



Puzzling out Turtle Creek's wooden boxes at Bonnaroo

Vendaroo!

COOL STUFF FROM CHILL FESTIVAL VENDORS

By Robin A. Rothman

If you were able to tear yourself away from the extraordinarily excellent music festivals this summer, even momentarily, a whole array of vendors awaited you. Whether you were interested in buying artwork, clothing or even a solar-powered sun tea jar—these vendors had it all. Maybe you even made it past the glass to lie in a Mayan hammock at the Sweet Springs Hammock Co. booth, or tap on the beautiful handmade drums or blow into a gorgeously detailed didgeridoo at Being In Harmony. We weren't able to get those last items in time to review them (though I encourage you to check them out: Sweet Springs at 304-536-2959 and Being in Harmony at BeingInHarmony.com), but what follows are some of the coolest items that you may have come across between sets.

1. ORIGINAL METERS BY FRENCHY

Anyone who has seen Frenchy in action at a show—sequestered with his palette, his canvas, his paints and a headlamp—knows how intense his painting process is. He's perfectly positive and supportive of those who've copped his performance painting M.O.; still, nobody does it quite like he does. So it really is understandable that his finished works, truly representative of that live music energy we're

all addicted to, can also be pretty pricey. His Original Meters print, for example, goes for \$180 (plus \$30 shipping), and if you want an original, be prepared to shell out big money. Either way, it's important to really get your money's worth. So I say ya gotta get some 3-D glasses. I wouldn't have thought of it had I not meandered into the Frenchy tent at Bonnaroo. A young woman named Allison handed me a pair of paper glasses and I was simply

blown away. A Frenchy on the wall is a beautiful thing. But a Frenchy that jumps out at you when you look at it? Well, that's just a trip! www.frenchylive.com

2. WOODEN PUZZLE BOXES

There's a pile of wood sitting on my kitchen counter. It consists of Lincoln Log-like puzzle pieces that, for the life of me, I will never figure out how to reassemble into "The Cage," a \$26 puzzle that quite frankly makes me feel like a moron. Luckily, Turtle Creek also offers wooden puzzle boxes for the remedial level user—the kind of box that simply entails sliding one piece out to open the sucker up. My favorite is the cedar heart-shaped box (very Nirvana!). At \$22 it's also the most affordable of the rather pricey handmade bunch. A similarly sized mixed-wood rectangular box goes for \$65. But where Turtle Creek's real treasure lies is in the "stash" boxes by Heartwood Creations. Yin & Yang (\$40) requires a simple tap on the table where a subtle heart is, and the doors slide open. The more complicated (and therefore more secure) \$65 SpinBox, which requires a specific series of actions to get the thing open, could be hazardous to the stoner's sense of self-worth. www.puzzleboxguy.com

3. UNITY IS POSSIBLE SWEATSHIRT

According to the website, Mountains of the Moon swiped their "Unity is Possible" sweatshirt idea from something Phil Lesh said at the Dead's 2001 New Year's gig. We're lucky they chose something so concise and catchy over, say, that liver speech he likes to give. It is a well-meaning phrase, after all, and coupled with their own "Forever Family Forever Grateful," the \$55 item has an extraordinary sentimental value. The quality of the 100% cotton material is thick and rugged, the colors earthy. My little sister says she'll never need another hoodie. www.fullmoonfamily.com

4. SOUL POWER T-SHIRT

Not since Johnny Socko were busted for mass-producing Sammy Davis Jr.'s face have I been this excited about wearing cultural icons on my chest. Rope-A-Dope offers a range of \$20 tees featuring all kinds of smooth muthafuckas. And nobody's smoother (not Bootsy, not even Gandhi) than Mr. Marvin Gaye. www.ropeadope.com

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5. SOLAR POWERED SUN TEA JAR

The only problem with the Sundance Solar Powered Spinning Sun Tea Jar is timing. You don't just need a little sun to get this thing going. You need serious rays. Overcast days?

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5 THAT CAUGHT OUR EYE

1



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2



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4



5

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