

DESIGNERS TODAY

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HELLO DEAR READER



Men in kilts: Celebrating the good life at R HUGHES holiday fete, with founder Ryan Hughes (*left*) and business partner Steven Leonard. More party pics are on the DT website. Photo: Brett Falcon.

TWENTY TWENTY ... It sounds like one of those woo-woo destination years that at one time seemed way out in the future. My gut tells me it's going to be a stellar year, especially for relationships.

Like all new years, I will make another valiant attempt at self-care and starting rituals that fall outside of work. Exercise more. Read more. Paint more. Journaling for once? Lisa Kahn, who shares her *Spark* (p.58) is a fab role model for living a mindful life and taking time for journaling and art.

The art inside this issue — from Alisa Barry, Addison Ryan, and François Halard to what Bette Blau found at Art Basel — makes me want to sit down and create. I

recall arts and crafts nights, staying up till 4 a.m. because I was so lost, in the very best sense of being lost, in the flow of creativity.

Inspired am I by the cover featuring the brushstrokes of Maryanne Glatfelter, a little-known artist who tragically died weeks before her first show. Christopher Kennedy discovered her art via an interior design project and was smitten immediately. "I love the colors and the abstraction in her work," says Kennedy. "Some are even a bit brutalist." Kennedy brought her work to us and *Girl in a Blue Dress* is one of seven pieces now available through Wendover Art.

My gush on creativity cannot be complete without sharing a bittersweet reality for us here at *Designers Today* — that our treasured art director Linsey Gray Puckett is leaving to run her own graphic design studio. She has been so integral in raising the bar for DT, and we will miss the way she gracefully blends fine art and tech, exactitude with an open mind and her chill personality. It has been a great 21 months and 12 issues.

That said, there is a triumvirate of talented women at BridgeTower Media, our parent company, who will be taking over, and working with us designing our pages. We are just starting to know one another — in fact, this is one of those relationships I look forward to cultivating in the new year.

Here's to kicking off the year with five weeks of trade shows! From Dallas to Atlanta, KBIS to Las Vegas Market and over to Domotex. Please, if you see me, stop me and say hello ... and I really mean that!

Jane

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A collection of Maryanne Glatfelter originals, as envisioned by Christopher Kennedy, at the Piazza di Liberace. Photo: J. Rockwell Seebach



CONTRIBUTORS

ON THE COVER!



When it came time to buy art for a project at Piazza di Liberace, **CHRIS-TOPHER KENNEDY**'s client asked him to first peek at her deceased cousin's paintings. Kennedy obliged, and has since been working with the family to reissue Maryanne Glatfelter's work, intent on sharing it with the world. For 2020, Kennedy is focused on excellence personally and professionally, getting his design firm's processes streamlined and codified, and revving things up at retail. @christopherkennedyinc



No longer an Art Basel virgin, **BETTE BLAU**, one half of photography team Randazzo & Blau, got her art fill in Miami last month and shares some of the exciting and thought-provoking pieces she found on p. 16. "That duct-taped banana, though funny, was not the highlight of Art Basel," she says. "I came away inspired to make and see more art, to discover emerging artists and invest in their work." On the agenda for 2020, Blau is intent on reviving her blog, What Bette Found, and turning it into a more interactive site. @whatbettefound



GAIL DOBY is co-founder and Chief Vision Officer of Gail Doby Coaching & Consulting which helps designers transform their business, earn more money and work less. She says her clients are the impetus for designing new tools, like the Budget Calculator, which she writes about on p. 31. This year, GDCC is focused on growth — more team, structure and business transformations. Plus, Gail and hubby are planning a 30th anniversary trip to Australia. @gail.doby



Happy 20th year in business to **LISA KAHN** of Lisa Kahn Designs who is DT's first SPARK subject. For the last 10 years, Kahn has focused her practice on creating sanctuary — a mindful concept that includes calming rituals, selfcare, gratitude, and nurturing interiors. This year she is looking forward to getting settled in the beautiful new sanctuary lab, that is also her team's design studio. @lisakahndesigns

