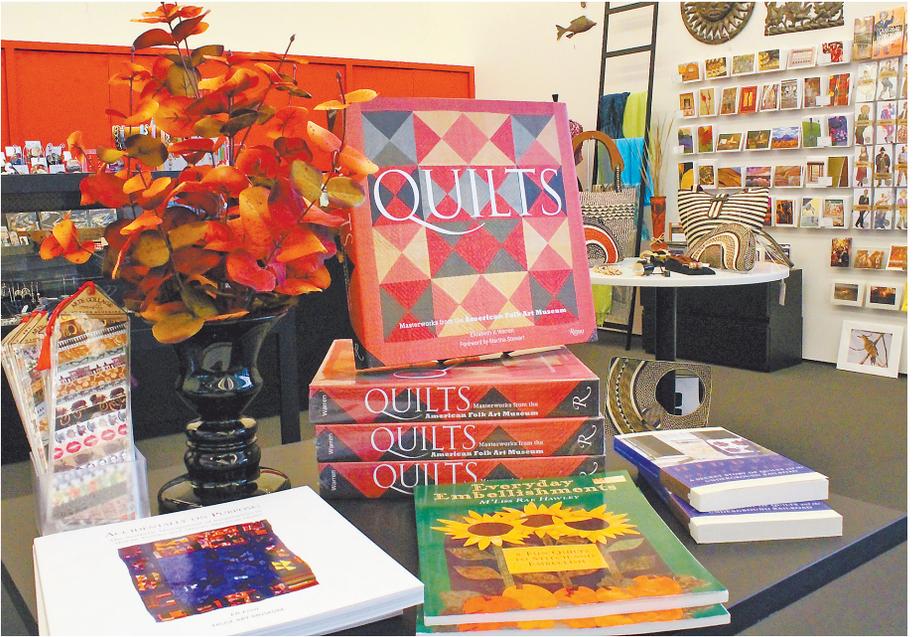


Exit through gift shop

Discover a unique collection at Figge's Museum Store



Leslie Klipsch

The Museum Store at the Figge Art Museum has plenty of items to help you check off your holiday shopping list.

BY LESLIE KLIPSCH

You might not think to pop into a museum store as you run your holiday errands, but by doing so, you just might delight the loved ones on your list, as well as positively impact the health of one of the many fantastic cultural institutions right here in the Quad-Cities.

The Museum Store at the Figge Art Museum in downtown Davenport is one such local museum shop that supports the institution it is housed in. The beautifully stocked shelves offer a wide variety of gifts that will not only sparkle under your tree this season, but also will spread good cheer to community members and art lovers throughout the year.

According to Chris Sweeney, the Museum Store's buyer and manager, all of the money from the sale of items in the Museum Store stays at the museum and is part of the operational support, making purchases at the Museum Store another way to support the mission of the Figge Art Museum.

Shoppers will discover a unique collection as well as a wide range of price points, making for a fun and satisfying shopping experience. The Museum Store has a nice selection of modern home gifts, stunning glass pieces, and wearable art, as well as an extensive selection of art books

and products inspired by the museum's special exhibits.

Ms. Sweeney, who carefully curates the shelves of the store, has loved art since she was a child and says her passion for art and culture was rekindled by courses in art history and anthropology that she took in college. She began working at the former Davenport Museum of Art in the late 1990s and continues to manage and purchase for the Figge today. Her discerning taste is evident.

"We have amazing permanent collections, wonderful temporary exhibitions, and educational programs that give me great inspiration when searching out products for the Museum Store," says Ms. Sweeney. "Our goal is for all our visitors to find a remembrance of their museum experience, an item that inspires their artistic side or the perfect unique gift for themselves or a special someone here in the Museum Store."

My favorites

The long line of shelves stocked with interesting, beautiful books is what first comes to mind when I think of The Museum Store at the Figge Art Museum.

I love the selection of affordable, illustrated children's books and the beautiful art books for older readers, including catalogs for exhibits like the current "Portraits of Maquoketa" by Rose Frantzen.

However, the depth of the store's collection surprised me on a recent visit. For instance, I would never have guessed that a museum shop would be a source for a

signature necklace — a fashion staple meant to give your entire look a boost of eye-popping personality. As I browsed, I admired several beautiful baubles: one multistrand necklace made of bright-yellow wooden beads and one layered with purple hues. Always a fan of metal art, I also found the Haitian-made cuff bracelets and earrings very attractive and versatile.

Ms. Sweeney's favorites

"There are so many interesting items!" Ms. Sweeney enthuses when asked to identify a few of her favorites. "One thing you may notice when you shop is that many of our handcrafted items come from artisan co-ops. I love the idea of supporting — in a very real and immediate way — these creative souls who are working to support their families, sometimes in challenging circumstances."



Leslie Klipsch



Leslie Klipsch

Also at the top of Ms. Sweeney’s list of favorites is the wide variety of accessories, such as the one-of-a-kind scarves made from recycled saris and the felted wool purses ranging from coin to cross-body size. She also enjoys the jewelry collection, which she says ranges from “sleek contemporary designs in silver to very affordable, artsy pieces crafted by people here in the region.”

Why you should shop

The Figge Museum Store could potentially provide one-stop holiday shopping for the kindhearted gift giver. There are beautiful books, lovely pieces of jewelry, fun and educational toys for children, and an array of sweet stocking stuffers like Lucy Lu’s Mighty Peppermints, which come in a sleek black box adorned with classic paintings. And of course, your dollars not only pay for

premium gifts, but also support the mission of the Figge throughout the year.

When you should shop

The Museum Store at the Figge Art Museum, 225 W. 2nd St., Davenport, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursdays, and from noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. Members of the Figge receive a discount on purchases.

Each month in The Gold Standard, Leslie Klipsch, a freelance writer and editor based in Davenport, shines a spotlight on the gems of the Quad-Cities area — the unique people, businesses and trends — for Gold Book readers. She enjoys reading, cooking, spending time with her husband and their three young children, and exploring all that the Quad-Cities has to offer.

