

SCENE

WRITTEN BY ZLATA KOZUL NAUMOVSKI | PRODUCED BY COLLEEN MCTIERNAN



ON VIEW

“RADICAL CLAY: CONTEMPORARY WOMEN ARTISTS FROM JAPAN”

Historically, Japanese women have made significant yet underappreciated contributions to the male-dominated field of ceramics. “Radical Clay: Contemporary Women Artists from Japan” seeks to give both established and emerging women artists—including Mishima Kimiyo, Tsuboi Asuka, Konno Tomoko and Aoki Katsuyo—their due. On view at the Art Institute of Chicago through June 3, the exhibition showcases 40 ceramic pieces from the collection of Carol and Jeffrey Horvitz. “This exhibition comes at a pivotal moment when these women are becoming more widely known as groundbreaking contemporary artists,” curator Janice Katz says. “It puts their work in a global context, showcasing their inventiveness in pushing the boundaries of the medium.” While beautiful, Katz describes some of the sculptures as unexpected and even odd. “The works take nature, the body and textiles as their inspiration,” she says. “Many do not look like they are made out of clay at all.” [artic.edu](https://www.artic.edu)

TALKING SHOP

MODERN HILL

While midcentury furniture is often associated with California, Chicago is a midcentury-loving town in its own right. With a 50,000 square-foot showroom, Modern Hill in McCook, a suburb only 20 minutes from downtown, is the largest purveyor of vintage furnishings from the mid-20th century in the country. The warehouse, which moved to its current location in 2022, stocks more than 2,500 furnishings from designers such as Milo Baughman, George Nelson, Charles and Ray Eames, and Edward Wormley. Co-owner Mike Solan noted that many of the pieces he sells today are by companies that had showrooms at The Mart during the '60s and '70s and were manufactured in the Midwest. *Luxe* chatted with Solan to learn more about the shop.

[midcenturywarehouse.com](https://www.midcenturywarehouse.com)

What's unique about Modern Hill?

We do restoration of the furniture, sanding it down to take out any chips, dents or scratches and get our clients

a like-new vintage piece that is ready for 60 more years of use. We also offer reupholstery in any of our 1,500 fabrics.

From where do you source? We source our goods from all over. Part of doing our own shipping means that we can pick up from sellers anywhere in the country.

Tell us about the coolest piece in the showroom right now. A pair of Brazilian rosewood Jean Gillon lounge chairs. The rosewood frame and netting are really unique on this set of chairs, and they are in mint condition.

What are shoppers mostly buying?

Our bestseller is the Broyhill Brasilia line. These pieces were produced in the 1960s and '70s and feature lines that mimic the architecture of Brasilia, Brazil. Our clients love them for their warm walnut tones and brass accents. Adrian Pearsall is another favorite. The lines of his pieces are just phenomenal and add a lot of fun to any space.



ON VIEW PHOTO: YAMAGUCHI MIO. SHURA, 2020. CAROL & JEFFREY HORVITZ COLLECTION OF CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE CERAMICS. TALKING SHOP PHOTO: SARAH DERER.



MEET THE MAKER

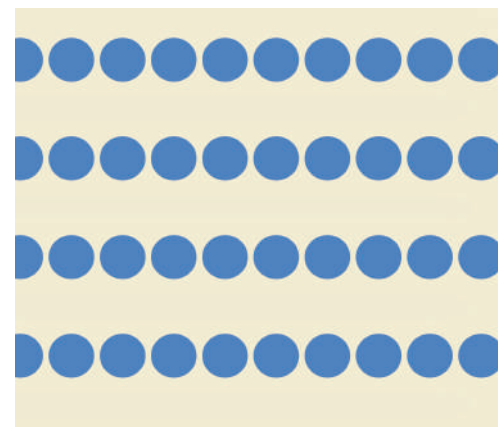
KATIE POWELL BRICKMAN

Lake Forest artist Katie Powell Brickman paints and prints happiness. Her canvas artworks and recent line of wallpapers feature bold shapes in bright colors. With their Dr. Seuss-like, soft-sided forms that resemble trees or flora under the sea, "They invite viewers into an imaginative world reminiscent of childhood dreams," Brickman says. Serena & Lily offers her paintings online and in select stores, interior designer Alessandra Branca (an early supporter of Powell Brickman) carries her pieces and prints at Casa Branca, and her work can also be found locally at Arch. Here, the artist explains why her artwork suits chic interiors while being the antithesis of cool. katiepowellbrickman.com

Describe your style. I gravitate toward the simple, bold and clean, inspired by the work of artists Ellsworth Kelly and Agnes Martin. My paintings often feature layers, textures and whimsical forms. I love saturated color and naive shapes and styles—stripes, circles, squares and everyday materials that, when arranged thoughtfully, become extraordinary. It's kind of anti-cool.

