

THE WORLD OF INTERIORS

MAY 2024 £5.99





Bouff Woof

'Let them tuft rugs,' a modern-day Marie Antoinette might have said of those complaining of boredom during the Covid pandemic. And yet the various lockdowns saw a remarkable craft renaissance. From knitting to crochet, neglected or out-of-favour pursuits were picked up with vigour by people keen to connect with similar enthusiasts online. One such was Austin-based artist Tuck Rayl, who creates 'fibre paintings' using nothing more than a tufting gun, yarn and electric sheep shears. Appropriately, his work explores the absurdity arising from juxtaposing the natural and man-made, a theme much picked over during that forced isolation. Thus, a majestic borzoi, coiffed like that ill-fated queen of France, speaks to our surreal times. Rayl's rugs of dogs in wigs testify to a fresh engagement with an old métier and will be displayed at the Other Art Fair Brooklyn, 16–19 May. *Vive la révolution artisanale!* Shown, above: 'Borzoi in Marie-Antoinette Wig', \$280. Visit yuckplanet.com

Seat of Power

Ends anticipate beginnings, and beginnings anticipate ends. When Zeev Aram opened his eponymous furniture store in London in 1964, the first piece he sold was one of Marcel Breuer's 'Wassily' chairs. He could not have foreseen that his business would, over the next 60 years, establish itself as one of the definitive destinations for Modern and contemporary design. Nor that the chair would remain so popular. Now, to mark its anniversary, Aram is collaborating with Knoll to reissue the Bauhaus classic in black canvas. Having shut the gallery at the Covent Garden store in 2021 following Zeev's death, it is also opening a new display space. Shown, below: 'Wassily', £2,200. Visit aram.com

Emigré's Anatomy

Sallying forth on what he calls the 'hippy trail' out of his native New Zealand, in 1971 interior decorator Veere Grenney travelled by land to London. But pilgrimage is perhaps a better word: for a



man who once aspired to join the priesthood, the pursuit of beauty takes on a quasi-spiritual dimension. Instead of taking the cloth, he zealously grasped upholstery fabric, wallpapers

and paints. *Veere Grenney: Seeking Beauty* (Vendome, rrp £65) bears witness to the results: here are his own houses, which 'most eloquently tell the story of who I am'. The decorating influences he first discovered in magazines back in Auckland appear throughout. There's the Temple, the Neoclassical lodge rediscovered in 1955 by his hero, David Hicks; his Chelsea flat, Chesil Court, with its nods to Billy Baldwin; and Gazebo, his sprawling pile in Tangier (above), with its touches of John Fowler and Nancy Lancaster. The end of pilgrimage is apotheosis: the fulfilment of a life animated by 'the complete desire for beauty'. Visit vendomepress.com ®

