

Beat the heat at “cool” Randolph Street Market

CHICAGO, Ill. — During July’s Summer Season at the Randolph Street Market, the weather is hot, but the “pickin’ is cool,” they say on the West Loop downtown.

Eight acres of one-of-a-kind treasures may be found at the market, including a huge array of art and antiques, fashion, furniture, ceramics, glass, jewelry, painting, posters and much more.

To offer relief from the heat, promoters at Randolph Street are offering a “Made in the Shade” theme showcasing a mix of cool clothing, home décor, gourmet bites and food trucks, hula hooping, inflatable kiddie pools and live music to chill out the summer.

Highlights of the July 26-27 show include D. Brett Benson Inc. and Estate Chicago with their antique baubles, Bobby Boyd Designs’ famous and funky re-purposed pieces. Add to that, Mr. Modern’s Mid-Centric eclectic furnishings, and the Antiques Diva from Paris playing host at Sally Schwartz’s VIP Cabana offering some of the best from one of Europe’s largest antiques sourcing companies, Toma Clark Haines.

Flying in from her home in France, the

Antiques Diva will present a Style Guide Presentation and Tour of the Market from 2 to 2:45 p.m. on Saturday, July 26. Sip on French wines, and nosh on cheese, while the Diva takes her “students” on a tour of the major French furniture styles to identify key characteristics, using modern-day metaphors and sharing scandalous stories from the past.

For the kids, a new Kidville-sponsored children’s tent will bring entertainment and activities to the smallest Randolph Street Market fans, including face painting, tattoos, glittertoos and frame making, while Kidville’s signature “Rockin’ Railroad” band will keep them moving and grooving!

With summer concert season in full swing (and Chicago’s Lollapalooza right around the corner), vintage clothing stylist Redgi Woods of reFINDeFined and fashion forward jewelry Elyse Vieni will be outfitting models showcasing the hottest concert looks of the season from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 26. Guests are encouraged to mention the hashtag #kaseyslolla at the gate for free entrance. Creating the perfect #Lollalook concert outfits, shoppers will be inspired to stand

out among the crowds this season!

Fan favorite Poems While you Wait is a collective of poets and their vintage typewriters who provide patrons with an unexpected and decontextualized encounter with poetry. The process is simple: Give us your name, give us the topic that you would like us to write a poem about (ranging from specific to abstract with as much information or as little as you’d like), give us a \$5 donation, and give us 15-20 minutes while you wander around. Upon your return, you will have a custom-made, one-of-a-kind original poem to keep for yourself or to give as a gift.

Chill with a margarita and DJ D. Jones in the “Shade Shack” along with vendors like Washington, D.C.,-based These Eyes of Mines providing the most amazing eyewear.

This is the market to buy all your shade accessories for looking and feeling cool, like vintage sunhats & bathing suits, Ray-Ban sunglasses, parasols and cover ups. Plus, you’ll find bar sets for mixing up lemonade and Long Island ice teas and wicker picnic baskets for outdoor dining. Come and sample four different imported

brews from the Beer Garden, boozy snow cones from Chicago’s own CH Distillery, and when it gets too hot to handle, head into the three-level air conditioned Plumbers Hall for more great sun-free treasure hunting.

Stay cool while the weather is hot hot hot! Expect 15,000 shoppers to flock to Chicago’s West Loop for value-priced “finds” and hours of shopping and entertainment.

The Randolph Street Market Festival, home of the world famous Chicago Antique Market and Indie Designer Market, is an internationally recognized European-style indoor and outdoor shopping extravaganza in Chicago’s historic West Loop. From May to September, the market is outdoors and indoors, boasting 250-plus vendors, and from October to April, it’s indoors only with 75-plus select vendors of high quality, value-priced “finds.” This destination is for treasure hunters, fashionistas, designers, Hollywood set decorators, and people who want to see and be seen.

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Pure and Simple

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tagged \$325. A hand-forged trammel for use on an open hearth, with rattail curlicues and an incised design, signed C.B., circa 1780, was \$395.

Another sign that couldn’t be ignored was the variety of people in attendance at the show. No “long-haired, freaky people” were spotted, but there were a number of young couples, several with infants in slings and toddlers in strollers. Chambers, who has a Facebook presence, said he is getting likes from across the country.

“They’re in their 30s and 40s. Those are the people you want to get to shows. It’s the old adage: Meeting them where they are.”

Echoing that sentiment was Douglas Solliday of Douglas L. Solliday Antiques, Columbia, Mo., who said, “We want to engage the younger collector.” He makes a conscious effort to offer items in all price ranges, and the three SOLD tags early in the morning in his booth proved the tactic is effective.

“I have seen several families here with little ones. That exposure to antiques at a young age is priceless.”

Still for sale in his booth was a painted black-on-white sign promoting an “Odds & Ends Shop,” the pentagon form with a red border and green frame, marked \$495; a stone carving of an Indian maiden, circa 1925 and purportedly of Indiana origin, 9 inches high, \$325; and a Spencerian drawing of a bird, signed E.J. Bonwell, slightly larger than a calling card, for \$58.

Fred Henderson of Fred Henderson Antiques, Sharpsville, Ind., offered a Sheraton tall chest in poplar, two short drawers over five graduated long drawers, on turned legs with ball feet, at \$1,495. A mahogany shelf clock by Rodney Brace, North Bridgewater, Mass., 1820 to 1840, with hand-painted dial and ivory diamond-shaped escutcheon, the reverse-painted tablet with a landscape scene and house, wooden works, was marked \$825 and sold during the show.

