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Heirlooms of Tomorrow: Ten Contemporary Designers to Collect Today

by Mieke ten Have



LAURE AND AURÉLIE HUG
COMBRAY



Laure Hug and Aurélie Hug, Combray

Paris-raised sisters **Laure Hug** and **Aurélie Hug** have had a lifelong interest in textiles, though experimented with their shared passion in different contexts. After relocating to New York, Aurélie got her feet wet in the design world working for famed decorator **Muriel Brandolini**, while Laure, after working in the textile department at the Cooper-Hewitt, became a movie set designer. Their strengths in different experiences translated “naturally into a desire to work together.” The pair opened Brooklyn-based Combray in 2012, devoted to custom, hand-embroidered textiles for highly specialized interior design projects, whether it be fabric-covered walls or appliqué upholstery pieces. Stylistically, Combray ranges from modern geometry to richly archival, displaying the sisters’ deep knowledge of centuries-old French documents.

Photos: Courtesy of Combray

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The collective desire to invest in local, homegrown, handmade products—from food to fashion and everything in between—has not been lost on the American-design scene. The trend of populating one’s home with inexpensive, cheaply made furniture (otherwise known as space filling) has become less appealing as more and more of us are investing in design with integrity—or simply put, pieces that will live beyond us. The result has been a rejuvenation of young talent in a variety of iterations—woodworkers, glassblowers, and lighting designers (to name but a few) are building thriving businesses from coast to coast. Most importantly, perhaps, they are reviving and maintaining centuries-old crafts with an irreplaceable savoir faire. As the 29-year-old New York-based designer Anna Karlin puts it, “If we don’t nurture what we have, it is going to die out. We cannot let this happen!”

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