

◆ SCOOP



Spunky trinkets such as Jenny Harada's colorful "stuffed creatures" can be found at Handmade Arcade, an indie craft fair at Construction Junction.

By Elaine Vitone

Annie Get Your Glue Gun

It's time again for the **Handmade Arcade**, one of the city's most innovative craft shows, where the outrageous meets the ingenious.

Forget the "Bless This Mess" cross-stitched pillows—Handmade Arcade is definitely not your mother's craft fair. But with all the event's nostalgic whimsy, Momma's sure to love it, too. On Sat., Nov. 11, experience a growing national subculture that celebrates handiwork with a humorous, eco-friendly spin. [more>>](#)



"Stuffies" created by Friend or Foe, two female artists who use found materials and vintage cloth to create huggable art.

At this third-annual fair for do-it-yourself (DIY) crafters across the country, you can tackle your holiday shopping amid tables of recycled vintage and retro-inspired T-shirts, accessories, jewelry and other unusual gifts. Case-in-point: Elizabeth Prince, one of Handmade Arcade's eight volunteer organizer/crafters, collages old pinups into stationery. "The enjoyment of making something for yourself is a big part of it," she says.

The event's success has surprised even Prince and her crafty cronies—last year, attendance doubled to 2,000. Perhaps the appeal is so wide because the blast-from-the-past fun of it is only half of Handmade Arcade's charm. According to show founder Gloria Forouzan, more than 100 craft artists are set to bring their wares to show and sell, including newly knitted, silk-screened and sewn wares, such as stuffed animals (aka "stuffies") and other gifts for kids. That's right—you, your mom and your munchkins can make a day of it together. But be warned: Given the bounty of handmade booty—not to mention the fact that the event will be held at Construction Junction, a treasure trove of vintage building materials—you're likely to leave with a head full of your own DIY schemes.

Want to go? 214 N. Lexington St., Point Breeze. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Cash recommended for purchases. Info: handmadearcade.com.

Arcade organizer/crafter Elizabeth Prince makes decorations out of glass jars and stationery out of vintage pinup posters.

