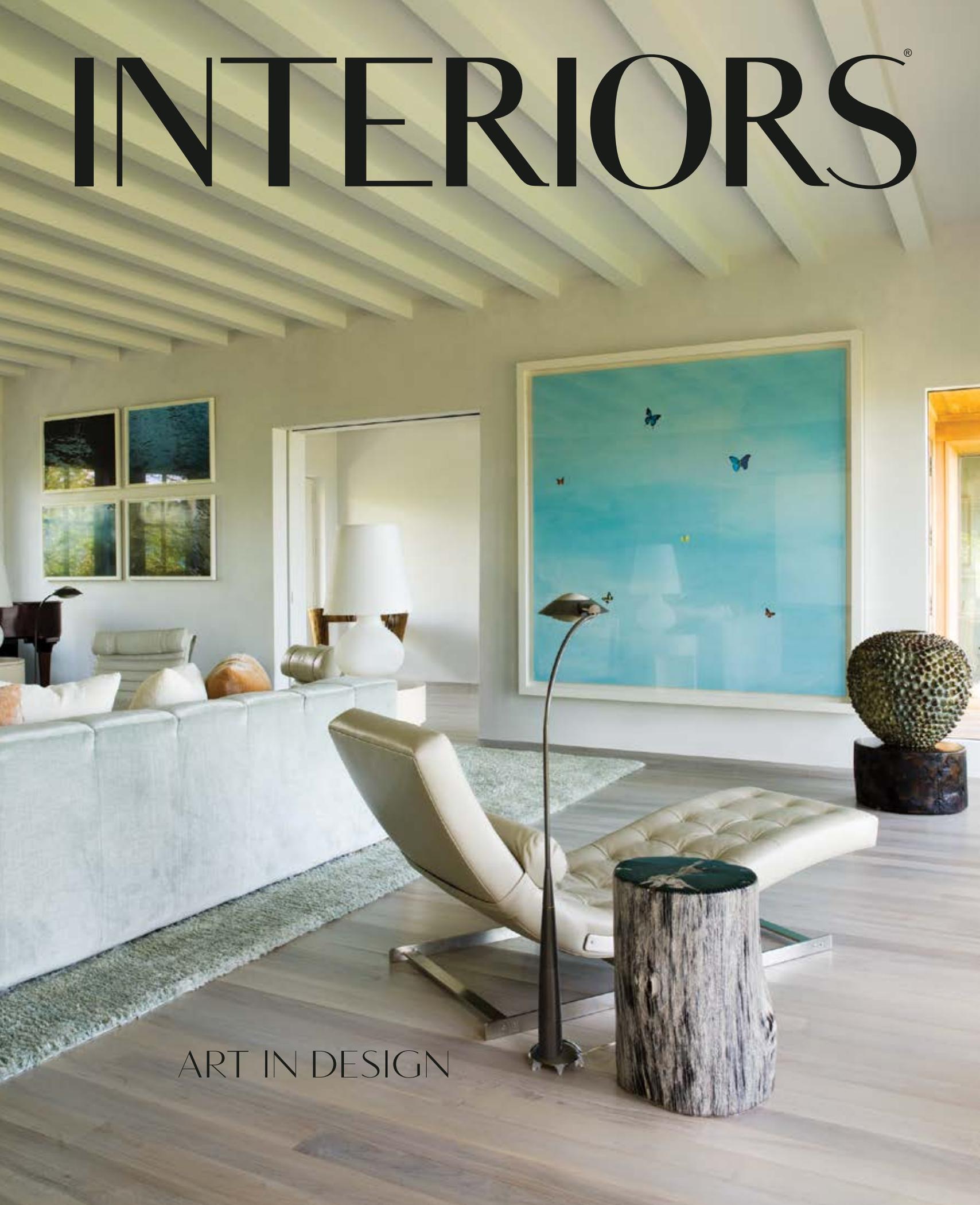


INTERIORS[®]



ART IN DESIGN

Linda Hayslett

Which artists' work do you collect or steer your clients toward?

I'm into abstract art a lot more than most other artwork. I steer clients toward pieces that are organic in feel or can have different meanings and interpretations. Some recent artists that I've fallen in love with are Elan Byrd, Angela Chrusciaki Blehm, Tawny Chatmon, Liana Farmer and Jason Trotter. These artists range from using mixed mediums to painters to photographers. I love blending different artists together to make a statement. I love how clients react when I show art to them because they can interpret things differently. That's why art is so great to enhance a space. The beauty is there, but interpretation can always change with the room, furnishings, lighting, color choices and mood. Clients start to make their own stories and history with the pieces, which is what I hope they achieve when art speaks to them.

When in design should art be introduced?

I always try to get the idea of art in with clients as early as possible, even at the beginning stages of planning. I want clients to start having an idea of how a space can really be for their lifestyle, and not just living in the space without noticing something special day to day. We might not necessarily have a piece picked out yet when we start discussing the project, but getting clients to think about it early is what I try to do. I'll try to incorporate the thought of having a great piece when plans are

drawn, when doing a lighting plan or just suggesting having their kid's artwork framed. I just want to get the conversation going on artwork as early as possible.

What is the piece in the bedroom of your California project (below)?

It's a great mixed medium comprised of modeling paste, acrylic, gold leaf, tin, seashells, rope and spray paint, by the client on the project, Denni Kopelan. The title is *All About Steve*, named for her husband, because it's his favorite art piece.

Why is the voice of the artist more important now than ever?

The voice of the artist is more important now than ever because there's a revolution going on. Entire groups of people are tired of being seen as less than their counterparts. So artists are showing and expressing the anger, sadness, outrage and need for change to make sure history doesn't forget this moment.

Does art need design or vice versa?

Vice versa. Design needs art! We've seen beautiful rooms, but when you see an *amazingly gorgeous* room, it's because there's a piece of artwork that brings it all together and makes the room have emotion. Art could be a piece of furniture, painting, sculpture or decor accent that stands out, but doesn't make itself the star of the room, it enhances it. That's why museums will have just one piece in a room that has nothing else and you get engulfed into the mood of the piece. So design needs art.



Lauren Pressey