched gears and started making jewelry. Levine’s line, Auburn Jewelry, soon took off. She now makes sterling silver and gold pieces—including necklaces, rings, earrings, bracelets and cufflinks—but her signature is her colorful, customizable enamel jewelry. Levine is focused on giving back, too: She contributes a portion of sales from specific pieces to local charities, including the SPCA of Westchester, NY, and The Mental Health Association of Westchester. For now, she’s decided that being a lawyer can wait. “I’m thrilled that I have enough jewelry work to be working crazy long hours, because that means I’m doing something right.”



BROWN DOG FANCY
STAMFORD, CT

Founders: Kyle and Sarah Rothschild,
browndogfancy.com

Kyle Rothschild is a true ideas man: He’s been starting companies since he was in high school. But he never anticipated creating Brown Dog Fancy, his specialty mustard company that’s exploding in popularity. “The mustard thing totally came out of left field,” he says. In fact, Brown Dog Fancy was born from weeknight dinner cooking competitions with his wife. “Sarah started upping her game so I had to come up with some new things,” says Rothschild. The mustards caught on with friends and family, so he decided to run with it. Now, Brown Dog Fancy boasts three organic, non-GMO flavors. Despite the company’s fast growth, Rothschild still works alongside the couple’s two brown dogs, Tug and Charlie, who inspired the company name, and enlists friends to help him at farmer’s markets: “I pay them in dollars, mustard and beer,” he says.





ALL DOGS ON DECK

NEW CANAAN, CT

Founder: Barney Kelley, alldogsondeck.com

When Barney Kelley wanted to buy a dog-inspired gift for friends who hosted him and his wife on Nantucket each summer, he saw some poorly made nautical leashes and knew he could do better. "I made a prototype of a collar and sent it to a saddler whose business was in reconditioning Hermès saddles," Kelley says. "With his help, I was able to build a great collar that incorporated dingy line with belting leather." Kelley—an avid sailor whose day job is as a strategic planning consultant—constructs his brightly colored products through a complicated process of hand splicing, which makes each design incredibly strong. "The splice is made in a way that the cover of the line tightens down on the core as force is applied," he says. All Dogs on Deck collars and leashes are sold at Landfall Navigation, a marine store in Stamford, CT, and online at etsy.

DIVVIES

SOUTH SALEM, NY

Founders: Lori and Mark Sandler, divvies.com

When Lori Sandler's youngest son, Benjamin—who was born with life-threatening food allergies—began attending toddler birthday parties, he was never able to enjoy the cake and pizza. "I saw that food allergies could potentially be socially isolating," she says. There was nothing on the market that was totally safe for someone allergic to peanuts, tree nuts, eggs or milk that was fresh and homemade, she says. So, she took to the kitchen to bake something herself. "I had no business background, I was just a mom on a mission," she says. For eight months, she spent up to 20 hours a day in her kitchen perfecting cookie recipes in order to get the right consistency, shelf life and taste. Today, the baked goods, called Divvies—because they're meant to be shared and divided up—include a variety of cookies, chocolate, popcorn and cupcakes all safe for those with dietary restrictions, and they're sold all over the country, from amusement parks to college campuses. "The best compliment we could receive is when a child doesn't have to feel different and they're just able to open up a package of cookies and feel safe," she says.



JAW WOODSHOP

NEWTOWN, CT

Founder: Johnny Williams, jawwoodshop.com

It's safe to say that Johnny Williams wasn't cut out for his desk job in marketing and consumer research. "I was writing all these reports about the artisanal movement and craft scene out in Brooklyn in a windowless office, and I just wanted to be doing it myself," he says. So, Williams quit and began taking courses in woodworking and furniture craftsmanship. At his charming studio in Newtown—a 1940s red barn—he now makes beautiful tasting boards from New England hardwoods such as maple and walnut. "I alternate the growth rings, hand plane all the edges and reassemble it in a way that it becomes warpless," Williams says. He also meticulously constructs stunning custom dining room tables, coffee tables and desks, from lumber sourced from local mills. But he has discovered one unexpected job challenge: "People often offer me tree stumps from their lawns," Williams says, laughing. "I have to explain that you have to pay a tree service to do that." JAW Woodshop products are sold at Back 40 Mercantile in Old Greenwich, CT and Axel Interiors in Norwalk.



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