According to Henderson, incorporating wooden works instead of brass meant timepieces were affordable for the common man.

“I think they’re an important part of American history myself. They never kept good time.” Recording a moment in time, the clock was accompanied by a red ribbon lettered “Nat. Assoc. of Watch & Clock Collectors Chapter 18, 2nd Place.”

A trio of Canada geese displayed by David Cotton and Heather Malott of Cotton’s Antiques, Wabash, Ind., was of a more recent vintage. Contemporary outsider art from Fred and Becky Schieber of F&S Decoys, the cedar birds in flight were priced \$595. “He



Above: This wooden sign in mustard and black was priced \$850 by Tim Chambers of Missouri Plain Folk, Sikeston, Mo.

carves, she paints,” Malott said of the Michigan couple.

A boat-form bird feeder, possibly for chickens, in red and white paint, dating to the 1940s, was marked \$350.

One of the more notable pieces of furniture on the floor was their New Bremen cup cupboard in blue-gray paint. From an early farmstead, the piece was tagged \$4,200. It featured a tall back with 10 hooks (one broken), two side drawers over two paneled drawers, and cutout feet. A cupboard painted robin’s-egg blue, the three doors with raised X-form panels, was priced \$4,700.

Kitty Saylor of Hamilton, Ohio, brought a varied selection for her first time at the show. A large pantry box measuring 12 inches high and 20 inches in diameter was marked \$350; early Currier & Ives lithograph, *My Three White Kitties, Learning Their ABC*, showing cats with letter blocks, \$295; and five pieces of stone fruit, three apples and two pears, were tagged \$150. A child’s spelling board made by Foxy Toys, Berea, Ohio, having two patent dates from 1917, with the original box, was priced \$225.

Handcrafted items offered by Bill Hopper and Karen Hopper of Red Rooster Two Antiques, Vincennes, Ind., included an early Amish footstool with shaped ends, peaked top and bootjack feet. Circa mid- to late-1800s and in worn walnut, the footrest was marked \$250. A two-drawer keepsake chest in red paint, found in Pennsylvania and dating to the mid 1800s, was tagged \$225, as was *Our Flag*, framed needlework from the early 1900s, the crewel image depicting Old Glory with 11 stripes and 16 stars.

Gary Promey of Atwater, Ohio, displayed a set of three painted poplar bridges for miniature golf, priced \$800. From the 1930s or ‘40s, the double-sided obstacles were decorated with landscape scenes. Promey noted he has never seen another set in the 31 years he has been in business. Art of a different nature included a bottle cap armed rocking chair in red paint, on wooden rockers, 9 inches high, tagged \$185.

Xenia Cord of Legacy Quilts, Kokomo, Ind., said, “I’ve been coming since the first year, but there’s never been anywhere to get my foot in the door.” This year, as one of nine vendors new to the show, she displayed a selection of early textiles, including quilts and coverlets, vintage fabrics and assorted hooked rugs. Four panels of English whole-cloth chintz sewn side by side, circa 1825, measuring 99 by 110 inches, were priced \$4,250. In excellent condition, unused and

Left: Offered by Douglas Solliday of Columbia, Mo., this Spencerian drawing of a bird was slightly larger than a calling card. Signed “E.J. Bonwell,” it was marked \$58.

unwashed, the brown fabric featured a variety of flowers blooming on bamboo stems.

A Feathered Square/Sawtooth quilt in red and cream, embroidered “E.L. Harvey 1895 Mother,” probably of Ohio origin, 68 inches by 74 inches, was marked \$875. In gently used condition, the bed covering had a fabric label on the back outlining its exhibit history.

Cord noted there have been two or three years with decreased interest, “but it [the market] seems to be coming back.” She added, “Good quality hand-made textiles are always going to have demand.”

Show promoters Mike and Marti Korba of The old Shed, Russiaville, Ind., offered a jelly cupboard with shaped gallery, two aligned drawers over two paneled doors, in original red paint, at \$3,225; and a paint-decorated country game table in reddish-brown and black with green highlights, of Maine origin, circa 1820s, that was priced \$1,050.

The Pure and Simple Antique Show has earned a reputation for being one of the top venues in the Midwest for country antiques. Prior to the event, the Korbas fielded several calls from people flying in or driving from distant states, including Wisconsin and Florida. It was a good sign. There were no placards announcing “Anybody caught trespassin’ would be shot on sight,” and close to 100 people waited in line for the show to open. It was another good sign.

Dealers spent the day praising the event. Comments ranged from, “This is just as pretty as Heartland; it’s just that good” and “Mike and Marti do a great job” to “The show looks fabulous.”

“We’ve had our best show here ever, and we’ve been here five years, since the beginning,” noted Kellner of Z&K Antiques. Even an employee of the facility remarked, “I’ve never seen it so busy. I’ve worked a couple of these events, and I’ve never seen it like this.” More good signs.

Although the original “Signs” song was released during a period of political change and social unrest, expressing frustration with seemingly ever-present authoritarian figures, the hippie protagonist ends things on a positive note when he visits a church and pens his own little sign for the offering plate: “Thank you, Lord, for thinkin’ ‘bout me. I’m alive and doin’ fine.” Those words are equally applicable to the Pure and Simple show: assuredly “alive” and definitely “doing fine.”

Pure and Simple is held annually on the first Saturday in May. For more information, phone Mike or Marti Korba at (765) 883-8323 or visit www.theoldshed.com