



# ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Photographic artist Deborah Paauwe has fashioned a functional home by mixing contemporary art with vintage style

OPPOSITE: Mark Kimber's photographic work *Truck Stop* takes pride of place above a rosewood Omann Jun sideboard in the living room.

words sky harrison photography james knowler styling nichole palyga



“We look for pieces we don’t have to be precious about... neither of us wanted to end up with rooms that are just for show”

From the Bill Henson in the hallway to the miniature landscape from art and craft website Etsy.com in the dining room, the home of photographers Deborah Paauwe and Mark Kimber showcases the art they love. “We’re lucky that we’ve been able to swap with other artists, but we also buy from galleries,” Deborah says. “We like to buy work by other photographic visual artists. It’s nice to support other artists and I personally get more pleasure out of living with other people’s work than my own.”

Deborah’s work is known for its evocative images of girls in vintage dresses, often against swirling fabric backdrops. But you won’t find much of her work on display in the home the couple shares with their six-year-old son Dash.

What you will find are works by Noel McKenna, Fiona Hall, Louise Hearman and a host of others.

“We’re not art snobs, we’ve picked up some fantastic pieces from student shows; the Etsy find was a present for Mark and it’s become one of our favourites.”

The pair bought their 1960s Glen Osmond home in 2004, after a two-year search. Typical of the era, it has a wide hallway across the front leading to a lounge and dining room in one direction, and to a smaller hallway connecting the study, bedrooms and bathroom with a large family room in the other.

The couple fell in love with the light-filled, spacious rooms and the meandering layout. Fortunately for them, their competition for the house wanted to tear it down, and their offer was accepted.

“We wanted it for what it was and it was very important to the family that they sell it to someone who would preserve it,” says Deborah. “It holds special memories for them.”

True to their word, the couple has made few changes, apart from removing wallpaper and thick carpets, painting the walls white and polishing the floorboards. Even the large bathroom is in original condition, with soft-pink and grey tiles, a pink bathtub and wall-length vanity.

The pair has also been faithful to the era when decorating, choosing mid-20th century, Danish-style pieces such as a Shaker table by Børge Mogensen in the dining room and a range of vintage sideboards, including one bought from department store Myer in the hallway, mixed with classics such as a Marcel Breuer ‘Wassily’ chair, comfortable leather sofas in the living room and a Louis Poulsen light fitting. In the study, a mid-century, extendable dining table with handy cutlery drawers is used as a desk.

“When it comes to furniture, Mark and I agree on pretty much everything. We look for pieces that we don’t have to be precious about,” says Deborah. “We like to use everything that we have and not have to bring things out for special occasions. Every part of the house is to be lived in, neither of us wanted to end up with rooms that are just for show.”

This is why her home is beautifully dressed, while still functional. Whether it be a student or well-known artist’s work, collectible or bargain sideboard, designer or classically comfy couch, every object has earned its place. The pieces have been found at stores such as Danish Vintage Modern, Mid Century Modern and auction houses. Many of the objects have come from their overseas travels, such as the George Nelson ‘Ball Clock’, which they bought on Kings Road in London. “Being the sort of object that we look at every day, it’s a constant reminder of London.”

At the time, Deborah was working at famous vintage clothing store Steinberg & Tolkien (several vintage brooches from the store sit on her dresser). It was a time that further fuelled her love of



OPPOSITE: Deborah Paauwe’s *Double Tresses* is surrounded by works by Noel McKenna, Neil Thwaite and Mary-Jean Richardson. Isamu Noguchi coffee table from Space Furniture and a Marcel Breuer ‘Wassily’ chair. ABOVE: A painting from Anne Ferran’s *Scenes on the Death of Nature* series hangs in the dining room with a Børge Mogensen ‘Shaker’ table, vintage chairs and sideboard, all from Danish Vintage Modern. BELOW: Works by Fiona Hall, Pat Brassington and Peter Brew-Bevan frame the servery window.



## SPACE MID-CENTURY MODERN

In the hallway, the honey tones of the polished floor are picked up by *Big Silence 1* by Annie Hogan and a '60s sideboard from Myer. Soholm Pottery sits on the sideboard, beneath a George Nelson 'Bubble Lamp'. A work from Bill Henson's *Untitled* (1985-86) series hangs in the adjoining hallway.

vintage fashion, which she has been collecting since the '80s.

