

SCENE

WRITTEN BY PAULETTE PEARSON



MEET THE EXPERT

LAURA RATHE

“Our goal is to make people feel comfortable in our galleries and guide clients to art that resonates with their vision,” says trailblazing Texas gallerist Laura Rathe of the eponymous Laura Rathe Fine Art, which recently exhibited at the highly acclaimed Art Miami. Overseeing gallery locations in Houston and Dallas, Rathe shares her insights into the art world—and a few key tips about collecting. laurarathe.com

How do you select artists to highlight in your galleries?

My team and I tend to focus on vibrant mid-career artists who are working at the top of their skills. Many of them are in museums and have academic backgrounds; others are self-taught with associations in important private and public collections.

What are you and your clients loving right now? If there’s a trend, it’s the explosion of mixed media artists. Over the past five years, we have added Zhuang Hong-yi, Stallman Studio, Chris Wood, Charles Patrick, Gil Bruvel, Anna Kruhelska, Miriam Fitzgerald Juskova and Javier León Pérez, to name a few.

Any tips for acquiring art?

First and foremost, buy what you love. Second, take a look at the art in your home before deciding—we provide the opportunity for our clients to live with their art before purchasing. Lastly, visit art openings and museum exhibitions. It’s not only educational but helps develop your eye. And it’s an excellent opportunity to meet artists with unique lives and a dedication to their passion.

STRIKING STONEWORK

DENISE MCGAHA COLLECTION
BY MATERIALS MARKETING

This Dallas designer’s latest work is rock solid. Denise McGaha’s newest Materials Marketing offerings include the addition of two fireplace designs and two entirely new lines: an exclusive group of five mosaic patterns ideal for flooring or vertical applications, and three stunning, hand-carved natural stone sinks available as a wall or deck mount. “I design custom products I can’t find on the market and these hand-carved sinks and mosaic tiles are based upon the items I need most for our design projects,” McGaha explains. “I was inspired to create these designs after spending so much time at home last year, reimagining our family spaces for enhanced living.” The collection unites her multifaceted approach to interior design with Materials Marketing’s meticulous craftsmanship to create natural stone pieces with a timeless and versatile aesthetic. These fireplaces, mosaics and sinks are meant to complement each other when used in a single project, with each also designed to hold its own as a focal point. And they’re fully customizable in size and material. The options, as they say, are endless. materials-marketing.com/denismcgahacollection



MEET THE EXPERT PHOTO: JACK THOMPSON.
STRIKING STONEWORK PHOTOS: COURTESY MATERIALS MARKETING.



OPEN HOUSE

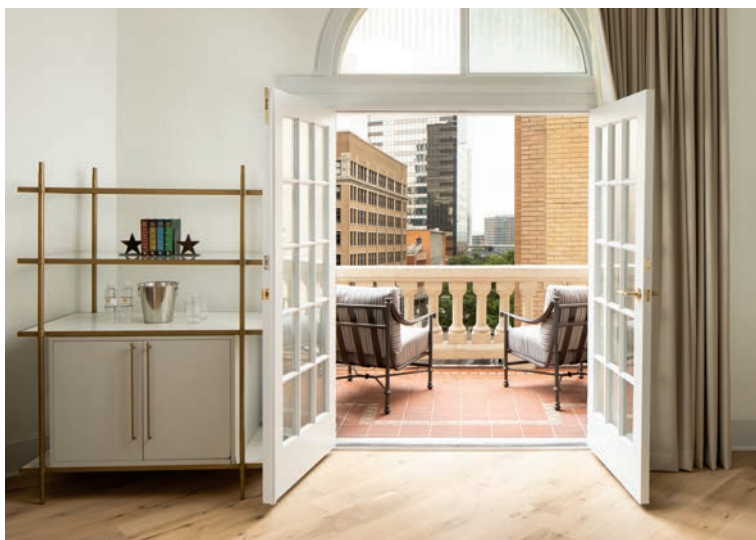
SHOPS + SHOWROOMS

There's no shortage of notable shop and showroom openings throughout the Lone Star State. In Austin, well-known outdoor furnishings brand Summer Classics Home recently opened a dedicated **Gabby** showroom on its campus (9900 RM-620), a 4,500-square-foot space showcasing Gabby's signature Southern-inspired, hand-crafted furnishings—sofas, lamps, mirrors and more. Elsewhere, Decorative Center Houston welcomes **Arsin Rug Gallery** (5120 Woodway Drive, Suite 1000), a jewel box of 7,000 Persian, Turkish, Oriental and European rugs and carpets. There's antiques, reproductions and modern styles from around the world, as well as the option for custom designs. "We feel confident that Arsin Rug Gallery will become a go-to rug source for Houston's incredible network of interior designers," notes sales manager Mark Odom. And in Dallas, British retailer **OKA** has established roots in the vibrant Knox/Henderson neighborhood (4531 McKinney Avenue), following the opening of its first U.S. location in Houston in the spring. The 9,000-square-foot space showcases OKA's characterful vignettes (above) and classic British spaces—a Welsh hideaway cottage, west London townhouse and even a grand Kent country estate. We suggest mixing and matching the brand's lamp bases with patterned fabric shades to create your own version of English style, right in the heart of Texas.

