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GENUINELY GORGEOUS

Local artists use faux finishes and other artsy techniques to bring real style to 805 homes.

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When you have a burning desire to recreate the Sistine Chapel in your foyer, then it's time to bring in the experts—the design experts, that is. There are many talented artists and designers who, through vision and a steady hand, can come to your house and work their magic. From faux finishes to wall murals to elaborate ceilings, if you can dream it up, chances are that one of these artists can make it happen.

Upgrades

Partners Alexis Baron and Jeff Hausz

THEIR WORK: We design surfaces for architecture using transparent films of color, textures, and decorative patterning, creating our clients' visions in color and design.

ABCS: Alexis: I worked on a John Saladino project 20 years ago and was inspired by the designer's use of glazing and color, which led me to form my own business. Jeff: I started my decorative painting business in

1987 after studying art and art history, drafting, photography, and ceramic glazes.

FAVORITE PROJECT: Our two most recent projects were homes in Santa Barbara. The owner of Villa Zefiro is a true patron of the arts and gave us full creative license. We put 23-karat gold leaf on a 15- by 20-foot ceiling in the theater, and are going to work on his castle in Newfound-land this summer. The other is Ca di Sopra. Again, the owner had no fear of color and a very creative vision. The ceiling in the master bedroom was extraordinary to design and execute.

GOING GREEN: We are very interested in green products and are experimenting with the new products that are environmentally friendly.

INSPIRATION: Daily sightings-the single autumn orange persimmon hanging in a gray wood, a pink camellia turning brown, petroleum spilled on chrome. We admire Jean-Michael Frank, Louis I. Kahn, Cormac McCarthy, Miles Davis, Henri Matisse, and Pierre Bonnard.

FAVORITE SOURCE FOR SUPPLIES: Frontier Paint & Wallcovering (in Ojai and Ventura) because Doug the owner is so interested in faux and personal service and carries Mohawk and other faux products, which no other paint store does. We love the artists' colors and artists' brushes at Art Essentials in Santa Barbara.

For more information about Baron Hausz, Inc. contact Jeff Hausz at 805-895-2988 or Alexis Baron at 805-452-1793, or visit www.baronhauszinc.com.



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→Upgrades

Nathalie Tierce



HER WORK: Old-world, traditional techniques and design infuse my own vision of what's tasteful and modern.

ABCS: I started at age 14 at the High School of Art and Design in NYC and went on to Pratt In-stitute (where I earned my BFA) and to L'Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

NOTABLE PROJECTS: Designing and painting historical and period pieces for the movie *The Avengers*, the BBC production of the play *Tom Jones* (not the singer!), and other feature films including *Prince Valiant* and *Gladiator* were great fun.

SPECIALTY: Designing murals and motifs that require research and a detailed understanding of my client's tastes.

MOST CHALLENGING PROJECT: Three months on a scaffold painting a very elaborate and detailed arts & crafts-style ceiling that I had designed. This was as satisfying artistically as it was technically challenging.

INSPIRATION: My garden, flea markets, farmers' markets, anywhere I can find a profusion of shape and color.



FAVORITE PLACE FOR IDEAS:

Books! Books! Books! Everything from literature (I'm cur-rently reading Proust's *Swann's Way* again) to any kind of art/architecture/design book.

FAVORITE SOURCE FOR SUP-

PLIES: Russell and Chapel, and Brodie & Middleton are both oldfashioned theatrical suppliers that sell artist's pigments by the pound in London. I lived in the UK for seven years and almost took them for granted, but when I visit they are the first places I go.

For more information contact Nathalie Tierce at 818-482-7046 or visit www.nathalietierce.com.

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Nancy A. Kintisch

HER WORK: If you could mix the client's desire, the house's desire, and my desire together what you would come up with is a delicious visual stew. I am a painter first and foremost and see my decorative work as a "background" in the painting of someone's life.

