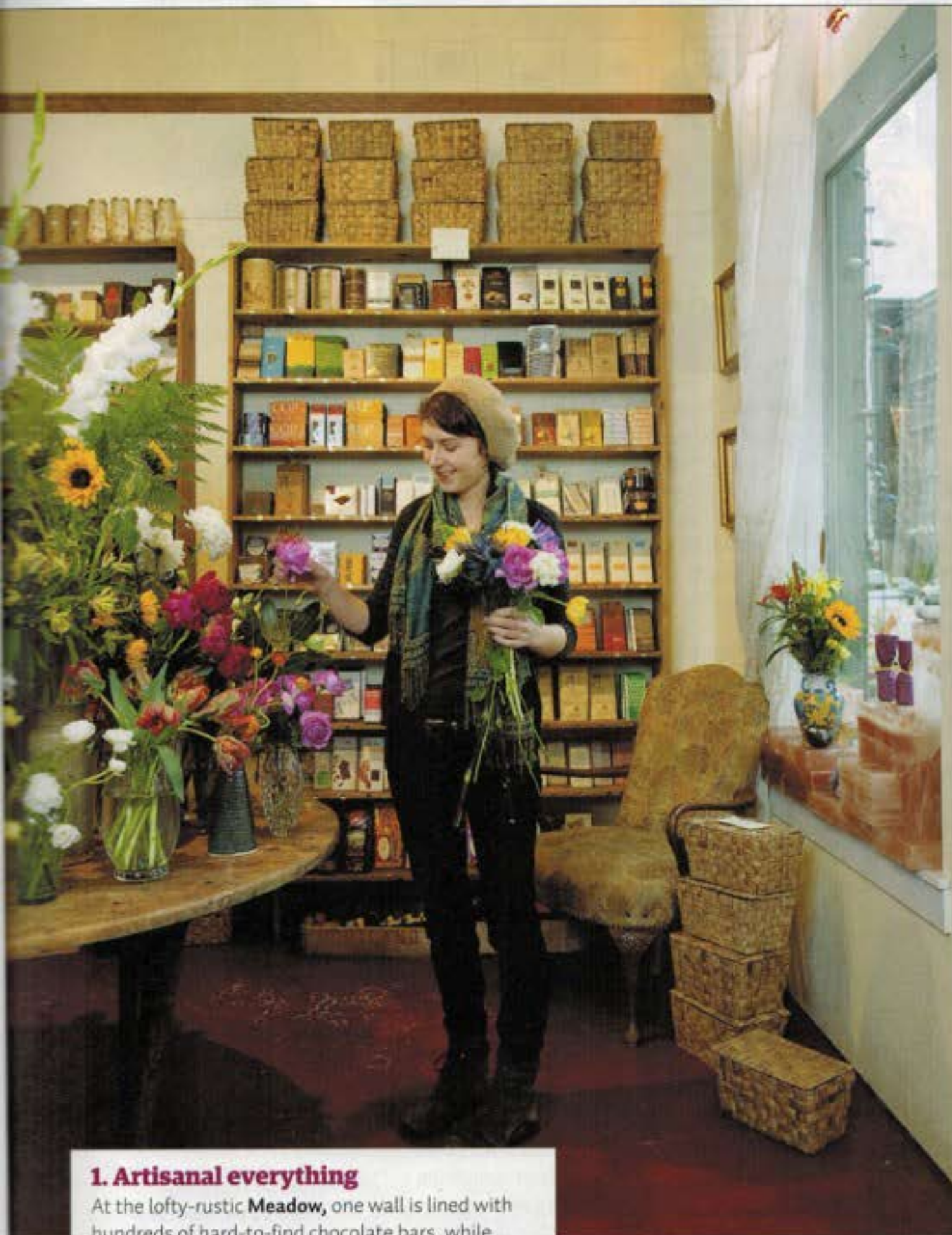


Northwest weekend

BY AMARA HOLSTEIN | PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN CLARK



1. Artisanal everything

At the lofty-rustic **Meadow**, one wall is lined with hundreds of hard-to-find chocolate bars, while another has floor-to-ceiling shelves stocked with every kind of salt you can imagine—chunky white flakes, rosy pink blocks, dark charcoal grains. Vases of lush flowers and a thoughtful collection of wines and bitters round out the mix. 3731 N. Mississippi; 503/288-4633.

