



# ON THE HUNT

Written by Lindsay Powell

**C**harlotte Smith, designer and owner of local store Union Camp Collective, a colorful treasure trove of handpicked vintage and antique finds, is well-versed in hunting furniture. She travels all over the country finding the best and most original pieces for her shop (and her home). But it's a hard job—it's time consuming and skillful, and not everyone has the time or the discipline to seek out the perfect piece. That's why she opened Union Camp Collective in Raleigh; to bring vintage and one-of-a-kind finds

to the local masses. "Some of my best customers and favorite people aren't able to spend days on end finding stuff that they love," Smith says. "So I do the work for them—and for me."

On a recent scouting trip to the Hudson Valley in New York, Smith stretched her legs in the area's vintage and antique stores, a town rich in artistic heritage. "My style is all over the place," Smith says. "So, I like to go to Hudson because there is so much of everything there—perfect for my varied tastes."



**TOP:** When in town, Smith stops at Lil Debs Oasis in the Hudson Valley. Not only is the food delicious, she says, but the diner itself is full of design inspiration.

**BOTTOM:** Charlotte Smith, owner of Union Camp Collective, takes us on a field trip to her latest scouting location: Hudson Valley, New York.

TOP: PHOTOGRAPHY BY HEIDI'S BRIDGE PHOTOGRAPHY; BOTTOM: PHOTOGRAPHY BY TK



**TOP LEFT:** The Swan's House in Tarrytown, New York is a vintage furniture and home décor store that Smith says carries lots of "vintage midcentury modern pieces paired with shiny lacquered brass and ceramic late contemporary items."

**TOP RIGHT:** Found drinkware from Beach Glass, a hand-blown glass studio in Beacon, New York.

**BOTTOM:** Smith holed up at the Batterby House in Hudson Valley in between scouting shops and vintage finds. The owners of Batterby also have an antique shop, which Smith says is "completely lovely with antique and vintage touches throughout."



and art—a must stop when you're in the area.

During her visit, Smith stayed at the Batterby House, a restored Victorian bed and breakfast filled with original details, antiques, and items from local artisans. One of her favorite restaurants nearby, Lil' Deb's Oasis, is a boldly designed diner serving "tropical comfort food" that's sure to please the design-minded traveler. And just outside of downtown and overlooking the Catskills is Olana, the impressive, antique-filled home-turned-museum built the 1800s by Frederic Church, one of the pioneers of the Hudson River School art movement. "The details are outstanding.

If you're in need of inspiration, or even just a daydream, I highly recommend the Olana," says Smith.

A little over an hour south is the quaint art haven, Beacon. There, Smith purchased hand-blown Christmas ornaments and sets of rainbow

tumblers from Hudson Beach Glass, a hand-blown glass studio occupying a former firehouse.

Further south in Tarrytown, New York, Smith stopped by The Swan's House where she purchased velvet shell pillows for her vintage, contemporary, and modern sofas. "It's an excellent place to find vintage and midcentury modern furniture and home décor," says Smith.

"Next time I go back, which I will in a couple of months when it's warmer, I'll have a good lay of the land. I'll bring my big sprinter van and will pack it to the gills with larger case items that I'd want to pack personally," she says. "Hudson is a gold mine of vintage and finer antique items and though not every trip is a 'haul', every trip is good for sourcing, making connections, and learning, always."

If a scouting trip to New York and the surrounding towns isn't in the cards for you, start scouting locally. "Flea markets are a great representation of what I sell at the store," Smith says. "I would recommend everyone go to the Raleigh flea market. When it's good, it's really good." ♦

Visit *Union Camp Collective* at 1109 N West Street, Raleigh, or [unioncampcollective.com](http://unioncampcollective.com)

While in Hudson, Smith stopped by The Gilded Owl, a high-design art and decor shop owned by an art dealer and interior designer, where she picked up "beautifully illustrated" tarot cards as gifts for friends. "They're great for parties," adds Smith. Just a short walk away is Magic Hill, a store featuring midcentury modern furniture, decor,