

STYLE | FASHION | SOCIAL

# PaperCITY

HOUSTON FEBRUARY 2014

*CHASING*  
RAINBOWS  
THE TRUE  
COLORS  
*OF SPRING*

*WEDDING*  
*WHIRL*  
AISLE OF  
STYLE  
*BRIDE'S BLUE BOOK*

[PLUS]  
CHEROKEE  
BLESSINGS  
LARAMY ELICK + JON RAFFOR

MOVING  
MOUNTAINS  
MEREDITH RIDDLE  
+ PATRICK CHASTANG

[ON A MISSION]  
JEWELER PATRICIA  
PECKINPAUGH  
GRIFFITH'S  
HACIENDA

PHOTOGRAPHY MINDY BYRD FOR THE PHOTO DIVISION. FASHION EDITOR MEGAN PRUITT WINDER. MODEL ASHLEY KIM FOR KIM DAWSON AGENCY, DALLAS. ZAC POSEN CAMELIA JACQUARD LAYERED GOWN \$5,755, AT SAKS FIFTH AVENUE, TOOTSIES. EUGENIA KIM CATERINA KITTY-CAT HAT \$288, AT LABORATORIA, NEIMAN MARCUS, SAKS FIFTH AVENUE. HAIR AND MAKEUP AL TIDWELL FOR KIM DAWSON AGENCY, DALLAS. SHOT AT THE DALLAS ARBORETUM AND BOTANICAL GARDEN.



Patricia Peckinpaugh Griffith wears a caftan by local designer Carla Christoph. The jewelry is her own.

# WANDERLUST

JEWELRY DESIGNER PATRICIA PECKINPAUGH GRIFFITH HAS LONG BEEN ENAMORED WITH TRAVEL, ADVENTURE AND THE FINE ART OF THE FLEA-MARKET FIND.

FRANCINE BALLARD STOWS AWAY. PHOTOGRAPHY JACK THOMPSON. PRODUCED BY JENNY ANTILL. HAIR BRYAN NGUYEN FOR CERON SALON. MAKEUP SERGIO ESCALONA.

A passport stamped with visits to Argentina, Chile, Hungary (Budapest), Italy (Milan, Lake Como) and Monaco (Monte Carlo) this year alone might belong to Athina Onassis, one of the Casiraghi clan or any of Europe's jet set. Yet, in fact, it belongs to Houston jewelry designer Patricia Peckinpaugh Griffith. Just back from yet another sojourn, she admits, "Venice . . . my first time there." We convene over lattes to chat about her most recent layover: a retail space on Westheimer to showcase her eponymous jewelry collection and precious collectibles.

Patricia Peckinpaugh Griffith began creating her beautifully handcrafted Old World-inspired jewelry cast in 18K gold and baño de oro (bronze bathed in 18K gold and sterling silver) mostly as a way to keep busy on month-long family vacations in San Miguel de Allende. She watched her fan base of Houston socials expand for more than a decade, via in-home trunk shows and small out-of-town boutiques, before finally embarking on a Houston command post. The Ethereal Room is more an elegant sitting room than a traditional retail environment and is shared with a friend, Minnie Baird, whose opulent, jewel-encrusted clutches and handbags perfectly complement Peckinpaugh Griffith's wares.

A fifth-generation Texan with deep Houston roots, Peckinpaugh Griffith calls her travels far and wide to source treasures for her home and store a labor of love. Here, a peek inside her *bella vida*.

## WHAT SPARKED YOUR LIFELONG LOVE AFFAIR WITH MEXICO?

Years after my father passed away, my mother was remarried, and we moved to Mexico City when I was 12. I loved it from the beginning and do to this day. Exploring my new city was like an incredible adventure. I now see why my mother was worried sick every time I left the house! My friends and I would leave early on a Saturday morning, take a cab to the amazing markets downtown and comb through them for hours. I am certain this is what sparked my love of unearthing unique treasures. We would end up in the Zona Rosa and buy wonderful silver jewelry and embroidered tops and not get home until dusk. I can't believe that at age 16, we were maneuvering around that vast city for hours and hours on end, and we never felt unsafe. We would sometimes go to San Miguel for the weekends. It was so mystical and beautiful. It was there that I took



In the library, one of a pair of five-foot-tall Art Deco blackmoor lamps from the Paris flea market. Assorted small paintings and antique maps arranged with family photos and books.

At the center of this seasonal Day of the Dead altar are a skeleton painting by John Alexander, a 17th-century madonna, carved gold-leafed hand by Mexican artist Pedro Friedeberg and treasured items from Mexico and beyond.

my initial jewelry classes at The Instituto, near where my workshop is today.

