

spotlight

Robyn's NEST

STORY MELISSA NORTH
PHOTOGRAPHY KELLY HORKOFF



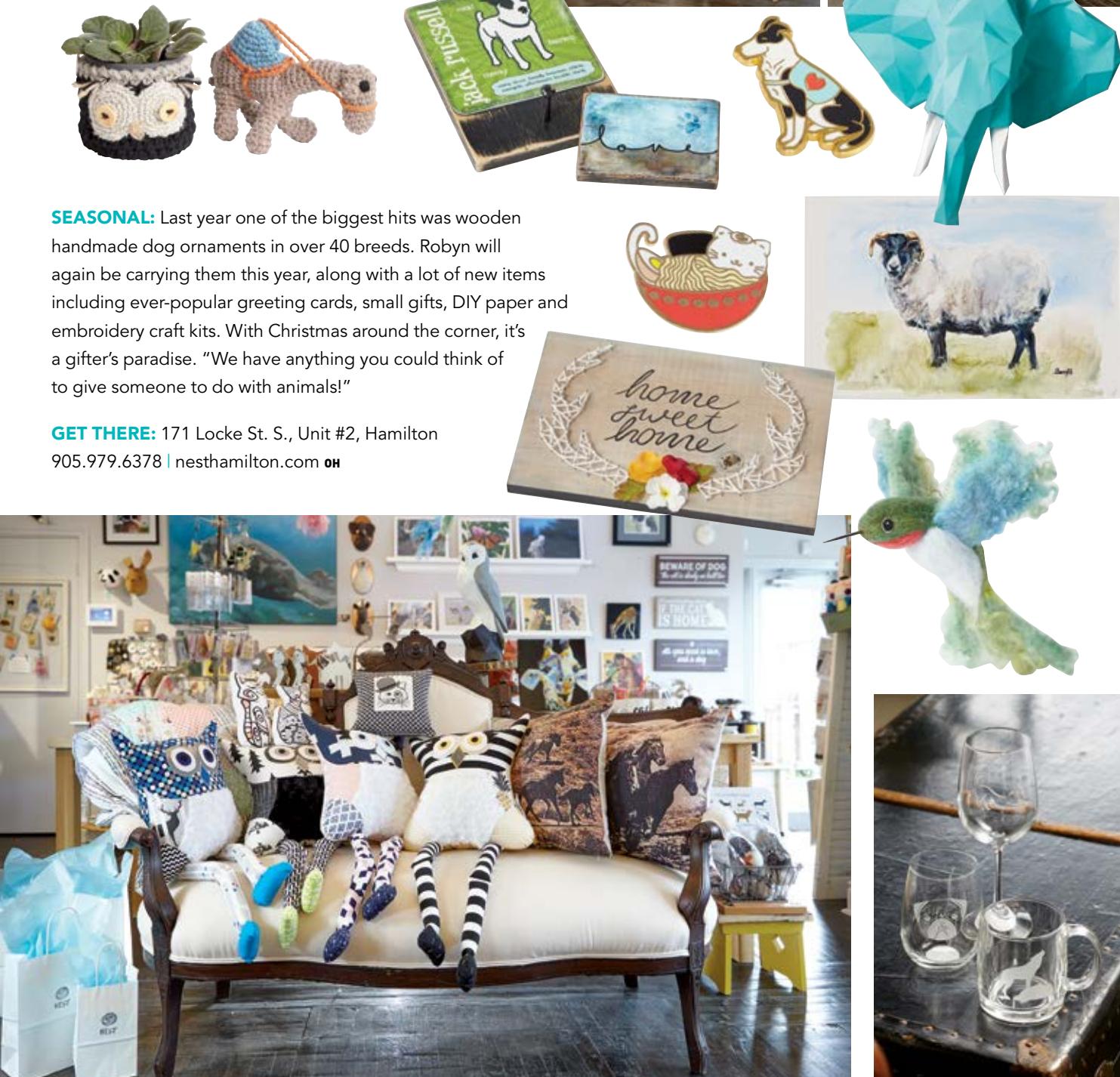
THE PLACE: Let's get this straight: **Nest** is not a pet store. It's not for animals. Nest is for people. Animal lovers, or those who know animal lovers. Marrying her passion for both wild and domesticated animals, and years of retail experience, Robyn Allan opened Nest on Locke Street just over a year ago. It's a family business, with son Ryan working with her while simultaneously finishing his schooling. Nest carries only Canadian handcrafted works, from home décor and kitchenware to giftware and clothing. "It's a weird idea," Robyn suggests. "There's nothing quite like it. There's literally something for everybody because everybody likes some kind of animal."



THE STYLE: Nest is as much a gallery of artworks as it is a retail outlet. Robyn features animal-themed pieces by 77 Canadian artists, half of them local Hamiltonians. "An artist may not think themselves an animal lover but they'll have photos, oil paintings, watercolours, jewelry, crafts and toys. Even if it's not their go-to, there is so much art about animals," she explains. Her warm, carefully curated space is filled with beauty, inviting shoppers to explore and touch.



THE CHOICE: The range of options found in Nest is incredible. There are Woolly Doodles's felted animals, Kitties and Cabernet's hand painted dishware, original oil paintings by Duke Studios, and Robyn says she is constantly blown away by Joanne Jarry's watercolours and Wild Design's velvet cats. "I love everything I carry!" she proclaims.



GET THERE: 171 Locke St. S., Unit #2, Hamilton
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