

## Erica Islas

### Which artists do you admire and why?

I LOVE surrealist artists; I am drawn to the play on reality and the dreamlike state. I like the feeling that the art evokes. It's thought provoking and it stays with me long after I have experienced the piece. René Magritte has always been a favorite, among many others of the time.

### Whose work is in your personal art collection?

Stanley Casselman, Robert Palacios, Mark Hopley and Shag.

### When should art be introduced into a design project, ideally?

For me, it can be an inspirational piece that guides the space being designed or it can be the last piece introduced that defines the space—similar to the perfect piece of jewelry.

### What kind of art are your clients interested in collecting right now?

Mostly contemporary fine art, whether it be from decades past or current. My clients collect both traditional and contemporary paintings, however, including sculpture and photography. I am always looking for art that tells a story.

### Why is the voice of the artist so important?

The voice of the artist provides the freedom to imagine, create, experience and connect with one another. Art is a form of human connection—visual communication through art evokes emotion and connects people.

### Does art need design, or vice versa?

In my opinion, design needs art. Art can stand on its own. Art comes from within; it is more fluid and intuitive. Art is thought provoking and evokes emotion, whereas design is solution-based, following disciplines and processes to create functional working spaces. Both create visual experiences, and both are important to each other, but in order for design to be great it should be creative and infused with art—leaving an impressionable and memorable experience.





Sunrises and sunsets have awed humanity for centuries and evaded smartphone cameras for almost as long. Artist Jeremy Maxwell Wintrebert has distilled the beauty of the horizon and those changing skies via his *Pilule Feu* pendant lights. From Paris, JMW Studio artisans employ the complex *incalmo* technique by which two separate pieces of glass are blown and fused together at high heat. Glass is a temporal, unpredictable art form yet Wintrebert dazzles with his modern freehand, mouth-blown glass and brass creations. Also available in clear at Holly Hunt. [hollyhunt.com](http://hollyhunt.com)



"Chaos was definitely fun to see come to life," reveals Los Angeles interior designer Erica Islas. "The visual movement in the rug and textural aspect of the rug is spot on. When you look at it in person, people want to physically touch it and feel the difference in the fibers." Her collection for beloved rug purveyor Mehraban is poetic, rousing and begging to be touched. Crafted from wool and silk, Chaos features a multi-pile technique which lends contrast and vitality—both good for the senses. [mehraban.com](http://mehraban.com)