

Charlotte

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PLUS:
WOMEN ARTISTS

A STYLE HUNTRESS'
TREASURE TROVE



Bethea selected Sherwin-Williams Tricorn Black as the backdrop for her black-and-white photographs by Zanele Muholi, a South African artist. **BELOW:** Bethea, in her office, stands next to a midcentury chrome dining set that belonged to her grandmother.



The HUNTRESS

A LOCAL BOUTIQUE OWNER SHARES HER LOVE OF GLOBAL ART, VINTAGE FURNISHINGS, AND FLEA-MARKET FINDS.

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Ariene Bethea considers herself a modern-day huntress, regularly foraging through consignment stores, estate sales, and online auctions for art, furniture, books, or anything that strikes her. Her Charlotte home is filled with her collections, including treasures from all around the world.

“A client once said she didn’t realize you could mix Asian and African art in the same room until she saw my house,” says Bethea, owner of Dressing Rooms Interiors Studio.





LEFT: A velvet Bernhardt sectional from Bethea's childhood home anchors the upstairs lounge. The white lamp is from her store, and the oil painting and gold mirror are vintage scores.

RIGHT: A grouping of African masks that Bethea purchased from a local collector are on display in the dining area. She recovered her gold-base dining chairs, a consignment-store find, in a leopard fabric.

BOTTOM: Bethea's office is a bold mix of bright colors and collected items, including the painted walls in Sherwin-Williams Framboise and the chair cushion fabric, a geometrical print by Paul Smith for Maharam, which was the inspiration for the room's design scheme.



“BUY THINGS YOU LOVE,
AND YOU'LL ALWAYS FIND A
PLACE FOR THEM.”

Walking through her home is nearly transportive because of her vast assemblage of African masks, Asian statues, and international art. Her appreciation of these cultural relics was inspired by her mother.

“My mom loved to collect art and sculptures and masks,” Bethea avers. “I also gravitate toward a bold and vibrant mix because that was the style of my childhood home.”

Bethea inherited numerous pieces from her mother, including a 1960s velvet sectional in her lounge and a brightly colored vintage oil painting that hangs over her mantle.



LEFT: The soaring ceilings in Bethea's living room offer ample space to display her expansive collection of sculptures, masks, and art. Bethea inherited the oil painting above the mantel from her mother, who instilled in her an appreciation for art and artifacts.

RIGHT: Bethea wallpapered the back of her white faux-bamboo hutch, which holds treasures from her mother and grandmother. The hand-carved Hawaiian hula-girl statue serves as a reminder of her wedding venue. The iron chair belonged to her mother. Underfoot is a custom tiger rug.



A self-described color-lover, Bethea isn't afraid to use dramatic hues. She loved the black walls in her upstairs lounge, so she painted a wall in her family room the same color to better display some of her sculptures, masks, and black-and-white photographs. She knew the vivid fuchsia walls in her office would be a perfect backdrop for her Tang horse painting—a consignment-store find—and the hand-painted Asian screen she snagged from an estate sale.

Bethea artfully layers flea-market finds with treasured heirlooms, and she encourages her clients to do the same.

"Your home should reflect you and your personal style," Bethea advises. "Buy things you love, and you'll always find a place for them." ♦



ABOVE: A vintage papier-mâché chinoiserie mask greets guests on Bethea's entryway door, painted a bright red. The mask is from her shop, Dressing Rooms Interiors Studio.