

Philadelphia

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the good life | Haute List

5 things to love this month

By Lauren McCutcheon



Hot Rooms and Cold Showers

There isn't enough space in this column to cover the copious wonders of Southampton's year-old, community-pool-like, sauna-filled, pink and blue, extra-authentic Russian and Turkish bathhouse. So this will have to do: Spend \$31.80 for a day's admission, and have a year's worth of stories to tell (Southampton Spa Russian & Turkish Baths, 141 Second Street Pike, Southampton, 215-942-4646; southamptonspa.com).

Art That Springs

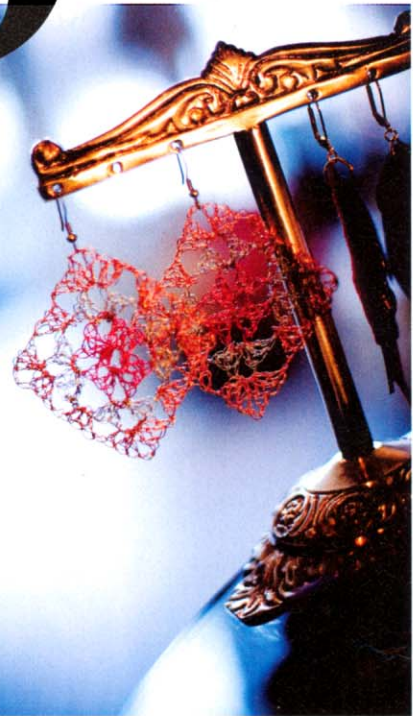
The willowy characters and wispy clouds in Joseph Blake's inky artwork have intrigued me since they first floated on the white walls of my favorite coffee shop. Joseph (who lives in Ambler) says his pieces illustrate stories.

I say they feel warm and ethereally earthy, like sunlight coming through wet leaves (josephblake.com).



Stitched Spanish Hearts

Alas, Philly embroidery goddess Alicia Freile is moving to Australia. Let's hope she leaves behind plenty of her brilliantly non-mushy "El Corazón" tote bags and t-shirts, so we can celebrate February 14th with joyous anatomical correctness. (Available at gauchita.com; Art Star, 1030 North 2nd Street, 215-238-1557, artstarphilly.com; and Mew Gallery, 906 Christian Street, 215-625-2424; mewgallery.org.)



In-Store Craft Studios

To all of you shoppers who've visited Philly's crafty boutiques and said, "Pish-posh. I can do that!": The all-new half-boutique, half-studio Topstitch says, "Notsofast, big talker." (The place is brought to you by the folks at the shops formerly known as Babooshka and Honeymilk and Kinked Works, in the old ME & Blue, 311 Market Street, 2nd floor; 267-322-4057.)

Stylishly Adjustable Beds

Finally, my childhood obsession with Craftmatic Adjustable beds has, like shiny leggings, transformed from ironic to recherché. The model I covet: Hollandia's sleek Zero Gravity Ultra, with its aloe-infused natural latex mattress, targeted massage and—whoopee!—two-sided remote-control operation (Hollandia, the Court at King of Prussia, 610-265-7690; hollandiaus.com).