Portland day trip

Mississippi Avenue

Why go now: What five years ago was a gritty boarded-up street has evolved into a hot spot for local chefs, artsy shops, and DIY everything. **The coordinates:** N. Mississippi bounded by N. Fremont Street to the south and N. Skidmore Street to the north. **Walk on the wild side:** Paxton Gate (4204 N. Mississippi; 503/719-4508) captures the neighborhood's quirky spirit with its funky-cool displays of carnivorous plants, animal skeletons, and pinned insects. **Fuel up:** With succulent carnitas tacos and pomegranate margaritas at locals' favorite ¿Por Qué No? (\$; 3524 N. Mississippi; 503/467-4149). **But save room for:** A made-to-order ice cream sandwich at Ruby Jewel (3713 N. Mississippi; 503/505-9314). **Catch a live music show:** Bands play rock, old-soul funk, and everything in between at intimate Mississippi Studios (3939 N. Mississippi; 503/288-3895). **Old-timer:** Since 1991, Kay Newell has dispensed lightbulbs—and free advice—at Sunlan Lighting (closed Sun; 3901 N. Mississippi; 503/281-0453), one of the oldest stores on the strip. >>>

Northwest Day trip



2. A reason to get up early

Show up at the sunny yellow **Big Egg** breakfast cart by 9 to avoid the lines, then sip French-press coffee while your order sizzles on the grill. Try the Arbor Lodge sammy with portabella mushrooms, caramelized onions—and, of course, an egg, fresh from a local farm. \$; 4233 N. Mississippi; twitter.com/thebigegg



Take it home

At **Black Wagon**, fashion-forward French and Japanese kids' clothes mingle with rows of mini Vans sneakers. Covet-worthy toys include a small locally made wooden catapult and a dizzying collection of DIY kits, including make-your-own sock monkeys, kaleidoscopes, even ginger ale. 3964 N. Mississippi; 503/916-0000.



3. Down-to-earth art

Forget fusty galleries with sky-high prices. **Land Gallery** is about art for the people. Upstairs, monthly shows include Northwest talents like paper-cut artist Nikki McClure and photo illustrator Amy Ruppel. Downstairs, browse for quirky goodies like socks decorated with ninjas, bicycle belt buckles, and graphic T-shirts. 3925 N. Mississippi; 503/451-0689.



4. Pizza at its best

Sisters Sarah and Jane Minnick closed their beloved upscale restaurant **Lovely Hula Hands** in 2009 to start something simpler. The result? Crisp nettle, pancetta, and taleggio pizzas pulled directly from oven to table at **Lovely's Fifty-Fifty**, a bright industrial eatery with salvaged-wood booths. \$\$; 4039 N. Mississippi; 503/281-4060.



Getting to Mississippi Ave.

From N.E. MLK Jr. Blvd., turn left on N. Skidmore St., then left on N. Mississippi.

3 spots to get your DIY fix

MR. GREEN BEANS

If there's an urban-homesteading skill you're hankering to learn, chances are you can do it here—or buy the supplies you need to make a go of it at home. Choose from hands-on classes in making soap, kombucha, yogurt, cheese, and, yes, roasting coffee beans. From \$20; 3932 N. Mississippi; mrgreenbeanspdx.com

PISTILS This nursery and garden shop is like a slice of country life in the city. Learn about keeping chickens, goats, and bees; ooh and aah over the flock of bantam chickens; or put together your own terrarium. 3811 N. Mississippi; pistilsnursery.com

SEWPO Sisters Kate and Lily Matlock and their mother, Janett, host sewing lessons in this cheerful fabric store just a couple of steps off Mississippi. There's a two-hour **Meet Your Machine** beginners' class (\$30), or if you already know your bobbin from your basting stitch, more advanced courses on how to make quilts, skirts, tote bags, and aprons. 830 N. Failing St.; sewpo.com



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