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16B Extracurriculars Events on and off campus in November and December



16D Sensual Images of the Ballet Russes Museum of Russian Icons



16| A True Combo Tuning in to Greater Boston's live-music jazz scene



16P Fatimah Tuggar Works reflect on humans and technology, Davis Museum



16T Bow Market Somerville's newest hip place to shop, eat, and drink



# Extracurriculars

Events on and off campus during November and December

### SEASONAL

### The Game

gocrimson.com

The annual competition takes place in New Haven. (November 23)

Winter Night Lights towerhillbg.org

Tower Hill Botanical Garden, in Boylston, Massachusetts, holds its annual "inclusive,

From left to right: From Aliens, part of the Harvard Film Archive's series Make My Day: The Cinematic Imagination of the Reagan Era; flutist Claire Chase performs new works at Harvard; celebrating winter lights at Tower Hill Botanical Gardens

secular event, where visitors of all backgrounds can celebrate winter, light, and nature together." Seasonal fare and spirits are available amid an enchanting landscape. (November 29-December 30)

# **Ceramics Program Holiday Show** and Sale

ofa.fas.harvard.edu/ceramics

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# STAFF PICK: Images from the Ballets Russes

Russian ballerina Lubov Tchernicheva, pictured here for a 1920 production of Cleopatra, was ballet mistress of the Ballets Russes in the latter 1920s, and played a vital role



in promoting groundbreaking dance movements until her death in 1976. (Her papers are held at Harvard's Houghton Library.) This sensual shot is among the 73 platinum prints in Emil Hoppé: Photographs from the Ballets Russes, at the Museum of Russian Icons. Also featured are the legendary dancers Vaslav Nijinsky, Adolph Bolm, Michel and Vera Fokine, and Tamara Karsavina—and others who orbited impresario and Ballet Russes founder Sergei Diaghilev.

Hoppé, an internationally renowned photographer of the 1920s and '30s, fit right in. His London studio drew artists, intellectuals, couturiers, celebrities, literary stars, and members of the royal family. Thus, as the exhibit notes, he captured creative forces and dance performers that "shocked the senses

Museum of Russian Icons museumofrussianicons.org Opens November 15

and seduced the world into the modern era." ∼N.P.B.

### The II0th Annual **Christmas Carol Services**

memorialchurch.harvard.edu

Celebrate the season with the Harvard University Choir and a liturgy—three scripture lessons offered amid choral and congregational carols—that's remained virtually unchanged since the inaugural service was held in 1910. Memorial Church. (December 8 and 10)

### **Candlelight Christmas**

choruspromusica.org

An a cappella concert by Chorus pro Musica features an E.M. Skinner pipe organ and classic songs, new works, and a selection of audience-sing-along favorites. Old South Church, Boston. (December 13)

### FILM

# **Harvard Film Archive**

harvardfilmarchive.org

Film critic J. Hoberman, author of the new Make My Day: Movie Culture in the Age of Reagan, introduces the classic Being There on November 11, and appears November 12 for a book-signing at the Brattle Theatre (which also screens other period films discussed in the book, November 5-14.) Meanwhile, the archive's separate month-long series, Make My Day: The Cinematic Imagination of the Reagan Era, includes The King of Comedy, Back to the Future, and Blue Velvet. (October 31-November 30)

French actress and director Mati Diop, a former Radcliffe Film Study Center fellow, will be on hand for a screening of her Atlantique, winner of this year's Cannes Film Festival Grand Prix award. The story melds supernatural fiction with an exploration of the global migrant crisis. (November 18)

### **THEATER**

# Harvard-Radcliffe Gilbert and Sullivan

hrgsp.org

Love lives, class lines, and patriotism converge in the comedic opera H.M.S. Pinafore; or, The Lass That Loved a Sailor. Agassiz Theatre (November 8-17)

**American Repertory Theater** american repertory theater.org What to Send Up When It Goes Down, produced by The Movement Theatre Company, employs "parody, song, movement, and audience participation to create a space for catharsis, reflection, cleansing, and healing." Written by Aleshea Harris, directed by Whitney White. Loeb Drama Center. (November 14-24)

The world-premiere musical reimagining of Moby-Dick follows Captain Ahab, Ishmael, and the crew pursuing their quarry, amid contemporary quandaries. Directed by Rachel Chavkin, with music, lyrics, book, and orchestrations by Dave Malloy. Loeb Drama Center. (December 3-January 12)

### POETRY

library.harvard.edu

Harvard English professor and poet Stephanie Burt, author of this year's Don't Read Poetry: A Book About How to Read Poems, introduces readings by Jordan Davis (Shell Game, and editor of The Collected Poems of Kenneth Koch) and Ron Padgett (Big Cabin), followed by book-signings and a reception. Lamont Library. (November 19)

Reel Time: On Black Mountain and the Poets' Theatre. Jonathan C. Creasy, editor of Black Mountain Poems (2019), examines both distinctive artistic/educational experiments. Barker Center. (December 4)

### LECTURES

### **Mahindra Humanities Center**

mahindrahumanities.fas.harvard.edu Two 2019-20 postdoctoral fellows discuss their scholarship: Javiela M. Evangelista, assistant professor in the African American studies department at New York City College of Technology, reports on "Denationalization and Xenophobia: Civil Genocide in the Dominican Republic"

(November 13), and Pelin Kivrak '11, who earned a Yale doctorate in comparative literature earlier this year, explores "Homely Exhibits: Artistic Representation of Hospitality and Hostility in the Twenty-First Century." (November 20)

