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That's right: She took on all of this extra work to force herself, by means of a twisted holiday time-crunch, to be creative — and it worked. She makes beautiful things.

Czillinger has made hats and scarves out of felted wool. "I take old sweaters and boil them down and make other things," she said.

This is her third year organizing and participating in the bazaar. For its first year, the event was held at Albatross & Co. Since then, it has been held at Car-ruthers.

Last year the festival was called "Dark Hearts," and she made batik vintage lingerie and more woolen items. Asked what she was making this year, Czillinger flashed a mischievous, knowing smile. "I don't know," she said, "whatever strikes my fancy 24 hours before!"

Thriving under pressure

As it turns out, this pressure-cooker method works for others. Becky Tonkin, who has a degree in apparel design, had been doing alterations and the like for friends for years, but when she was invited to do the first bazaar at Albatross & Co., "I kicked into gear," she said.

"I sort of threw a bunch of stuff out there and watched to see what would stick," Tonkin said.

She now has her own business, Shift — a line of aprons and garments made for creative work and everyday wear — which has evolved over three years and is now "more than a full-time job."

Her bestselling design, the suspender dress, was born of her desire to "wear an apron for work and not have to change clothes afterward to go out in the world."



GREG MAGUIRE PHOTO

Nicholas Wheeler's handmade and vintage-inspired waxed canvas and leather handbags will be available at the Car-ruthers Holiday Bazaar.



A photo by Eric Fitzpatrick

Like Crafty Wonderland, Czillinger's event has also grown this year with about 30 artists and makers showcasing their goods. Here's just a sampling of some of the other creative maniacs who will be taking part in this event:

- Votive Designs — mind-boggling modern jewelry by Lucy Barna, inspired by the heady "sacred geometry" of Fibonacci and Plato's "Timaeus." Barna makes her jewelry by hand, including chains and posts, slowly and with attention to detail.

- Dennis Thomas, of Thomas and Son Wood-works, offering beautiful cutting blocks, salt cellars, vases and more.

- Judith Altruda, a Tokeland, Washington, artist selling handmade jewelry made from gemstones and

ancient coins. Also embellished belts and hair jewelry.

- Nicholas Wheeler, owner of Wheeler Bag Co., bringing his handmade and vintage-inspired waxed canvas and leather handbags.

- Sarah Landwehr, who creates hand-pulled prints, paintings and cards. Her work is rich with pattern, intricate line-work and bold colors, with imagery focusing on the natural world and the faces of the Pacific Northwest.

- Eric Fitzpatrick's photography, depicting a broad range of styles, from forest and mountain landscapes to animals, to more abstract and surreal long-exposure shots.

- Artist Sophia Anderson, selling limited-edition sumi ink prints and cards. 