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Kombi in New York, USA



Launched in June 2023, New York-based Kombi is a platform for contemporary design and art objects from southern Africa, such as sculptures by Jeanne Hoffman (above left and centre) and the Chapel chair by Xandre Kriel (above right). Art and design consultant Fiona Mackay, who is based in New York but still calls Cape Town home, wanted to bring to the USA the design she saw on visits to South Africa.

'We have a unique perspective: a resistance to categorisation and an embrace of complexity: irony, beauty, chaos, elegance, tradition, newness... and they all coexist in the curation for Kombi. The work you see, such as the Bloom lamp by Dokter and Misses (left) and mirrors by Water Dixon (right), embraces fluidity within the art, design and craft spectrum – I think this fluidity reflects how we actually live with art and design,' says Fiona.

Building a digital presence for Kombi was an important part of the launch to ensure visibility and access was not limited to New York. A strategically placed exhibition space in Stone Ridge in the Hudson Valley puts Kombi in an area known for its cultural vibrancy and network of galleries and artists' studios.

Kombi is planning residencies and collaborations between artists in South Africa and the United States. 'It's important to me that the creatives on the platform are diverse – in ethnicity, in age, in experience. I want Kombi to be a platform for discovery of what's new as much as what is established,' says Fiona. @kombi.nyc

Opposite page: Photography by Anke Luois and styling by Sami Pienaar. This page: Photography by Chris Mortolini.



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