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MAINE HOME + DESIGN

THE ART ISSUE

OBJECTS FINE & FOUND: INSIDE
THE SPACES OF MAINE ARTISTS

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Leandra Fremont-Smith

REVEALS HER FAVORITE MAINE SHOPS

From tassels to landscapes, this designer lives to buy local

One piece of furniture, art, or decor in your space that tells a story?

This Hunt Slonem painting (left) was my first original art purchase. I'm a longtime admirer, and its vibrant pink hues perfectly reflect my personal style.

How would you describe your creative philosophy?

I love to design traditionally rooted interiors with pops of color and patterns, curating spaces with personality while instilling a lasting sense of freshness and sophistication to accommodate easy updates without compromising the original design.

Most rewarding aspect of interior design?

Teamwork is everything. It's inspiring to see how contractors, architects, landscape designers, seamstresses, upholsterers, and our design team bring a client's vision to life. Everyone supports one another.

One design myth you'd love to debunk?

Wallpaper is not outdated. I use it to add depth and interest to a room whenever possible. From hand-blocked patterns to textured grasscloths, a compelling wallcovering can tie a room together beautifully.

One texture or material you can't live without?

Decorative trim! Tapes, tassels, and cords add a layer of craftsmanship and character. Samuel and Sons is my go-to source.

Favorite way to add an unexpected touch of color or pattern?

I love that you can completely transform a room in a day with small, impactful touches, such as adding a pair of unique, vibrant pillows or wallpapering the back of bookcases. These small elements create visual interest without distracting from central furniture pieces.

Antique elements or modern aspects?

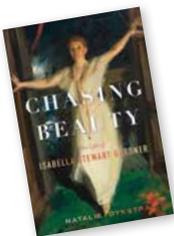
Antique elements. Growing up in Essex, Massachusetts, with a mother versed in French Continental and a father steeped in Colonial design, I spent every Sunday antiquing with them, developing a lifelong love for the history and craftsmanship of antiques. **MHD**



Portrait by Christina Wnek

How has fine and/or decorative art influenced your work?

I love working with local Maine gallerists when sourcing art, especially for my Mount Desert Island projects. Maine's rugged landscape has impressed upon artists for centuries, and I favor art that reflects a project's natural setting. Collaborating with local experts such as Elizabeth Moss, Emma Wilson, and Deirdre Artemis Swords offers the opportunity to learn the stories behind each piece and share them with my clients.



One book everyone who appreciates interior design should read?

Chasing Beauty: The Life of Isabella Stewart Gardner by Natalie Dykstra.

Go-to shop or local artisan for unique pieces?

My local go-to for custom furniture is Alfred's Upholstery in Alfred. The opportunity to design and create handcrafted furniture is a designer's dream. For two decades, owner Troy Delano and his team and I have collaborated on custom furniture pieces, allowing for full creative control, from designing the frame and selecting the fill to finalizing the trim details. The quality is excellent.



Photos: Interiors by Jeff Roberts; book courtesy of William Morrow / HarperCollins Publishers