### **Harvard Semitic Museum**

semiticmuseum.fas.harvard.edu Visiting Wellesley College assistant professor in anthropology Elizabeth Minor discusses "Human Sacrifice and Power in the Kerma Kingdom" (a Nubian civiliza-

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Luminous works by the Panajachel, Guatemala-based artist Vivian Suter, at ICA/Boston

tion that was located in present-day Sudan). Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford Street. (November 19)

### **Harvard Museum of Natural History** hmnh harvard edu

"The Remarkable Nature of Edward Lear." Robert McCracken Peck, curator of arts and artifacts at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Drexel University, sheds light on the children's writer—and accomplished painter of the natural world—who mysteriously abandoned a promising career in science. Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford Street. (November 21)

### **Radcliffe Institute**

radcliffe.harvard.edu Francine Berman, RI '20, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Hamilton Distinguished Professor in computer science, delves into "Civilizing the Internet of Things." Knafel Center. (December 4)

### MUSIC

### **Harvard Music Department**

music.fas.harvard.edu

Professor of the practice of music Claire Chase, a flutist, MacArthur fellow, and cofounder of ICE/International Contemporary Ensemble, ends a week-long residency with Constellation Chor vocalists with a performance of her Density 2036 part vi (2019), other new works, and a host of guest performers). Free, no tickets required. Harvard ArtLab, Allston. (November 7)

## **Boston Philharmonic**

boxoffice.harvard.edu

The robust program offers Carl Nielsen's Helios Overture, Ludwig van Beethoven's Violin Concerto, and Sergei Rachmaninoff's Symphonic Dances, op. 45. Sanders Theatre. (November 14 and 17)

# Composer/Percussionist Susie Ibarra gsd.harvard.edu

"Listening and Creating Spatially: How do we hear in real life?" The Graduate School of Design Rouse Visiting Artist lecturer shares her work, including: Fragility, A Carpenter Center for the Game of Polyrhythms, and Himalayan Glacier Soundscapes, a collaborative project with the glaciologist and geomorphologist Michele Koppes that "maps and records memory and changes in the earth and its culture along the Ganges off of Satopanth Glacier." Gund Hall. (November 19)

### **Plucking and Playing**

boxoffice.harvard.edu

Virtuoso mandolin-player Sierra Hull joins banjoist **Noam Pikelny**, a founding member of the Punch Brothers, and bluegrass multiinstrumentalist **Stuart Duncan**, for a night of rockin' folk music. Sanders Theatre. (November 22)

### **Harvard Wind Ensemble**

harvardwe.fas.harvard.edu The student group performs its annual Holiday Concert. Lowell Lecture Hall. (December 6)

# **Boston Baroque**

boxoffice.harvard.edu

Celebrate the passing year, and new begin-

nings, with works by J.S. Bach and Arcangelo Corelli, among others-along with complimentary champagne and chocolates. Sanders Theatre. (December 31 and January 1)

# **EXHIBITIONS** Johnson-Kulukundis

# **Family Gallery** of Byerly Hall

radcliffe.harvard.edu Dario Robleto's installation Unknown and Solitary Seas, based on lengthy research, shows the "origins of the pulse wave as a graphic expression of internal life." (November 4-January 18)



# Peabody Museum of Archaeology & **Ethnology**

peabody.harvard.edu

A formal dinner for Harvard students in 1910 is the literal centerpiece of Resetting the Table: Food and Our Changing Tastes. (Opening November 16)

# Visual Arts

https://carpenter.center

An Introduction to Nameless Love. Large text-based sculptures by Jonathan Berger reflect a range of "true love" relationships based on work, religion, community, and other realms not typically associated with romance. (Through December 29)

# **ICA/Institute of Contemporary Art** icaboston.org

Vivian Suter. Her luminous hanging canvases, many created partly outdoors, swirl with colors and fluid forms inspired by the natural world. (Through December 31)

### **Museum of Fine Arts**

mfa.org

More than 45 intricate watercolors, drawings, and book illustrations from the Kendra and Allan Daniel Collection elucidate artist Kay Nielsen's Enchanted Vision. (Through January 20)

Events listings are also accessible at www.harvardmagazine.com.

# Spotlight

Child's Play, at the Society of Arts + Crafts, in Boston's Seaport district, explores the whimsical, and sometimes adult, nature of toys.

Minneapolis artist Dean Lucker builds on the tradition of automatons and mechanical toys with contemporary folkloric compositions, like Swinger (2019). He and his wife, Ann Wood, are the ingenious duo behind Woodlucker studio, where they also produce paper botanicals, surreal scenes and dioramas, and interactive sculptures featuring both.

More provocative are works by Na-

"Little Terrors" series features sturdy wooden toys—like the Automatic Fun (2018) rifle and Playtime Camera and Monitor (2016) painted in bright primary colors. Not in the show because of prohibitive shipping costs, but worth checking out online, are Lewis's renditions of child-scaled play structures. His "flea market" kiosk, with cheerful striped awning and lemonade-stand vibe, displays cute boxes of ë "Big Boy Ammo"

thaniel Lewis. His



and big wooden guns. Another installation features the wooden framework and objects for a game of "airport-security check point." Included is: a rainbow-hued baggage belt, hand-held metal detector, a play suicide-bomber vest, and an X-ray cubicle where kids can stand, feet apart, and raise their hands above their heads. Distinctly not for children—or not yet.

Following that, Paul Daniel's kinetic metal sculptures—like the geometric Aramis (2017), at right, which is powered simply by the wind—are a welcome abstraction.

