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CIRCLE #21



NEW! RENAISSANCE RETAILER AWARD

New for this year, the Renaissance Retailer Award, organized by NY NOW, recognizes merchants that provide inspirational retail experiences at the independent store level. Emerald Expositions, the organizers of NY NOW, named Cooper Boone, owner of Foundry42, as the first-ever winner.

Nominations were submitted by friends, colleagues and retailers, and the winner was chosen by top industry retailers and designers.

According to the judges, Boone was chosen because he is a visionary with an innate ability to work from his heart and develop his own beautifully curated universe. They added, "From pairing his own handmade furniture pieces with complementary architectural gifting items, to developing creative workshops and even brewing their own combination of coffee beans in their café, Cooper continues to provide you an inspirational experience at Foundry 42 and celebrates it with you."

Boone is a multitasking singer, songwriter, clinical child psychologist, televised cook and owner of the award-winning lifestyle store Foundry42 in Port Jervis, N.Y. He has worked with Paula Deen, been featured on *Good Morning America* and ABC-TV's live *Nashville Christmas Special*. He also toured his live *Cooper's Kitchen* show for 10 years with *Country Living Magazine Fair*.

"Cooper Boone is the perfect inaugural recipient of this award," said Kevin O'Keefe, executive vice president of Emerald Expositions. "He embodies the spirit of change and makes it his greatest strength by embracing it. We are honored and excited to celebrate his vision and success."

Boone will be honored alongside the 68th annual REA winner during GDA's Sunday-night ceremony and reception. He also will be recognized at the first NY NOW awards party on Monday, Aug. 12.

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We're constantly updating our digital content with new ways to keep retailers up to date on the latest industry news, retail tips and awesome products.



TOP LOOKS FOR FALL FASHION

Now that summer's almost over, cooler weather is on the horizon. Check out the *GiftRap* blog to find out what styles the *GDA* editorial team will be rocking this coming season.

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Want to engage customers and increase loyalty? Try cooking up something delicious, says Cooper Boone, owner of Foundry42.

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"I began to use flowers as seduction ... as a pop of color from afar."

— David Reiss, founder of Match Pewter

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Peach hues have swept across gifts, adding natural tints to jewelry, apparel and giftables.

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