

MOODBOARD



"BLACK AND WHITE ALWAYS LOOKS MODERN, WHATEVER THAT WORD MEANS."

KARL LAGERFELD



"MODERN MEDICINE, FOR ALL ITS ADVANCES, KNOWS LESS THAN TEN PER CENT OF WHAT YOUR BODY KNOWS INSTINCTIVELY."

DEEPAK CHOPRA



I'm saving for Achille Salvagni's monumentally modern Spider chandelier, available through Maison Gerard, 43 & 53 East Tenth Street, New York; www.maison Gerard.com.



"TO EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED SHOWS A THOROUGHLY MODERN INTELLECT."

OSCAR WILDE



I'm mounting a Breon Dunigan faux trophy head made of repurposed furniture, because modern life's a big game! www.galleryschoolhouse.com

THIS MONTH THE MOOD IS:

MODERN

SUSAN ZELOUF looks backwards to move forwards

A gallerist friend in her late seventies curates her Facebook wall as artfully as she once pulled together pieces for career-defining exhibitions. Despite her advanced age, she remains relevant, her eye fresh, her choices insightful, and I continue to look to her as a tastemaker, at the vanguard of what's cool, cutting edge. During a recent trip to **NEW YORK**, a city that is all about what is or will be important, I wondered what it means to be current, on trend, **MODERN**.

It wasn't just the food at the swanky Brooklyn Diner on 57th Street that stunned. We gorged on classic retro fare like **CHICKEN POT PIE** (before portion control entered the lexicon) and a Lemon Meringue with altitudinous peaks so lofty you'd lose a fork in it, accompanied by a playlist featuring jazz greats such as Ella shuffled with Adele. *The Great American Songbook* sparkled, the lyrics germane, Fitzgerald's phrasing felt effortless and playful, while Adele seemed to work too hard. When the late Blossom Dearie fake scats her way through Dave Frishberg's *I'm Hip*, a savvy lampoon of 1960s hipsters, it's right on the money, and might've been recorded today. Dinah Washington's heyday was the 1950s; still, her sound hasn't dated like so many of last week's pop acts.

At Maison Gerard on East 10th Street, antiquarian **BENOIST DRUT** sells 20th-century decorative art, like delicate *verre églomisé* panels from the famed 1930s ocean liner SS Normandie, alongside contemporary pieces like Achille Salvagni's monolithic cast bronze and onyx Spider chandelier. Drut is only interested in showing **WHAT PLEASES HIM**, rather than what the market deems stylish: "If you follow the trend, you'll always be too late."

At the *Architectural Digest* Home Design show, there was no shortage of new products vying for a spot on potential clients' wish lists. What struck me was

that the shortlist I compiled is composed of things grounded in a kind of classicism, made with organic materials, using techniques relying on hand work, poetic and useful pieces effortlessly earning their place in any modern

16 | May 2015 | THE GLOSS MAGAZINE

home, including French manufacturer Pyrolave's warm and lustrous glazed Volvic lava stone sinks, The Lacquer Company's traditionally made black lacquer trays with polished brass inlay, and ceramicist Daniel Levy's quietly confident Inca dinnerware, the rims a delicate bleed of silver glaze against milky porcelain. I spoke with Mike Carroll of The Schoolhouse Gallery in Cape Cod, stopped in my tracks by sculptor Breon Dunigan's Trophy Heads, witty **FAUX TAXIDERMY** made from vintage upholstery fabric and repurposed chair legs. "What makes a thing modern is something new suddenly appearing in something familiar. These upholstered animal heads offer a moment of delight and surprise by occupying traditional forms in new and surprising ways."

For the last 40 years, in SoHo on West Broadway, **LUXOR TAVELLA**, above left, has filled her store Paracelso with clothes and accessories she dubs "Beyond the Expected", much like Luxor herself, her eyebrows a slash of cerulean against geisha-white rice powder foundation. Top NY stylists trawl the store for goodies. She might be in her eighties, but Luxor remains relevant in the notoriously capricious mondo of fashion.

The word modern means of or relating to the present time. Being present is easier said than done – the practice of mindfulness is described as the gentle, active and open effort to live in the here and now. Mike Carroll described his

own architect-conceived home as a place "with nowhere to hide from the Now." Not quite the refuge most of us long for, but it's an interesting choice – an environment designed to keep its inhabitants modern, present, **RELEVANT**. If we manage to live in the eternal, fleeting moment, then who we are would be truly modern, our choices a reflection of what is essential, pertinent, timely. I feel a very **MODERN MAY** coming on. But I'm still on the fence about palazzo pants. ^

THIS MONTH'S MOODBOARD

I'M INSPIRED BY Luxor

Tavella's **(1)** sartorial treasure trove, a SoHo institution. Discover a cutting-edge piece at Paracelso, 414 West Broadway, New York...

I'M DINING ON Daniel

Levy's handmade porcelain **(2)**, because we eat with our eyes first. [www. daniellevyporcelain.com](http://www.daniellevyporcelain.com)

...

I'M SWINGING WITH

Ella through the Great American Songbook

(3), a collection of tunes that remain fresh, over half a century on. Listen at www.last.fm ... I'M

CUSHIONING modern existence with a Lance Wovens Watercolor throw pillow in finely plaited ivory leather **(4)**. To order at www.lancewovens.com ... I'M SERVING

COCKTAILS ON The

Lacquer Company's sober black lacquer and brass tray**(5)**, at [www. flairhomecollection.com](http://www.flairhomecollection.com), and at their snazzy New York showroom on Grand Street.