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Ibram X. Kendi, founding director of the Boston University Center for Antiracist

BOSTONIANS WHO RUN THIS TOWN











ECLECTIC ANTIQUES

ANDREW SPINDLER ANDREW SPINDLER ANTIQUES

Though he started out by earning degrees in Spanish literature at Brown and Yale, Spindler ultimately decided he could not stay away from lovely things. "I wanted to be more object-oriented and less of a theory head," he explains. So after training at Sotheby's London for yet another degree, Spindler soon opened up his own boutique in Essex, where the vibe is "serious but with a sense of wit." That means you might find a giant scientific eyeball, for instance, next to a Chippendale chest and fire tools by Donald Deskey, who designed the interiors of Radio City Music Hall. Plus, as Spindler attests, if you work up an appetite while shopping, you can always "grab a lobster roll down the street." 163 Main St., Essex, 978-768-6045, spindlerantiques.com.

AFRICAN JEWELRY & HOME DÉCOR

Erica Akosua Ayisi

AKOSUA'S CLOSET

When Ayisi showcases new merchandise, chances are she unearthed it on a recent trip to South Africa, Ghana, Senegal, Tanzania, or Kenya. It all depends on what she is covering as a Ghanaian-American international journalist who has reported for NBC News, Essence Magazine, and the Root, among other outlets. The ambitious reporter started her business, which specializes in African merchandise made mostly by women in marginalized communities, after her friends started asking where she got her clothing and accessories. Meticulous in her



TED Landsmark

PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC POLICY AT NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

WHAT HE COLLECTS: Banios. WHY BANJOS? "I did my doctoral research on African-American material culture," he says. That led to him to learning about the role banjos have played in America as both a "Black" and "white" instrument used for jazz, bluegrass, and folk music. Plus, he notes, "they give me great pleasure, though I'm not much of a player." HIS SOURCES: Landsmark frequents yard sales, collector events, and works with dealers around the country-the end product being far more valuable than just a banjo: "The instrument opens up fascinating conversations about American culture, race, and music appropriation."