Society of Arts + Crafts societyofcrafts.org

November 21-January 18

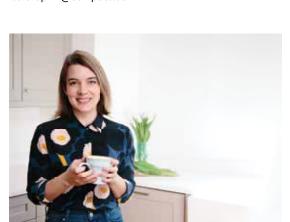
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# Jazz and Boston: A True Combo

A look at the live-music scene, from traditional trios to experimental student performers

by JACOB SWEET



Central Square and Yoko Miwa and her trio are performing their weekly set. The lights are dim and the Asian-fusion dishes are plated with style. For many, it's date night, and although it costs \$10 to sit in the Jazz Baroness Room—where the live performances take place—not everyone is completely tuned in. For some, music is part of the atmosphere, akin to the lipstick-red lami-

Rockport; Ravi Coltrane has also made his way to Rockport. another like waves pulsing along the

ers to turn away from their food and watch. lazz is in the air.

shore, inspir-

ing some din-

The plate-glass storefront window behind the stage gives passersby a view of the stand out. Her breezy, articulate phrases

roll into one rhythms into the street. Some people stand and listen; others have somewhere else to be. A not-insignificant number are musicians, who—juggling guitars, keyboards, saxophones, sound equipment, and even an upright bass or two—are off to their own gigs.

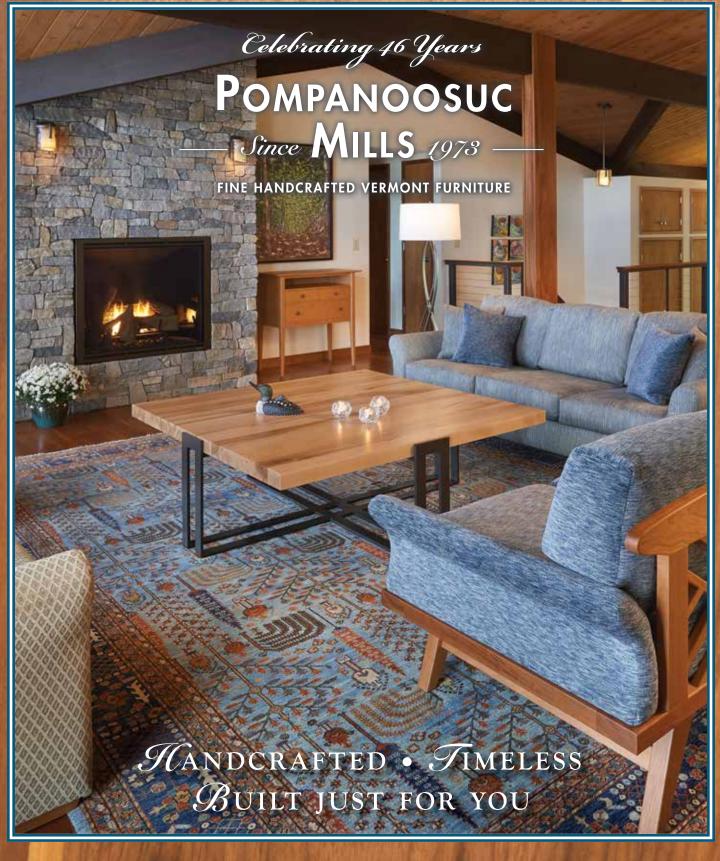
Clockwise from upper left: Sheila Jordan performs with the Yoko Miwa Trio at The Mad Monkfish, in Cambridge; a

low-key evening at Wally's, in Boston; Alita Moses and

Steven Feifke at the Shalin Liu Performance Center, in

On any given weekend in Boston, there's plenty of jazz to be heard. This might surprise those who think jazz hubs mean New Orleans and New York City. "Boston doesn't trio, as external loudspeakers send Miwa's have the reputation of being a great jazz





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nated seats; for others, it's the reason

they came. Miwa, a Berklee associ-

ate professor of piano whose trio is

a staple in Boston, plays with unpretentious

grace and fluidity. The sound reaches the

back of the room, but the closer you get to

the ankle-high stage, the more the nuances

T'S A FRIDAY NIGHT at The Mad Monkfish in Cambridge's

HARVARD SQUARED



war. With support from the GI Bill, service-

men flocked to Boston's three major music



city," says Pauline Bilsky, president of the schools: the New England Conservatory advocacy group JazzBoston. "It's really not of Music (NEC), Schillinger House (now recognized—even here." But those on the Berklee College of Music), and The Boston lookout know that Boston certainly has a Conservatory (now Boston Conservatory at Berklee). As Richard Vacca details in The part to play. The local jazz scene began in the early Boston Jazz Chronicles, Boston was not just a twentieth century and took off in the late hotbed of musical talent, but also "a training 1940s, as American soldiers returned from ground for jazz journalists, a magnet for mu-

sic education, and a proving ground for new

approaches in jazz presentation. Other cit-

Drummer Lenny White leads his band at the intimate Regattabar; percussionist Manolo Badrena performs at the same venue.

ies made contributions as well, but Boston was unique in that it made major contributions to all of them."