ABCS: I received my BFA in painting at Rhode Island School of Design and thought my life would be doing some job "to survive" and I'd come home to paint. After a series of secretarial/administrativetype jobs at which I was ultimately deemed "too iconoclastic," I was

offered a job as an assistant to a decorative painter. I didn't know anything about the world of decorative art as I was clearly living in a fine-art shell. Something clicked and I was off. Jobs came to me and I took them. My philosophy back then was "no job too small or too stupid"—it was all part of a paid education. I worked for low pay and I worked a lot as a result. It was an excellent education and I prospered.

FAVORITE PROJECT: All my jobs! Treasured relationships have developed as a result of my work and each client and house brings something new and exciting to the table and to my life. Working for Bette Midler was like going to a university of decorative art and professional ethics. She taught me that only the very best of what I've got is required.

FAVORITE TECHNIQUE: Pattern and stenciling. I paint murals, have a great knowledge of materials, and have a profound sense of color, but I seem to just "know" about pattern. I can look at any surface and know exactly what should be there. In fact, I have a textile company, which was born out of my desire to pattern surfaces other than walls.

INSPIRATION: All books, especially art books. And I google everything. All colors, especially or-anges and blue-greens. The smells of citrus blossoms, Nag Champa incense, sandalwood, roses, chicken soup, and fresh bread. And especially my daughter (she's 19) and music!

FAVORITE SOURCE FOR SUPPLIES: Dick Blick and Swain's, when they have their sale! Jill's Paint in Atwater Village (LA).

For more information contact Nancy Kintisch at Off-White Castle Studio, Inc.; call 323-663-3930 or visit www.offwhitecastle.com.

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Rachael Goddard

HER WORK: I specialize in elegant faux finishes such as painted wallpaper, glaze, faux stone, antiquing, and murals as well as interior design.

HER MISSION: To transform ordinary spaces into something spectacular. Every guest should walk in and say, "Wow! I LOVE this!"

ABCS: I studied at Otis Art Institute of Parsons School of Design, but my main



training came from a wonderful mentor named Laurie Steinfeld who took me under her wing over a five-year period and trained me to do commercial and residential faux finishes and murals.

FAVORITE PROJECT: I worked on a mural for *ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* for a little girl who had cancer and her room needed cheering up. Every stroke of the brush was filled with hope and love. It was my most artistically profound and rewarding experience.

FAVORITE TECHNIQUE: Creating painted wallpaper with stencils. It is a fabulous tool for making a statement that can be traditional or modern, subtle or bold.

MOST CHALLENGING PROJECT: Barbra Streisand collects miniatures. I was commissioned to do a miniature portrait of Barbra that would be over the fireplace in one of her miniature homes for her birthday. I had to find magnifying glasses, miniature brushes, a miniature easel, even a miniature antique frame.

MOST SATISFYING PROJECT: I was on an extension ladder, hovering over the second floor railing, aging a banister in a client's foyer when their little boy told me that he was going to go down-stairs and knock my ladder over because it would kill me! I had to work for two more days with that kid in the house. The most satisfying part was leaving there alive!

INSPIRATION: My inspiration is always the house itself. I intrinsically see exactly what is missing and what needs to be done. The movement, the texture, the mural, the stripe size, the color scheme—these are the key ingredients that go into one big recipe that will create a fabulous space.

FAVORITE PLACE FOR IDEAS: High-end furniture stores and Australian design magazines. My two favorites are William-Sonoma Home in West Hollywood and St. Barths Home on Montana Avenue in Santa Monica. I also *adore* Australian decorating magazines and get a lot of inspiration from them. I lived there for three years and am addicted. I spend a fortune on import subscriptions and cannot live without *Belle, Vogue Living,* and *Home Beautiful*—every time one comes in the mail it's like a gift has arrived.

FAVORITE SOURCE FOR SUPPLIES: Dunn-Edwards.

For more information contact Rachael Goddard at Paint/Design/Décor, Inc.; call 310-770-1566 or visit www.paintdesigndecor.com.



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