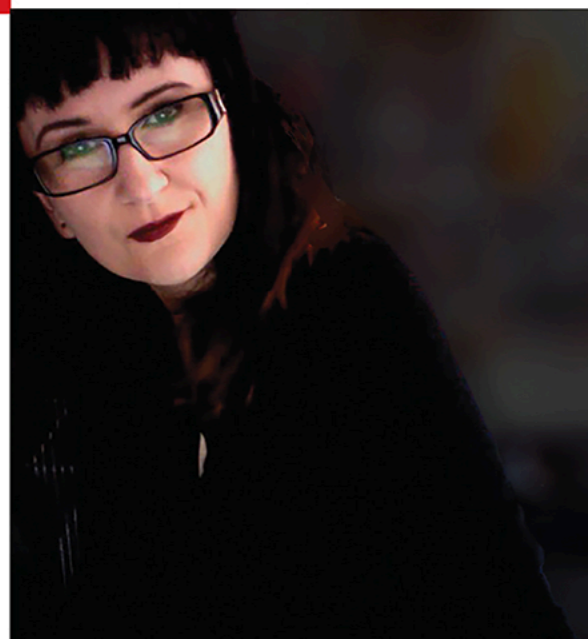


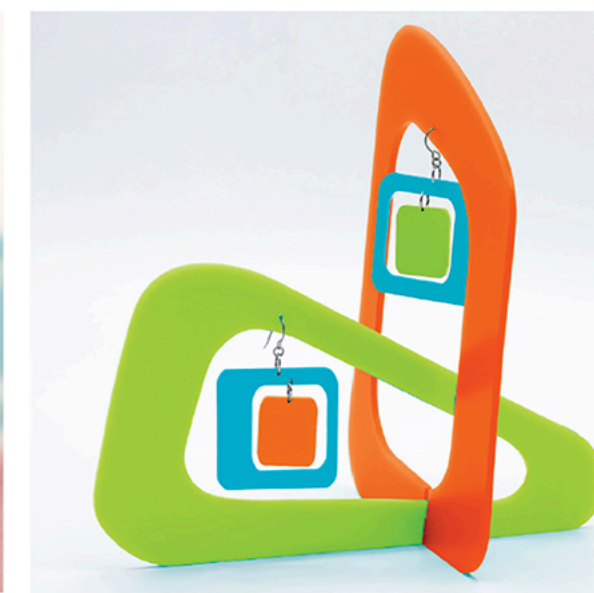
A Muse of Movement



Debra Ann's art capitalizes on the oft-overlooked element of movement with mid century inspired mobiles and tabletop stabiles—some of which come in DIY kits that you can assemble yourself!

IN A WORLD THAT CAN OFTEN feel static, Debra Ann's art is all about movement. The artist, who lives and works in the Highland Park neighborhood of Los Angeles, California, creates hanging art mobiles and tabletop stabiles for her company, AtomicMobiles.com.

"Mobiles function by adding movement to still spaces, along with color and shapes," says Debra. "They bring a Zen calm." With each piece, she strives to capture the feeling she gets when looking at a Mid Century Modern home, piece of furniture or retro art piece. "It's a little bit hard to explain, but when I see something Mid Century Modern, it speaks to me. I always attempt to get that delightful feeling when I design my work," she says.



THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

The origins of mobiles can be traced to the 1930s, well before the start of the MCM era. An artist named Alexander Calder created them, and Marcel Duchamp coined the term "mobiles" for his work in 1931. However, the concept of the mobile adapted beautifully into the modernist era and became a chic staple of interior design. Debra says, "My primary customers are people who love and appreciate the Mid Century Modern look."

For her part, Debra has no specific artistic training aside from her fierce drive and desire to learn, explore and experiment. She delved into the 1980s music scene and, in the mid-1990s, taught herself HTML coding and was on the fringe of digital development, making websites and learning Photoshop, which she loves to this day. But it wasn't until 2007 that she found herself intrigued by mobiles and started playing around with wire and various materials. "By spring of 2008, I started Atomic Mobiles," she says. "The business end evolved on its own through my website, listing sites and social media."

DO IT YOURSELF

Like many small business owners, Debra is a one-woman company

and runs everything out of her Los Angeles studio. She says, "I design the pieces, cut the parts, bend the wire (for the kinetic stabiles), photograph the art, design and update the website and my listings on Etsy and other sites, post to social media, answer emails and pack orders. It's a lot but luckily I really love what I do!"

One of her most popular items is the Beatnik Party Atomic Kit, which is a DIY kit that enables customers to assemble the parts exactly as they want them. "The DIY kit idea popped in my head not too long ago and intrigued me, so I ran with it," Debra says. "I had no idea it would become especially popular due to the COVID-19 crisis, now that everyone is looking for things to do to

keep their minds active and to enjoy being at home."

So whether customers want a premade mobile or one where they can stretch their own creative muscles, Debra has just the right product for them, one that will encourage them to look up, enjoy color and be drawn into the gentleness of subtle movement.



MCM Inspirations

As a tactile artist, Debra is inspired by a range of artists and their mediums.

- "Dada, Sophie Taeuber, Hans Arp, Man Ray, Marcel Duchamp and more have shaped me as an artist," Debra says. Dada was a precursor to the mid century period, but amazingly influential.
- "Debra admires Alexander Calder. Mobiles and kinetic art originated with his astonishing creativity.
- "I appreciate Isamu Noguchi," Debra says. "He's especially known for his iconic coffee table, but what I love even more is his sculptural work, which I feel in some ways rivals Calder."
- "Ray and Charles Eames are also muses. "Their work was, of course, classic and paved the way for other designers," Debra says. "I love their films too."

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT [ATOMICMOBILES.COM](http://atomicmobiles.com).