Proximity to New York City
was a blessing and a curse. Positively, many of the world's best
artists frequently visited: Dizzy Gillespie, Artie Shaw, Glenn
Miller, Duke Ellington, Thelonious Monk. Negatively, they
often went home with some of

Boston's most promising young musicians in tow. Other cities may have had a bigger pool, but Boston musicians could outschool anyone. "We sort of looked down on the musical knowledge of the New York musicians because they were all there before they were ready," said prominent avant-garde jazz artist and Boston Conservatory graduate Sam Rivers, according to Vacca. "They got on-the-job training. We waited and got ourselves to-



of the ocean, the Shalin Liu stage provides a pristine visual, as well as auditory, experience, and features widely recognized artists who might also perform at Lincoln Center or Symphony Hall. Branford Marsalis visited this September, and Grammy Award-winners Ulysses Owens Jr. and Jack DeJohnette are on this season's docket. Chianti is a homier venue, with entertainment six nights a week, and solid Italian food. Guest artists tend to be of more regional than national acclaim, but there is plenty of talent—and no cover charge. Also of note is The Saha-

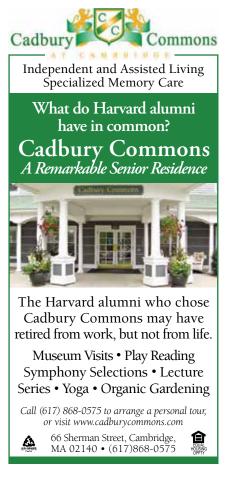


Mike Rivard, strumming a North African sintir, leads Club D'Elf at the rose-tinted Lizard Lounge; Rachael Price sings with the Boston-based group Lake Street Dive.

ra Club, set in a nondescript brown building on a suburban Methuen street: it offers Tuesday-night jazz series, featuring an array of crowd-pleasing, mostly local musicians, food and bar service, and cabaret seating.

Moving into Boston's South End, one classic club does remain: Wally's Café, which has been plugging away for more than 75 years. Even today, its audience skews young.





# COMPASS

gether first and then we went to New York."

Many of Boston's most storied jazz insti-

tutions have faded away, but others have

popped up. And although very few clubs

and restaurants feature jazz exclusively,

JazzBoston tallied 150 venues in the Great-

er Boston area (extending to Worcester

and the North Shore) that book jazz acts

with some regularity. Bilsky points in par-

ticular to the Shalin Liu Performance Cen-

ter in Rockport, and Chianti Restaurant

& Lounge in Beverly. Framed by floor-to-

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161 November - December 2019

On a Saturday night, an unbridled improvisatory energy hits you just as you enter through the club's distinctive red door. About the width of two bowling lanes, the venue lacks much room to stretch out, but the restrictions do nothing to curb the pas-

sion of the crowd or the performers. Solos are rewarded with instant applause, and riffs are extemporized emphatically, with minimal breaks in the action. You can get close enough to observe the tenor sax player's minor annoyance when a reed doesn't respond

properly, and watch as the bassist takes control during the bandleader's bathroom break. Some 80 people can pack inside this airtight jazz haven, seven nights a week. Stepping back onto the street, you wonder how such a little room could contain so much verve.

# Jazz Photographer Frank Stewart, at Harvard

Capturing the energy and spirit of jazz through still-image photography is a little like trying to bottle a tornado. Yet Frank Stewart has managed to do it by taking thousands of images across more than four decades, focusing on musicians in candid moments on- and off-stage. "What characterizes his photography, especially, is how intimate it is, and the access he gets to performers," notes Gabriella Jones-Monserrate, program director at Harvard's Cooper Gallery of African and African American Art, which features The Sound of My Soul: Frank Stewart's Life in Jazz through December 13.

The 74 images—mostly black and white prints, plus a selection of moody color shots—span the early 1970s through this year. Some of the earliest photographs came from traveling with pianist, composer, and bandleader Ahmad Jamal, not long after Stewart graduated from Cooper Union, where he studied with influential artists like Roy DeCarava and Garry Winogrand. Also reflected is Stewart's work as the lead photographer for Jazz at Lincoln Center ever since its inception in the early 1990s; he captures that orchestra, along with Wynton Marsalis, D.Mus. '09, and his musicians (with



who has reignited excitement over jazz's

Afro-Caribbean roots; he's caught onstage

in mid-percussive heat. The young multi-

instrumentalist and singer Camille Thurman,

whose album Waiting for the Sunrise won this

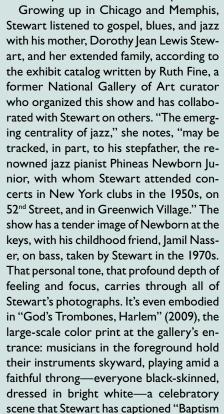
year's best "jazz with vocals" Independent

Coltrane," 2002.

whom he traveled between

1989 and 1992). There are

formers pour their souls out in public.





"God's Trombones, Harlem," 2009





Music Award, is shown barefoot and grinning while warming up in "Before the Gig" (2018). In a close-up of vocalist Cécile McLorin Salvant, Stewart has captured her with head pitched back, nearly parallel to the floor, and mic in hand, eyes squeezed shut, in full-throttle, expressionistic mode. He seems to have a sixth sense for what's sacred about those moments when per-Dizzy Gillespie and Dexter Gordon, c. 1976 (left), and Walter Blanding "demonstrating

in the Street."

Regattabar and Scullers, both located in Cambridge hotels, may lack the same powder-keg excitement, but they draw better-known acts several nights a week. Yosvany Terry, an internationally acclaimed bandleader and Harvard senior lecturer in music, suggested both venues, although he admits that he himself performs in New York City most weekends. In November, Scullers hosts two 10-time Grammy Winners: legendary jazz trumpeter Arturo Sandoval (November 8 and 9) and pianist Eddie Palmieri (November 29). Regattabar's performances are booked through New York City's Blue Note Jazz Club, and feature a similar talent slate. Both offer pristine environments for undistracted jazz enjoyment.

