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San Francisco Decorator Showcase 2016 Opens: An Exclusive Insider Preview

By Diane Dorrans Saeks
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Villa de Martini, an elegant and historic Telegraph Hill residence, is the location of the 2016 San Francisco Decorator Showcase, which runs from April 30 – May 30, after a series of patron parties.

This week I'm taking you for a first look at the dramatic showcase, with new images of the high-concept living room by Antonio Martins, and a vibrant bedroom by Ann Lowengart.

Come with me for a preview. Inspiration for Antonio Martins was the dramatic Snøhetta architecture and re-invention of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, which re-opens next month. Everyone in the art world is buzzing about it.

This is the third appearance of Antonio Martins, a great showcase favorite. His new superbly understated room is a bold pivot from his 2013 collection-filled study, and his artful Portuguese-inspired bedroom in 2014.

This year, Antonio's concept is all about modernism, and moving decorating forward with a fresh approach to art collections and connoisseurship.

Antonio offers a definite 'first' in four decades of showcase, with his floor covered with sleek 4x8 sheets of hot rolled steel, inspired by sculptures of Richard Serra on the ground floor of SFMOMA.



Antonio Martins



White lacquered walls, hot rolled steel floors, and white linen curtains were used to create a gallery-like setting in the living room. Each piece of contemporary furniture and museum quality art was selected for its intrinsic artistic worth and forward-looking quality, with a view to creating a harmonious whole.

The framework of the project are glazed lacquered walls created by William Racké and his team. Willem Racké Studio painted the walls, and then glazed them in a soft horizontal strié in tones of grey, after which multiple coats of a clear lacquer were applied, and then hand buffed to achieve the high gloss sheen.





Homage to Vlad

The furniture selected was an homage to Vladimir Kagan (who died in April). A pair of his iconic 176SC floating curved sofas is used to add kinetic energy to the room. As a gilded counterpoint, Antonio selected a pair of 19th century stools at C. Mariani Antiques, now reupholstered in royal red.

Antonio's Art

"Following my new passion for seventeenth and eighteenth-century portraiture, I wanted an important portrait in the room, but something modern and edgy and fun. Found at Catharine Clark Gallery, it's Diver 2015 by

Deborah Oropallo. Deborah photographs classical portraits and then creates a photomontage. A Botticelli on LSD?" — Antonio Martins





Seeking to See

“For the wall opposite the portrait, I was looking for something equally new and fresh. Independent curator Cory Jacobs put me in touch with Karine Laval, a French photographer working in the U.S.. Benrubi Gallery in New York City is mounting a solo exhibition of Laval's work this May. Additionally, Jacobs recently included Laval in an artist's series she curates for Hermès. Karine and I chose this diptych from her series of poolscapes for their ethereal, yet decidedly modern aesthetic.” — Antonio Martins



A House with History

Poised overlooking the bay at 298 Chestnut Street near Coit Tower, the 2016 Showcase features twenty-five transformed rooms and outdoor spaces along with dramatic views.

Villa de Martini offers panoramic views of the San Francisco Bay, including the Golden Gate Bridge, Bay Bridge and Richmond Bridge.

Built in 1929, Villa de Martini was the first residence in San Francisco to be constructed with concrete. The 6,100 square-foot home is on a triple-wide lot, offering beautiful European-style gardens with olive trees, lemon trees, roses, and Travertine stone patios and walkways. Unique architectural details include stone columns, arched windows and doorways, a vaulted living room ceiling and hardwood floors.



Credits for Antonio's Living Room

For a touch of irreverence, there are neon sculptures from Anthony Discenza, and Nina Katchadourian's Lavatory Self-Portraits in the Flemish Style #20 and #21.

Both artists are represented by Catharine Clark Gallery. Nina's portraits are all taken in airplane toilets using the only props available such as paper towels, toilet seat covers, etc.





Additional art:

Mirror above fireplace

By Andy Diaz Hope

Centering Device #11, 2016

Custom made for Antonio Martins, 2016 showcase

Mirror, brass, solder

Represented by Catharine Clark Gallery

Stone sculpture on pedestal beside window

Artist: Jeff Metz

Title: Euclidean Variation No. 6

Edition: Unique

Year: 2013

Materials: Hand-carved Limestone

Represented by SCULPTURE SITE GALLERY

Lighting:

Antonio worked with Fuse lighting to create a custom Volar chandelier in pristine white with brass details. The chandelier was matched with Set sconces from Vibia Lighting that give a sculptural quality to the walls.

About the San Francisco Decorator Showcase

For the past 38 years, the annual San Francisco Decorator Showcase has benefited San Francisco University High School's financial aid program, raising over \$14 million and benefiting thousands of students. Thanks to the generosity of generous sponsors, the participation of hundreds of accomplished designers, the school's trustees, parents, faculty, alumni, students, friends, and the thousands of Showcase visitors each year, the San Francisco Decorator Showcase allows San Francisco University High School to offer financial aid to its students. For more information, DecoratorShowcase.org or (415) 447-5830. Follow on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (@SFShowcase).

2016 San Francisco Decorator Showcase Details:

The 2016 Decorator Showcase will be held on Telegraph Hill at 298 Chestnut Street (near Grant Street) from April 30 – May 30, 2016.

Showcase is open to the public Tuesday through Sunday and closed on Mondays, except for Memorial Day. Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (last entry); Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. (last entry); Sunday and Memorial Day: 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (last entry).

Tickets:

To purchase advance tickets online, go to <http://decoratorshowcase.org/tickets/> or you may purchase tickets at the door. For more information call (415) 447-5830.

Due to limited street parking, it is highly recommend that visitors take public transportation.

2016 Designers

Noted international auction house Bonham's is presenting a selection of contemporary California paintings in the foyer gallery.

Designers include Diane Rosenblum, Antonio Martins, Heather Hilliard, Martin Kobus, Cynthia Spence, Martin Group, Stephan Jones, Living Green, Ba Design, Tineke Triggs, Ann Lowengart, Katie Raffetto, Ian Stallings, Sullivan Design Studio, SWA Group, Evars + Anderson, Shelley & Company, Lola Home Design, Nest Design Group, Nanette Design, Gloria Marth, and Megan van Linda Design.

CREDITS:

Photography of Antonio Martins' Living Room by Drew Kelly and David Duncan Livingston; photography of Ann Lowengart Bedroom by David Duncan Livingston.

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