



JOINT VENTURE

KANNA AOKI & RAB TERRY

Using fluid paint strokes, Kanna Aoki captures the magical light of Bay Area scenes in her work. Rab Terry, who has a science background, brings a spirit of exploration to his abstract Venetian plaster paintings (above), concocting custom pigments, layering color, and then sanding and burnishing to reveal what lies beneath. The artists discussed their joint show at Studio Gallery, owned by Terry and his wife, Ferris, September 24 through October 12. studiogallerysf.com

What's currently inspiring your work? KA: Everyone's been sheltered in place and not taking vacations, so I've been going through old slides from trips that I photographed to see if there's anything I can do paintings from, maybe Italy or France. I'll also have paintings of California. We live in an amazing place. **RT:** I've been using serenity as inspiration. A lot of my pieces use hues of the sea or watercolors. I'm also working with some different materials. I want some continuity of look and feel

to the work in the show rather than just putting up the greatest hits.

Why do you make a great pairing?

RT: Kanna's a representational painter, but she's not averse to experimentation. There are certain people whose work goes well with mine, but maybe it's static. Kanna's process is more dynamic. **KA:** Both of our work has a lot of light, color and airiness. It's nice to have the realism on one side and the purely abstract on the other. It leaves space to bounce back and forth.



glow UP

PALECEK

When Palecek introduced its chandeliers—handcrafted of natural materials like swooping strands of wooden beads and playful rattan sticks—they instantly became iconic. Now the company has created sconces, flush mounts and outdoor pendants inspired by organic materials, from fossilized clam to petrified wood. “Bleached coconut shell is prominent in all of our lighting and really gorgeous,” says Cheryl Somoano, director of lighting and accessories. They also developed outdoor fixtures and had them certified as wet-listed, which can sustain direct water contact, or damp-treated, for under a porch or awning. Says Somoano, “Both use synthetic materials and powder-coated metal so they stay resistant to wind and rain.” palecek.com



Luxury textile maker and Healdsburg-based Sandra Jordan developed an appreciation for artisan craftsmanship as a girl in her native Peru. Today, interior designers around the world use her silky-to-the-touch textiles made from the fleece of purebred alpacas in the Peruvian Andes, a fiber the Incas called Clouds on Earth. The color palette of Sandra Jordan Prima Alpaca's newest collection, Tierra, celebrates Peru's dynamic topography, from the sea-washed hues of the Ballestas Islands to the rocky vistas and luminous glaciers of the Andes. Standouts include a vibrant turmeric-toned bouclé (above) that Jordan worked on for years, and Amazonas, a lush green Suri textile that evokes the rainforest. sandrajordan.com

JOINT VENTURE PHOTOS: COURTESY STUDIO GALLERY; GLOW UP PHOTO: COURTESY PALECEK; LAUNCH PHOTO: ARIN ALMUELLE



MARIN'S MARVEL

RH COMES HOME

WRITTEN BY MARY JO BOWLING

Stepping onto a path crafted with bluestone slabs and passing through a stand of century-old heritage olive trees to a bank of retractable glass-and-steel doors, one senses this is not shopping as usual. This is RH Marin, The Gallery at the Village—and it's the latest chapter in the company's quest to reimagine retail. Located in The Village at Corte Madera, the 60,000-square-foot structure houses what's billed as "one of the largest collections of luxury home furnishings in the world." The RH concept of elegantly integrating luxury dining and drink with shopping was born in the mind of Gary Friedman, RH's CEO and chairman. Currently, the brand has 24 large-scale design galleries—curated, home-like showrooms—and 10 of those include restaurants. RH Marin is one of the 10, and it has a different feel. As Friedman says, it is "a deeply

personal project given its proximity to our headquarters in Corte Madera." Pass through the glass portals, and customers face choices: stay on the main level to peruse rooms decorated with RH Interiors furniture and accessories (top, right), or ascend the double floating staircase illuminated with a cascade of the brand's Helix chandeliers to explore RH Modern offerings or receive assistance in the interactive Interior Design Firm & Atelier. The topmost level holds the Rooftop Restaurant & Park (right) that offers views of Mt. Tamalpais and the San Francisco Bay. Below, shoppers bustle and cars zoom past on Highway 101, but in this setting, they seem far away. "This space blurs the lines between residential and retail, indoors and outdoors, home and hospitality," says Friedman. "It's a reflection of our very best work to date." **rh.com**



MARIN'S MARVEL PHOTOS: COURTESY RH; SHELF LIFE PHOTOS: COURTESY DE GOURNAY.



SHELF LIFE

DE GOURNAY: HAND-PAINTED INTERIORS

Known worldwide for its elegant hand-painted wallcoverings, de Gournay has been adding drama and romance to interior spaces for more than three decades. The family-owned company's distinctive designs range from new interpretations of 18th- and 19th-century chinoiserie to Art Deco and Art Nouveau patterns and Korean Chaekgeori artworks rendered in bold color palettes. Founder Claud Cecil Gurney offers a rare peek behind the scenes in *de Gournay: Hand-Painted Interiors*, a ravishing new book that shows the wallpapers in head-turning spaces created by interior designers like India Mahdavi, Kelly Wearstler and Irakli Zaria. Learn the colorful backstory and how the custom patterns are created by in-house artists. San Francisco is fortunate to be home to one of just two de Gournay showrooms in the U.S. **rizzoliusa.com**

THE INSIDER

DAVID BRENNER

Walls in the Bay Area and beyond are coming to vibrant life, thanks to Habitat Horticulture, whose vertical gardens have popped up in both residences and spaces like Salesforce Tower, California Academy of Sciences and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Founder David Brenner, a living-wall pioneer in the U.S., talked with *Luxe* about going green. habitathorticulture.com

What sparked the idea for Habitat Horticulture form? While studying horticulture at Cal Poly, I did an apprenticeship at the Royal Botanic Gardens in London. I was working at this tropical nursery called Kew Gardens, with plants that grow naturally on trees and rock faces—epiphytic plants. At the same time, I saw vertical gardens while traveling in Europe and was blown away. It's like a huge billboard that provides an ecosystem and an escape from the hustle and bustle of the city. I went back to Cal Poly and began prototyping the system that we use today.

You also studied psychology. How does that apply? There's something

about plants that makes you feel calm. Through my environmental psychology classes, I found that there was all of this research to prove that. It's something that was inherent to our evolution. So how do we bring greenery into our everyday lives?

How do you choose plantings and design? I start with the texture. Every plant has its own character. Maybe the new growth in the springtime will be bronze and you'll see this swath of reddish tone coming through the wall. It's like an orchestra throughout the year of things flowering and taking center stage while other things are becoming dormant.

