

HELLO, GOOD BUYS

Coffee, tea or me?

SUNDAY MORNING, YOUR PLACE. A quick glance at the window (and another at your sweetie's adorably tousled head on the next pillow) tells you this: Your own warm bed has never been a better place to stay and while the day away. Don't live on love alone — bring on the java and pastries. But be careful not to kill the mood by serving coffee in those chipped mugs with corporate logos. Instead, fill your breakfast-in-bed tray with one of our lovely options.

— Tiffany Meyers



Tribune photos by Antonio Perez

DOWN TO EARTH

Mass market is so last year. Celebrate and support hand craftsmanship at Chicago's Lillstreet Art Center, where you can pick up these sturdy terra-cotta mugs by artist Joseph Pintz, as well as the work of other artists from across the country.



CHESHIRE SMILE

Zakka, a tough-to-translate concept in Japanese design, refers to all the miscellaneous things in life that, simply put, make you smile. The Cheshire Cat Cafe Mug and mini-dish for little treats, by Japanese Zakka designer Shinzi Katoh, certainly fits the bill. Just try sipping from it without cracking a smile. Impossible.

Cost: \$ 28, plus shipping and handling, at threepotatofourshop.com

DEMITASSE DREAM

When Shakespeare's Titania isn't chugging down love potions, the Queen of the Fairies no doubt sips Americanos from this espresso set by Blue Leaves. With two spoons shaped like blades of prairie grass and a pair of cups that sit on flower petal saucers, it's the stuff of mid-summer night's dreams.

Cost: \$ 84 at quelobjet.com



WING IT

What with their seraphic wings and all, the porcelain Alada Tea Cups from the designers at Sao Paulo's Estudio Manus reminded us of the last time Cupid nailed us with one of his arrows. Oh, it hurt so good.

Cost: About \$ 90 a pair. Through Los Angeles design collaborative TOUCH, do-not-touch.com. Anticipate several weeks to ship from Brazil.



TRAVEL LIGHT

In romance and in backpacking, the last thing you need is extra baggage. The ultra-lightweight, polypropylene mug from Orikaso works like origami, folding flat when you're finished so you can stow it just about anywhere. (They're also great when your cabinet space is minimal.) They come in orange, cobalt blue and grass green.

Cost: \$ 5.95. usoutdoorstore.com; or orikaso.com for stores.

