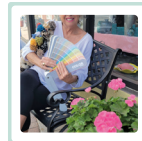




SPACES

*Hecho a mano
handmade gifts year round*

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Hello out there in confused holiday land! Yes, we have had Christmas and Halloween decorations appear in stores in July this summer. It has always been that retail stores introduce holidays earlier and earlier in hope of capturing early

bird shoppers and eager holiday addicts. And there is no worry that there are rows of shelves and on-line catalogs filled with mass-produced treasures, (if not disposables) from all over the world. So, with that, I thought we might focus on things “hecho a mano” (made by hand), for the holidays.

I am very much about art. I love art. I promote and encourage supporting local artists in any given community and engaging commissions for special installations. I gravitate to hand-woven textiles, pottery, paintings and sculptures. It can't always be that way, but it is enriching to know that you're incorporating into your interior something (or as a gift) that is made by an individual with their own creativity and talent for its execution. The combination, of an “idea person” who can bring that idea to fruition, is truly exciting creativity.

It is fascinating and fun to meet creators and all manner of artisans and learn why they do what they do. Why do they focus on a certain style, medium, subject matter – what makes them tick. It's right below the surface when viewing an art piece – anything “hecho a mano.”

The most interesting interiors are



Functional art is fun! Many talented potters create fabulous and fun serving pieces, vases, and mugs!



Amy Garcia designs magnificent holiday décor and creates other floral arrangements for all occasions.



Julianna Farresta has an exciting collection of functional pottery. Can't you smell the aroma of hot cocoa wafting from these mugs?

those that make a personal statement. This is true commercially as well as in your home. As we speak, I am designing an office for a

prominent wealth management consultant. He loves to fly-fish. We commissioned an oil painting, of one of his favorite scenes, fishing in the San Juan River “Quality Waters” of Northern New Mexico, to be painted for his interior. We have it and are now reproducing it on an aluminum panel (in a much larger format) to serve as a statement piece in his new office.

The original oil painting will hang in his private office. These two art statements will continue to invite conversation, make connections and personalize the space.

In recent issues we have touched on Balance, What Makes a Home Comfortable and Pleasing All Through the Year, Trends, Tips to Refresh Your Home... and in each of these cases, I can say that art and things handmade contribute to every one of these topics directly or indirectly.

Creating interesting wall groupings of either like-kind or disparate things is a very creative way to add interest to your wall surfaces. Mobiles suspended, penetrating the volume

of spaces, are another unique way to dress the vertical voids.

In the kitchen, food-safe vessels of “functional art” add character and interest to your preparations, table settings, and useful countertop accoutrements. Woven table



These artful garlic or ginger graters, by Carmen Caswell, are exquisitely designed, crafted, and festive for your kitchen.



Magnificent lotus bowls, by Penne Roberts, are sensational centerpieces and beautiful salad bowls and even a bird bath in the garden (not freeze-proof).



Handmade by the extended Familia de Bautista in Oaxaca, beautiful handwoven table and bed dressings.

runners, placemats, and centerpieces bring unique personality to your daily dining and parties for sure!

Conversations are often created by people encountering objects of interest and unique pieces of art. Handmade decorative accessories generally attract attention and add personality to your spaces. Starting with your own joy, of course, and bringing others into the conversation of your interests and experiences.

Collecting as you pass through life- travel, engaging with people, studying and learning about new subjects, all result in enjoying and

acquiring mementos that bring joy and memories throughout your home. Sharing joy - giving gifts from the heart – especially handmade pieces – supports artists in their endeavor to create what makes their dreams tangible and it offers special, thoughtful, unique presents for your friends and family.

Your Neighbor,
Patti Harrell Hoech
Licensed Interior Designer



To ask Patti a question please scan the QR code!

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