### HOW IS YOUR NEW STORE A REFLECTION OF YOU AND YOUR TRAVELS?

I'm obsessed with the gorgeous churches in Mexico, and that aesthetic is prevalent in my jewelry, my home and my life. I'm also rather crazy about religious art and anything gold-leafed — both of which can be found with great abundance in the places I like to visit. I rotate things in my home all the time so the store is a great way to enjoy pieces that I have no room for, such as the furniture presently in the shop: an English Chinoiserie secretary, an antique settee and chairs, the display table and sideboard. I have three storage units with things I've collected over the years.

### WHEN MORE IS MORE.

I love visiting someone's very minimalist home, but in my house I want the things I collect around me. This influence definitely comes from my aunt and godmother, Patty Hubbard; we both might have so many things on a cocktail table that it's hard to put a drink down. When I was a young girl, she gave me a little box and that started a lifelong box collection of all shapes and sizes and vintages. Nothing ever really remains in the same place for long. I love to move things around and create little vignettes.

### AND TWO OF ANYTHING IS EVEN BETTER.

If I see a pair of something — anything — they are likely to come home with me. Almost everything I own is in sets.

### FAVORITE ROOM IN THE HOUSE.

Our library. I feel sorry for my husband, Wilson. He is a voracious reader and wanted a true library to read in. You could not read a book in there if you tried. It's lacquered black and dimly lit. It evolved into a spot to sip a cocktail, and we have a large gate-leg oval table that opens to seat eight so most of our dinner parties are there. Everyone

loves to linger, so once you go in, you are not likely to come out until well past midnight! It houses antique Italian, Mexican and Spanish

Santos, reliquaries and tabernacles. And on the only available wall space, Wilson's collection of antique maps provide something to attempt to look at in the candlelight.

### "MY DOG AND I SHARE THE SAME TASTE..."

Two of my favorite pieces of furniture are a beautiful pair of settees from Babs Watkins. Sadly, one of the carved legs was also loved by my French bulldog pup, who chewed it almost completely off while we were in Paris last year. Thank heavens for an amazing furniture restorer I found. No one would ever know.

### ON WHAT MAKES A PARTY DIVINE.

A relaxed hostess is the key to a lovely evening. I tend to get nervous and need to take it less seriously. After going to someone's home and dining in a more formal way, I'm nervous that our style is not elegant enough at this stage in our lives. I need to get over that!

### ENTERTAINING AT HOME: THE INFINITE COCKTAIL HOUR.

Entertaining for us is super casual and usually consists of something grilled outside; lamb or venison from the ranch in the winter or salmon in the summer, along with my stuffed jalapenos. Wilson is the chef in the family. He comes from a long line of men who *love* to cook and do it very well, and I am so happy that our son seems to be keeping that family tradition going. The thing is, you probably won't eat until about 10, as the cocktail hour around here seems to go on and on.

### WEEKEND RESTORATIVE.

We are blessed to have two wonderful family spots: a ranch that was an old sugar plantation in West Columbia and a river house on the Guadalupe purchased by my great grandfather, Papa Blakely, in 1935. I just wish we could get to them more often. It seems travel to other spots and the busy pace of my life doesn't leave as much time for this as I would like.

### NEXT STOP.

In a perfect world I would love to have about four more Ethereal Rooms strategically opened in the cities I love: San Francisco, New York, Mexico City and Paris.

### TO LIVE BY.

"*Si, como no!*" That pretty much says it all!



Jewelry, clockwise from top: Fire opal, pearl and 18K gold Pamela crown ring, \$9,800.

Lizard cuff with labradorite, \$725.

18K gold and diamond celestial ring, \$10,600.

Brooch/pendant with smoky topaz briolettes, 18K gold and 18th-century lava stone, \$6,800.



In the entry of her home, chinoiserie chest from Lewis & Maese. Mirror frame from an old church. Treasured boxes and tea caddies.



Peckinpaugh Griffith uses this English chinoiserie secretary as a display case in her store.



In the family room, paintings by John Alexander and Frank Faulkner and a pair of 17th-century Italian reliquaries top the old family sideboard that once resided in her maternal grandparents' Park Avenue apartment in New York City. Large bird painting by an unknown Mexican artist.



Architect Bill Canady returned three years after the house was built to add the pool house, which serves as additional entertaining space.

"I'M OBSESSED WITH THE GORGEOUS CHURCHES IN MEXICO, AND THAT AESTHETIC IS PREVALENT IN MY JEWELRY, MY HOME AND MY LIFE."