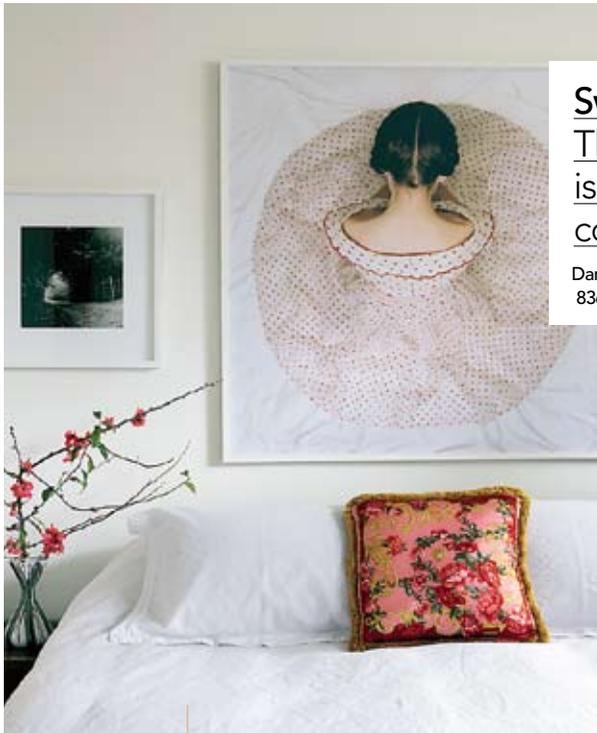
"I began by wanting to create a collection of dresses that could have been my mother's," says Deborah, who has also worked in the fashion industry. Her work has included a portrait of Sass & Bide's Sarah-Jane Clarke and Heidi Middleton for the National Portrait Gallery, images for designer Josh Goot, labels Hugo Boss and Hermès, and for *Marie Claire* and *Art and Australia* magazine's Red Dress campaign.

Since Dash was born, though, Deborah has been more likely to be found working at home, using her house as a studio – the curtains in the living room form the backdrop to her photographic series *The Crying Room* (2006).

"I like to work in a flexible way, a studio doesn't have to be a fixed space," she says. "I like that, with just my camera, some backdrops and dresses, I can create a body of work. Especially since having a child, it's important that my home allows me space to work as well as relax." ❁

For more information on Deborah Paaue visit [deborahpaaue.com](http://deborahpaaue.com).

● **TREND:** dressing up a '60s home



**artworks**

In the bedroom, Deborah's *Distant Whirl* makes an immediate impression. Buying artwork need not be intimidating, says Deborah. "It's OK to go into a gallery and say, 'This is my budget, what can you show me?'" She also suggests visiting student shows. Above all, Deborah says, make sure you love whatever you buy.



Cobalt blue bottles by Otto Brauer for Holmegaard, from Mid Century Modern.

**Switched on**  
The Louis Poulsen 'PH' lamp is a Danish classic and comes in a range of colours.

Danish Vintage Modern, 148 Magill Rd, Norwood, 8363 7086 [danishvintagemodern.com.au](http://danishvintagemodern.com.au).

**the owners** Deborah Paauwe and Mark Kimber respected the era of their home.



**DEBORAH & MARK'S LOOK**

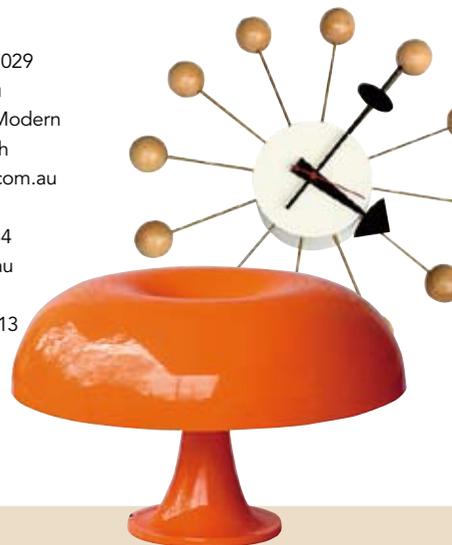


**original features**

Deborah and Mark set off their '60s bathroom with a chair from Khai Liew Design. Yoshitomo Nara *Little Wanderer* and *Pup Cup* figurines sit in the corner (for similar, try Greenaway Art Gallery).

**stockists**

Artemide 8362 3029 [artemide.com.au](http://artemide.com.au)  
Danish Vintage Modern 8363 7086 [danishvintagemodern.com.au](http://danishvintagemodern.com.au)  
Greenaway Art Gallery 8362 6354 [greenaway.com.au](http://greenaway.com.au)  
Mid Century Modern 8363 3413 [midcenturymodern.com.au](http://midcenturymodern.com.au)



**collectors' pieces**

'Nessino' lamp by Giancarlo Mattioli at Artemide, 8362 3029. George Nelson 'Ball Clock' by Vitra (for similar try [mattblatt.com.au](http://mattblatt.com.au)).