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PAINT NITE DRAWS RAVES

Paint Nite, the social painting craze, has hit St. Louis big time. Here's how it works: Locate a Paint Nite event at www.paintnite.com, buy a ticket online, show up at the restaurant or bar and create your own acrylic masterpiece under the guidance of an artist with the canvas, paints, brushes and apron provided. Comes under the category "how to have fun making friends and art in just about two hours." Here are some Paint Nite events scheduled for the St. Louis area this month:

» April 1 – Crafty Chameleon (1384 Clarkson Clayton Center, west St. Louis County).

» April 2 – Lola (500 N 14th St., downtown).

» April 3 – Morgan Street Brewery (721 N 2nd St., Laclede's Landing).

» April 9 – The Block Central West End (33 North Sarah St., Central West End).

» April 10 – SoHo Restaurant + Lounge (4229 Manchester Ave., The Grove).

More DIY

A hobby is a beautiful thing: a proven stress-reliever that focuses the mind and builds skills. Plus, you're likely to produce something you can eat, wear, play with or give as a gift.

• If you're suffering from knitting fever (and who isn't?), get yourself to Kirkwood Knittery, where you can peruse the profusion of fibers and connect with co-owner and nationally acclaimed teacher Brook Nico, author of "Lovely Knitted Lace: A Geometric Approach to Gorgeous Wearables," in which you can learn how to create sixteen wearables (shawls, tunics, boleros) plus two bonus variants with just four basic shapes. Brooke's passion and expertise is lace, and her talent has been recognized by "Vogue Knitting," "Knitters," and "Debbie Bliss." 10404 Manchester Rd., 314.822.7222, Map 3-6C.

• Can't get enough knitting? Head over to **Knitorious**, a knitter's paradise, full of must-touch yarns from Debbie Bliss, Lily Chin, Noro, Mission Falls and more, plus patterns, needles and, best of all,





advice. Bring your project or start a new one, and sit a while in the cozy chairs. Cross-stitch supplies, too. Open Tu & Th 11 am-6 pm, W & F 11 am-8 pm, Sa 10 am-5 pm and Su noon-5 pm www. knitorious.com. 3268 Watson, 314.646.8276. Map 4-5C.

• Got the bead bug? Feed the need at **Lady Bug Beads**, where you can find all kinds of baubles for your latest creation from a vast selection that includes cut glass from Czechoslovakia and crystal by Swarovski. Stop by for Tuesday's Bead Happy Hour for help, inspiration or just dedicated time to craft. Open M,W,F 10 am-6 pm; T & Th 10 am-8 pm; Sa 9 am-4 pm; Su noon-4 pm www. ladybugbeads.net. 7616 Big Bend Blvd., 314.644.6140 or 888.30B. EADS. Map 4-5B.