At Darryl's Corner Bar & Kitchen, a stylish soul-food spot in Boston's South End, some voice-raising might be necessary. The music rarely falls below forte, and the bass can be felt as well as heard. Servers wait Lounge, recommended by Ingrid Monson, for the briefest lulls in the action so they can hear the patrons' orders. What's fun is the funkier feel of the music at Darryl's—

No jostling or fighting your way to the front

of the room is required.

a sharpness aided by the arguably overactive speakers—and guests dance in their seats, while standing in place, and in groups near the performers. Darryl's \{ doesn't book just § jazz, but the musi- \{ cians are good, and 5 the food is, too. One inebriated guest rec-

ommended Slade's Bar and Grill, a slightly cheaper soul-food joint down the block, which sometimes features live jazz. "Nothing's like Wally's, though," he clarified, before sauntering out. Also in the South End is The Beehive, a quieter and more bohemian restaurant with a nightly selection of live music. Depending on where you sit, the music could be more atmosphere than draw.

Just north of Harvard Square, the Lizard Quincy Jones professor of African-American music, presents a cozy cabaret-like viewing and listening experience and low-key pub



Members of Aardvark Jazz Orchestra

grub. On a Saturday night, the crowd is noticeably relaxed as they listen attentively to the chilled-out headlining folk group. The featured jazz artists tend to be a bit more contemporary and experimental than those at older-school venues: Club d'Elf, a frequent Lizard Lounge performer with a steady, hypnotic sound, markets itself as a "Moroccandosed Psychedelic Dub Jazz Collective." On leaving a show, it's tough to estimate how much time has passed. The Lilypad, another Monson recommendation, is an Inman

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### HARVARD SQUARED

Square hot spot for modern jazz and funk. Resembling an off-campus apartment's living room, the venue draws an audience that's mostly college-aged, or a bit older, with many attendees sporting creative facial hair and cans of Pabst Blue Ribbon. Avant-garde and beloop are the most represented genres on the calendar—a bit more raucous than smooth jazz. On one Saturday night, the ironically named dance-funk band Jeb Bush Orchestra, whose members wore short-shorts and sweatbands, had the crowd jaunty and loose. Just down the road, Outpost 186 offers an even smaller and more experimental setting. It would be wise to enter expecting less-than-traditional tonality. The room fits

only about three dozen people on metal folding chairs, and the walls are often covered in contemporary art installations. As local jazz musician and blogger Stephen Provizer has written "The skill level ranges from the competent to the 'I can't believe musicians as good as this are only playing for 10 people."

If many of Boston's historical jazz venues have fallen out, NEC, Berklee, Harvard, and MIT have helped fill the gap. A glance at the schools' schedules reveals numerous free, or inexpensive, concerts with some big names. NEC, with frequent free performances by faculty, students, and visiting artists, might be the top spot. At semesters' end, students often give recitals for a grade. You're in for

good performances; they need them to graduate. Presenting organizations like Global Arts Live, Celebrity Series, and Mandorla Music have picked up the slack as well, producing shows throughout Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville. As for seasonal jazz events, don't miss the Aardvark Jazz Orchestra's forty-seventh annual Christmas Concert, on December 14 in Emmanuel Church, on Boston's Newbury Street.

Boston might not have the jazz clout of New Orleans or New York City—or even of Kansas City, San Francisco, or Chicago—but that doesn't mean it's not a jazzy city. It's a matter of knowing where to look, and the desire to just get swinging.

# CURIOSITIES: Reflections of Fatimah Tuggar

"Fatimah Tuggar: Home's Horizons," at Wellesley College's Davis Museum through December 15, offers 26 large-scale works by the Nigerian-born, Kansas-based conceptual artist. Given her trajectory, from roots in Africa to studying at the ter, separated along a Kansas City Art Institute and earning a master's in fine arts from Yale in 1995, it's perhaps not surprising to read in the exhibit materials that her multimedia projects explore "systems underlying human interactions with both high-tech gadgets and handmade crafts."

Her 1997 photomontage Working Woman features a grinning woman in traditional Nigerian dress sitting cross-legged on the floor, sheltered by a handmade wooden windscreen. She's also surrounded by a land-line telephone, power strip, wall clock, and desktop computer—displaying on its screen a duplicate image of the entire Working Woman montage. It's as if the woman is dialing in, or into her self, as she appears in the virtual, commercial brand-happy contemporary age. Home's Horizons (2019) is a computer montage diptych that also speaks to cultural bifurca-

tion. The images reflect nearly mirrored blue skies and oceanic wahorizontal plane, that splits images of what might be a traditional, ancestral home on one side, and a modern gabled house, with the proverbial American white-picket fence, on the other.

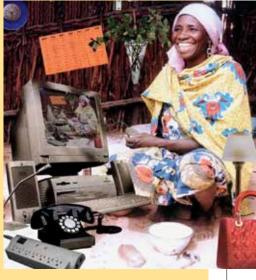
A 2019 Guggenheim Fellow, Tuggar has received many other ma-

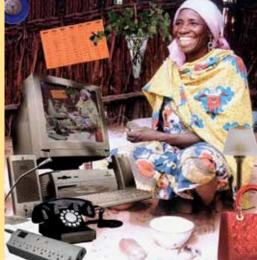
jor awards and exhibited works internationally since the 1990s. The Davis Museum show is a major solo exhibition, however, and

> conveys Tuggar's sense of humor and playfulness, along with her nuanced cultural commentary. The commissioned installation Deep Blue Wells combines textiles, sculptures, video, and augmented reality (an interactive experience in which real-world elements are digitally enhanced). It evokes the centuries-old indigo dye-wells in the ancient city of Kano, Nigeria (among the last of their kind in operation) and reflects on the intersections of history, virtual reality, and globalization. See the work in person, and/ or—in the spirit of computer-enabled communications—

> > learn more, directly from Tuggar herself, by visiting the campus virtually via a free "Artist Skype Talk" on November 19.  $\sim$ N.P.B.