CHECK IN

THE DRISKILL

An Austin icon since it was built in 1886, The Driskill was acquired as part of the Unbound Collection by Hyatt in 2013—and now shines anew, thanks to the renovation of 14 guest suites on the historic side of the property. The project is helmed by award-winning architecture firm Clayton Korte, including principal Paul Clayton and associate partner George Wilcox, with refreshed interiors by Rottet Studio. "Our main goal for these guest suites was to enhance the functionality of each space while preserving the core essence of this historic hotel," says Clayton, noting the guest suite renovations were inspired by the hotel's 135-year history and the many grand events that have taken place there since its opening. "Clayton Korte's work reflects a reverence for time and context while bringing a new spirit into the suite spaces with the addition of contemporary touches," he continues. "Our designs carefully highlight some of the original architectural details and bring the hotel's historic significance into focus." The updated spaces boast new finishes and millwork, with a slight reconfiguration of four bathrooms. Amenities of the newly renovated Cattle Baron suite, for example, include a clawfoot soaking tub, walk-in shower, a spacious living and dining area with a private wet bar, and a separate bedroom with matching queen beds. In addition, two of the suites fronting Brazos Street now feature previously enclosed balcony spaces. "It was challenging and rewarding to re-expose some of the original exterior elements," Clayton says. driskillhotel.com



THE SOFTER SIDE

COZY UP TO COVETABLE BEDDING, FABRIC AND TEXTILES FROM TEXAS DESIGNERS AND PURVEYORS.



TRIBUTE GOODS

Creating elegant, one-of-a-kind fine linens is all in a day's work for arbiter of style Karen Pulaski of Tribute Goods, the luxury Italian linen company based in Houston. Pulaski collaborates with fine artists, seasoned linen purveyors and Italian graphic designers, evolving original artwork into linen collections through digital printing. Recent updates include new color options in her existing Clover Embroidery Collection (above)—a blue color motif with a green center accent and the opposite scheme with a green motif and a blue center accent—as well as The Venetian Collection, a fresh offering inspired by etchings on antique Murano-glass mirrors in a Louis XIII-style with fine floral, scroll and dot motifs. Bonne nuit! tributegoods.com



CAITLIN WILSON DESIGN

As a nod to her grandmother, Marilyn, Dallas design darling and shop owner Caitlin Wilson of Caitlin Wilson Design has launched the Grand-Mère Collection, with a patterned array of pillows (left), rugs, wallpaper, fabric, furniture, pottery and décor in the fearlessly feminine yet sophisticated classic style for which she's known. A few highlights in the collection include the Birds & Blueberries, Grandmillennial and Beatrice prints—all sure to recall the warmth, comfort and nostalgia of your own grandmother's house. We'll take one of each, please. caitlinwilson.com

LISA FINE TEXTILES

Highlighted at JAMES showroom in both Houston and Dallas, Lisa Fine Textiles recently added three striking textiles to its oeuvre: Charlotte, Mogambo and Zahra (right). Travel remains a common source of inspiration for designer Lisa Fine, whose reflections while at home when travel was limited influenced her latest designs. Charlotte recalls nostalgia for chintz and brown furniture; Zahra brings to mind the carnations and pomegranates of Istanbul; and Mogambo is named after the classic 1953 film and features animal motifs and batiks. jamesshowroom.com; lisafinetextiles.com



COCO & DASH

Mother-and-daughter maison mavens Teddie Garrigan and Courtney Garrigan's Dallas shop Coco & Dash is a top destination for home décor, furnishings and, now, a highly curated made-to-order bedding collection (left). The duo spent more than a year carefully researching small makers around the world before introducing the offerings, which include everything you need for top-of-bed dressing: standard and European shams, pillowcases, boudoir pillows, bolsters, quilts, duvet covers, coverlets, bed skirts and custom box spring covers. The bedding is available in a full range of colors, embroidered and appliqued designs, monograms and European reversible patterns on white percale or sateen sheeting—everything you need for sweet dreams. cocoanddash.com

THE SOFTER SIDE PHOTOS: CAITLIN WILSON PHOTO: KATIE NIXON PHOTOGRAPHY; LISA FINE TEXTILES PHOTO: COURTESY LISA FINE TEXTILES; COCO & DASH PHOTO: COURTESY COCO & DASH; TRIBUTE GOODS PHOTO: CLAUDIA CASBARIAN FOR JULIE SOEFER PHOTOGRAPHY.