Your work is very cheery and youthful. How does it jibe with today's interiors? My art is a little bit fantastical. Despite their childlike feel, I believe that art doesn't have to be sophisticated to be beautiful or deserving of a spot above the mantel.

How did you go from painting to releasing a line of wallpaper? I was inspired by a client who wanted one of my paintings to cover an entire room. I mixed stripes, florals and checks to create a playful modern aesthetic. The collection is versatile, suitable for both grown-up rooms and children's areas. It reflects this anti-cool aesthetic, adding a vibrancy and playfulness to any space.



TOP LEFT PORTRAIT: KIRSTEN MICCOLI. TOP RIGHT INTERIOR: KELLI BOYD.
MIDDLE LEFT ARTWORK AND BOTTOM INTERIOR: JOEL LERNER.
MIDDLE RIGHT WALLPAPER: COURTESY KATIE POWELL BRICKMAN.



AROUND TOWN

DESIGNERS GIVE US A PEEK INTO THEIR REGIONAL BLACK BOOK.

WRITTEN BY COLLEEN MCTIERNAN

Elizabeth Stamos As principal of Elizabeth Stamos Design, Stamos is always looking to curate and narrow down the best sources for her clients. These women-owned businesses are just a few of the places that speak to the LUXE Next In Design 99 talent's taste. "**Laughlin Gallery** in Highland Park makes art approachable and fun. Owner Lauren Laughlin has amazing taste and is always supportive of local artists. Over in Winnetka, **Towne & Oak** is a delicious local coffee spot. Elaina Vazquez, the owner, and her staff make everyone feel welcome, and their food is always beautifully plated. Just next door is **Arch**, where Laura White has some beautiful furniture pieces, great seasonal accessories and art as well as her own boutique line of candles, skincare and honey harvested on her family's farm. **Redefined Décor** in Chicago has long been a favorite antique store to hunt for treasures. They have vendors with a variety of tastes, so there are many different eras and styles from which to choose." elizabethstamosdesign.com

Renee DiSanto & Christina Samatas Having opened their own showroom complete with a cocktail lounge in Glen

Ellyn, the design duo behind **Park & Oak** knows a thing or two about shopping and dining in and around Chicago. Read on for the LUXE Next In Design 99 honorees' favorite spots. "Up in Lake Forest, **Deerpath Inn** is a lovely spot for tea and brunch. Summers on the patio are also great—it feels like being whisked away to the English countryside. From the inn you can stroll over to Market Square for charming shops and open-air markets. If you are a Chicagoan who loves design or fashion, dining at **RL** is such a treat. We especially love sitting by the fire with a cocktail in the winter as a cozy respite from shopping in the Chicago cold. Just a few blocks away is **Space 519**. Owners Lance Lawson and Jimmy Wetzel have impeccable taste and style and have poured it into this chic boutique for women's clothing and gifts. You can also have lunch or brunch there, making it a great midday stop."

parkandoak.com



See our Next In Design 99

DINING BY DESIGN

TOPOLOBAMPO

Life imitates art, but so does food, at least according to Rick Bayless. Once a year, the James Beard-award-winning chef offers the Art Menu at his Mexican restaurant Topolobampo in River North, with dishes inspired by artworks he has acquired over decades. Regarded as one of the most substantial private collections of Mexican art in Chicago, the works have been photographed by Sandro Miller and will be published in *Frontera Art: The Bayless Collection* this spring. The art-loving restaurateur searches for inspiration among the 160 works displayed throughout his home, office and restaurants. He selects a few and asks the kitchen chefs, "What does this piece of art evoke in you?" Taking into consideration color, texture and form, he says, "We create dishes that take you visually and texturally in the plate but echo the emotions of the art." The Art Menu is available through April 25. rickbayless.com/restaurants/topolobampo



AROUND TOWN PHOTOS: ELIZABETH STAMOS PORTRAIT, NICOLE CARROW PHOTOGRAPHY; RENEE DISANTO AND CHRISTINA SAMATAS PORTRAIT: JAMI VANDEWOSTEYNE PHOTOGRAPHY; DINING BY DESIGN PHOTO: CASEY CORA.