Clockwise from above: Working Woman; Home's Horizons; and Robo Entertains (2001)







Photographs by Fatimah Tuggar and BintaZarah Studios/Courtesy of the Davis Museum



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# La Fábrica's Latin-Caribbean Flair

Cambridge hot spot draws diners, dancers, and music-lovers from all over.

by NELL PORTER BROWN



ANDWICHED BETWEEN Veggie Planet and the Central Square Theater, La Fábrica is the most exciting spot for Latin-Caribbean music, food, and dancing in Cambridge. Actually, it's one of the only such dynamic destinations in Greater Boston.

"We have some of the best salsa, merengue, and Latin jazz musicians here on comfortable. You get to meet people from all Latin American, and American."

any given night," says owner Dennis Benzan, a Cambridge native, attorney, and former city councilor,

whose parents immigrated from Puerto Rico over Boston, and the world—and we get to and the Dominican Republic in the 1960s. "This is a place where everyone feels safe and

bar/lounge are all rolled into one Central Square storefront at La Fábrica. Its Caribbean-Latino fare may include quail with Cuban rice and beans. shrimp in butter-rum citrus sauce, and desserts such as tembleque, a coconut pudding.

demonstrate and show off not just Latin-Caribbean culture, but what it means to be

seamlessly fused restaurant/lounge, livemusic venue, and nightclub. Authentic Latin-Caribbean food, with a twist, helps set that tone. Start with the shredded mango-papaya-green bean salad, with a zesty aguachile (blended peppers, garlic, cilantro, and lime) vinaigrette (\$8) and the crispy croquettes (\$6)—fried balls of mashed yucca and provolone cheese dipped in "mayoketchup" sauce. Larger plates include the paella-like "fisherman's rice," with shrimp, calamari, and lobster tails (\$25), and the succulent whole red snapper in a coconut Creole sauce (\$30). Order a pitcher of sangria, with berries and citrus, for the whole table (\$40), or sample other potions, like a classic piña colada or the "Smokey Paloma," made with mezcal, the aperitif Lillet, and lime and grapefruit juices (\$13).

Dinner is served in two spaces: a front dining room, with a more sultry atmosphere, bar, and stage; and the larger back room, decorated by a wall-length photographic mural of workers in sugarcane fields. La Fábrica, Spanish for "factory," also refers to those fields, represented by a mill wheel as the restaurant's logo—and by the nearly 450-pound steel trapiche, a mill for crushing sugar cane (from a Dominican fábrica) that hangs on one wall. Choose a table in the back if you want



What sets La Fábrica apart is that it's a to converse. The live music—Tuesdays, open mic; Wednesdays, reggae; Thursday through Saturday, Latin jazz—generally starts around 8 р.м. and floods the front room, making it far easier to dance than be heard.

On weekend nights around 10:30, the entire space transforms into a nightclub. Wednesdays are reserved for bachata: lessons in the Dominican Republic dance style start at 9:30 P.M.—followed by social dancing until 1 A.M. Weekend "Latin Nights" feature rotating deejays and a mix of Latin and salsa rhythms, from traditional Afro-Cuban beats to reggaeton and Top 40. "In the nightclub, we tend to get a younger crowd, 21 to 40, in the back room, and an older crowd, that doesn't want to be in a 'nightclub' [scene] but still really wants to dance, up front," Benzan says. Many patrons dress up—stilettos, spangles, and flashy ties—and are seasoned, talented salsa dancers, so even those who don't get out on the floor themselves can order drinks, groove in their seats, and enjoy the spectacle. "The best part of La Fábrica," he adds, is that all kinds of people are "assembled together, with positive vibes."



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# **Bow Market**

Somerville's latest creative spot to shop, eat, and drink by nell porter brown



OW MARKET, in Somerville's Union Square, is very likely the only place on the planet where you can shop for vintage furs, tuck into platters of pierogis and poutine, catch a comedy act, and then chill out all night with pints of Exquisite Corpse. "It's a vibrant marketplace

that does not fit the norms of a typical mall or traditional market setting," says Brittany Lajoie, manager of Remnant Brewing, which offers the "chewy, deep, and dark" Corpse stout (flavored with Taza chocolate), among other rotating drafts—and doubles as a day-time java café. "Here, there's more of a personal touch."

Remnant opened when Bow Market did, in mid 2018, and is now one of the 30-odd arts-oriented niche shops and food outlets that line the pentagonal, open-air courtyard.

Tucked back from busy Somerville Avenue, the market occupies two lev-

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THE

els: downstairs is food, like the vegetarian upstart Saus (try the poutine topped with shallots and kimchi) and JaJu (get the cabbage and mushroom pierogis), and upstairs are the small-scale retailers, most of whom are artists or designers selling their own creations.

The largest store, at just under 400 square feet, is We Thieves. Owner Sandra Rossi says that for a vintage-fashion store, "it was Bow Street's festive courtyard lit up at night; poutine with kimchi and scallions at the vegetarian Saus; one of the many pop-up musical and other events; Remnant Brewing/coffee café; and the Comedy Club, featuring everything from newcomers and open mic nights to national acts

imperative to be in a location where I was ensured I'd have the right psychographic of my clientele: independents, creatives...





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people who appreciate the fringe, appreciate what is not expected or predictable." Her constantly changing inventory includes global fashion and goods by local designers; this season, Rossi highlights furs and glitzy festive garb, and is expanding her supply of "self-care, all-natural, hard-to-find" bath and beauty products. "Also, I had hoarded a lot of jewelry," she adds, "and items from estate sales—including a great collection of vintage Chanel earrings—so I am going to put all that out for the holidays."

We Thieves' eclectic goods pair well with the Americana antiques, and wearables for men, found next door at Blue Bandana Relics (also a presence at SoWa in Boston). Down the way is Filomena Dimarco, a shop full of eye-catching jewelry with Southwestern flair, made by artist Ashley Vick; her pendants and bracelets look great with the bold, hand-crafted leather boots for sale at Adelante Shoe Co. Gifts and home goods are the focus at 9000 Things, where designer Ali Horeanopoulos sells her own rainbow-hued pendants and wall art, made from upcycled materials. Steps away, Home Slice features handmade graphic art, embroidered and crocheted goods, and plant hangers. At Make & Mend, embroiderer and owner Emily Tirella collects "gently used" art supplies—like paints and brushes, drawing tools, papers, yarns, and fabrics—which can be prohibitively expensive bought new. "People donate leftovers and supplies, and we sell it at reasonable prices," she says (see how to donate at makeandmendsomerville.com), and even though she doesn't offer classes in the small place, she urges everyone to stop in, get inspired—and to "just start making things" on their own.

"It's a really good community with a lot of people who are just starting out so we're all kind of in it together," reports crowd inside for events, or check out equip-

We Thieves' Rossi. The vendors all tend to help plan and put on events throughout the year, and, essentially, cross-pollinate a

growing, like-minded customer base. Remnant's Lajoie, for example, organizes market events, from courtyard yoga and movie or trivia nights to block parties and a pot-luck dinner co-hosted with the Somerville Public Library. "We do get a wide demographic of patrons," she says, "from student groups or work-from-home types during the day, to larger friend groups, writing workshops...a good variety of [people] of all ages and colors finding comfort in our space."

one of the best curated

The emphasis is clearly on the arts and artisanal food. All purchases support the work of these young artists and entrepreneurs, and the courtyard space, which is open to the public, whether patronizing the restaurants or not.

"The market's popped up pretty quickly, and it's already a gathering place," says Eiden Spilker, kitchen manager of the In Season Food Shop, where everything, from toffeedipped potato chips and basil-infused soda to noodles and coffee, is produced in New England or New York. Its café also serves wholesome smoothies, grain bowls, and soups. Like many who work at Bow Market, Spilker is also engaged in the arts; he's a musician and appreciates the inspiring connections fostered by and within the market community. On the second level, he points out, is Vinyl Index, home to one of the best collections of new and used records around; it's co-owned by revered local DJ George "7L" Andrinopoulos. Next door, in the storefront production studio and tech shop Union Sound, beat performers and music-lovers

ment and clothing, or take work-Relic, or pick up handmade shops. Spilker says Bow Market is gifts and home goods at 9000 Things. Vinyl Index has a "cool place because there are really creative people—artists, paintrecord selections around. ers, and musicians"—working and

learning in close quarters. That's all by design. In developing the small, manageable retail spaces—with relatively affordable rents and short leases— Bow Market's creators have intentionally fostered those synergistic energies, and aim to support the riskier, homegrown products and ventures. "Our goal is to make sure that this is always a positive step for a business," says co-owner Zachary Baum, "whether they start here and graduate to larger space, or they figure out something about their business or model that they couldn't have without moving into a brick-and-mortar space." Baum is part of the trio—with Matthew Boyes-Watson and his father, Mark Boyes-Watson, an architect with a longtime office in Union Square—who bought and began transforming the former storage building in 2017. "We do expect," he adds, "that some of our businesses are not ultimately going to work out, for one reason or another." That's an understandable aspect of any worthy enterprising process.

Baum holds political science and theory degrees from Tufts and the London School of Economics, and met the younger Boyes-Watson, who was at work turning a graffiti haven in Central Square into a pop-up market, through mutual friends. They shared "a sense of the importance of small-scale retail to urban life," Baum reports, "and really connected around that similar love of wanting to see these kinds of businesses thrive."

The Bow Market space, which abuts the rear of Mark Boyes-Watson's office, consisted of garage bays on the ground floor



and a second level of warehouse-like rooms-all of which

faced a worn asphalt lot. The trio looked past these homely conditions and were instead inspired by the property's potential as a public-focused, urban-renewal architectural project. Rather than roof over the entire structure, framing in generic interior retail space and sectioning out other units based on development-industry commercial formulas, they took a different approach. Three mantras guided the design process:

Don't mess it up: "We have a really great space!" Baum explains. "Even though it was a little bit dingy and paved and the building had these strange brown/tan cinder-like blocks—it had this incredible view of the open sky."

Maintain a really human scale: The numerous tiny storefronts, accessed by an outdoor walkway that rims the courtyard, arcade-style, enable shoppers to dip in and out of stores while still staying in touch with the courtyard action below. "It's not shops, and each owner can map their individual personalities onto the space," according to Baum. "The whole space feels large, but also intimate. In the courtyard, for instance, you're not listening to other peoples' conversations, but you're also not alone."

Cheap and cheerful: For reasons related to aesthetics, affordability, and practicalities, they kept the industrial materials and resulting architectural tone of the storage facility. And because all the walkways and columns are galvanized steel, they never need to be painted. Ditto the granite blocks in the courtyard that serve as seating, and also help divide the space geometrically and visually into varying planes. That granite, in line with the project's sustainability goals, was left over from recent renovations of the Longfellow Bridge. And, Baum adds, the vertical post in the center of the court-

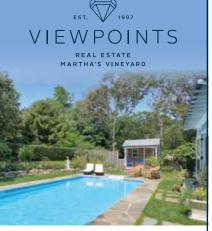
yard was originally used to hold the trolley wires overhead when the Red Line was not powered by third rail.

The trio also lined the courtyard with simple gray pavers, installed corrugated tin roofs over part of the second-floor walkway, and planted trees and vines. The look and feel of Bow Market suit the distinctly unfancy tenor of Union Square—which has, so far, avoided the homogenization of chain stores and other similar influences.

Working with city officials, and the Somerville Arts Council, has helped Bow Market ensure a balance of interests is met. A council venture, Nibble, has even leased market space that features chefs and cuisine from local immigrant communities. In August, Create Boston—a festival project by chef Louis DiBiccari that spotlights local chefs, mixologists, visual artists, and musicians—moved in and opened its first permanent venue, CREATE Gallery & Cocktail Lounge. "We're excited about this," Baum so crowded that it's chaotic between the says, "because it brings in another new connection to the art—and especially the bar and food—worlds."

> As Bow Market moves into its second winter season, check bowmarketsomerville. com for special events, pop-ups, and gatherings being planned—even for the courtyard, where the chairs and tables will stay put. As a native Northeasterner, Baum relishes being comfortable outside in the winter—"it feels good to be hardy." He believes that, given the opportunity to be in a lively space where things are happening, people will spend more time outside, as they do in Europe and Canada at popular winter festivals. Heat lamps, and maybe blankets, will help. "We've also tested out igloos for folks who want a little more of a windscreen," he adds. "But our biggest thing is to decorate the heck out of this place, making it feel really festive—and unique."

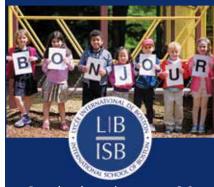
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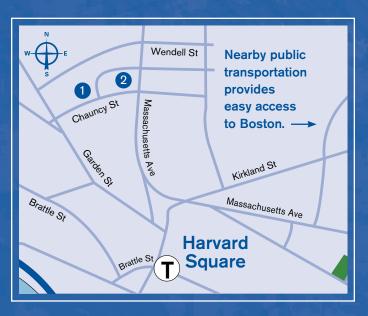
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Warm your favorite heat-lover's heart with personalized spice packages created by Herd Nerd. Order a flavored salt or spice tin-Jennifer Wood is known for her paprika-laced, smoky blends-which comes with a recipe card, gift bag, and customized holiday gift tag. Or splurge on a custom spice tin with your own special holiday message. www.herdnerdspice.com. Craving something sweeter? Mount Auburn physician Nicole Grady launched baking company Sweet Mazie's after a breast cancer diagnosis, when she realized the importance of pursuing true passions. Now, she delights in creating custom confections for her loyal fans, such as Harry Potter and Game of Thrones cakes. Order custom nut-free cookies and cakes,

stenciled with your favorite logos, or opt for themed decorated cookies in flavors such as chocolate brownie and raspberry. Grady specializes in floral designs-so skip the bouquet this year and go for a nibble instead. www.sweetmazies.com

Looking to make a permanent statement? Turn your lineage into wall art with a hand-drawn family tree from graphic designer Karen Yi, founder of Almost Sunday designs. She'll create and handletter each branch in your preferred palette, suitable for framing. www.karenyicreative.com

Meanwhile, acclaimed Boston-based jeweler Lux Bond & Green gives heirloom baubles new life, from state-shaped golden cufflinks to sparkling pear-shaped diamonds. Take Grandma's favorite ring for a face-lift or transform family gemstones to create something fresh and modern. www.lbgreen.com. For a



more antique, ethereal look, visit Rebekah Brooks's charming Brattle Street shop for a custom reimagining of a family favorite. rebekahbrooks.com.

Heading to a soiree? Fort Point ceramicist Jill Rosenwald is beloved for her big, bold prints-polka-dotted mugs, glam gold-streaked vases. One specialty? Party-perfect accent trays. Customize your gift in more than 100 bright colors and patterns, and monogram them with your recipient's favorite destination (Charlestown and Nantucket are recent favorites). Add a name or date at the bottom, gratis. www.jillrosenwald.com

And the culinary wizards at Harvard Square's favorite artisan grocery, Salt & Olive, hand-select next-level gourmet goodie boxes sourced from around the world. Snap up a Cocktail Lovers Gift Set with rim accessories drawn from their lovingly sourced line of salts: hickory smoked sea salt, Bloody Mary blend sea salt, crunchy lemon flake sea salt, and Martha's Vineyard sea salt, complete with a stainless steel grinder. Or let their warm staff help you choose a customized flavor combination. www.saltandolive.com

For something even sweeter, buzz down the road to Follow the Honey for a custom raw-

honey gift box stuffed with a curated assortment of beeswax candles, honey chocolates, and more, all with a sweet personalized message for your beloved, www.followthehonev.com

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~ KARA BASKIN



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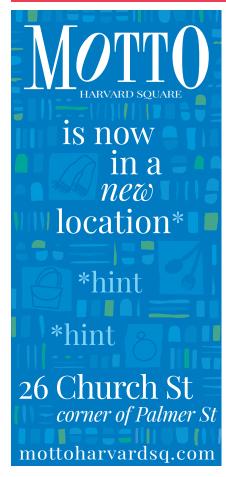
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