

SCENE

WRITTEN BY CHRISTINE DEORIO | PRODUCED BY CLÉMENCE SFADJ



ON VIEW

**“BREAKTHROUGHS:
A CELEBRATION OF
REDLINE AT 15”**

Since its opening 15 years ago, Denver’s RedLine Contemporary Art Center has been offering a residency program that’s supported the careers of more than 120 artists in Colorado. Through May 28, a collaborative show at The Museum of Contemporary Art Denver spotlights this commitment to the local scene and the current creative practices of the creators it has benefited. Titled “Breakthroughs: A Celebration of RedLine at 15,” the juried group exhibition showcases artworks ranging from multisensory, mixed-media installations to works on paper—all made within the past two years by RedLine’s resident artist alumni and past Resource Artist Program participants—most on display in Denver for the very first time. mcadenver.org

ONE TO WATCH

KEVIN ANDERSON DESIGNS

From dining sets to rocking chairs to coffee tables and closets, Lakewood-based furniture designer Kevin Anderson can make almost anything with wood. With a line of favorite designs launching soon, his practice reflects a full-fledged passion for creating functional, handmade fine art. Here, Anderson shares his unique voice. kevinandersondesigns.com

Why is wood your preferred medium? The tactile nature of hardwood and its flexibility to be manipulated in a multitude of ways make it the perfect material for an always evolving creative process. Large amounts

can be removed quickly with power tools, while finer details can be easily sculpted by hand.

How would you describe your style?

Something like “Danish modern meets contemporary minimalist,” but a better descriptor is simply *functional*. Every detail exists for a reason. Nothing is superfluous. How the piece is made informs those details, and each of them is grounded in the construction methods.

What makes your designs and execution unique?

How personal it is. This is my passion, my art and my craft. Every commission is an opportunity to grow as an artisan and designer. I’m on a journey to achieve perfection, and I love and embrace the fact that the last piece I ever make in my lifetime will be the closest I get to achieving it.



ONE TO WATCH PHOTOS: KEVIN ANDERSON. ON VIEW: MARSHA MACK, *PARADISE FOUND*, 2020, GLAZED CERAMIC, MIXED MEDIA, 15.5 X 9.5 X 7.5 INCHES, COURTESY THE ARTIST, PHOTO COURTESY MATTHEW PEVER.



DATEBOOK

FORT COLLINS WITH ANNIE AND JORDAN OBERMANN

Since launching Forge & Bow Dwellings in 2016, husband-and-wife Jordan and Annie Obermann have been thoughtfully renovating Fort Collins' historic homes and replacing unsalvageable abodes with new builds that respect the character of their surroundings. "Our aim is to be timeless," Annie says. Who better then to take us on a tour of Fort Collins' design destinations, classic and new? forgeandbow.com

10 a.m. We like to start the day at Mugs, our favorite breakfast spot just steps away from the office. This café has an eclectic feel thanks to the old building's high ceilings, big corner window and brick walls.

11 a.m. For great architecture, head west up Mountain Avenue, where you'll pass a wide variety of beautiful old homes, from the 1879 Avery House, which you can tour, to the 1904 Edwards House. From May through September, you can even peep them from a restored historic trolley ride.

1 p.m. Go to Old Town and browse the shops along College Avenue, making sure to stop at The Cupboard for cooking tools, tableware, small home decor and delicious foods from pastas and olive oils to handmade chocolates and vintage candy.

2 p.m. Head to Antique Row and browse our favorite troves: A&J Antique Mall for verified antiques, including substantial furniture pieces, Front Range Antique Mall for accessories and treasures, and Vintage Marketplace, which has amazing retro tableware from the 1940s through the '70s.

3 p.m. Take an ice cream break at Union Bar & Soda Fountain (bottom right). The playful eatery's architecture and interior design, created by local firm VFLA Architecture + Interiors, merges modern furnishings with traditional details inspired by the neighboring historic Union Pacific railroad station.

4 p.m. Hop in the car and head to the Fort Collins outpost of beloved Colorado furniture store HW Home (right, middle), where you can shop a globally sourced collection of unique pieces that you won't see in your neighbors' homes.

7 p.m. We love to sip wine while watching the sun sink behind the mountains at the Elizabeth Hotel. And if you're looking to stay the night in a historic property, head over to the Armstrong Hotel (top right), whose recently renovated rooms make it a perfect spot in the heart of town.



PHOTOS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: TIM O'HARA, CLAYTON JENKINS PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY THE ARMSTRONG HOTEL, SARAH FORD PHOTOGRAPHY, PHOCO.



MEET THE MAKER

MICHELLE WEDDLE

The ribbon-like swaths of color laid on canvas by Denver-based painter Michelle Weddle are deceptively simple. At first glance, one might see rapidly laid, intuitive brushstrokes surrounded by a composition of thicker paint; “a balance between soothing calm and playful dynamism—a quality that’s central to my own character,” the artist says. But for Weddle, whose work has been exhibited at various galleries throughout the years, the process of reducing complex compositions to a few striking gestures is a methodical and intentional one. “Filling in the surrounding surface area with shapes composed of thicker paint creates the illusion that the first-laid brushstrokes have wiped away the second layer of paint,” she explains of her practice inspired by the seductive allure of optical illusions. “At a distance, the dominant, semitransparent strokes appear dimensional, while the surrounding fields of color seem flat.” Upon closer inspection, however, the opposite is true. “The large brushstrokes are flat, while the color fields are thick with tangible dimension, creating visual irony in the work”—and a reason why collectors around the country are craving another look. michelleweddle.com



TALKING SHOP

JULIE KAY DESIGN STUDIO + STOREFRONT



Amid the restaurants, fitness studios and shops that populate a strip mall near the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, a bright light beams out from the local design scene. Founded by designer Julie Riggins in 2022, the Julie Kay Design Studio + Storefront is equal parts interior design firm HQ and decor showroom. At the fore of the sunlit space, a curated mix of texture-rich furnishings and accessories is

arranged in inviting vignettes. Rugs, local artwork and shelves of plush pillows line the walls. At the back, there’s a full design resource library, where shoppers taken with Riggins’s fresh, approachable style can enlist her help selecting everything from wallpaper to fabric to tile. “We’ll go all in with you,” Riggins says of her team’s hands-on approach. “If you’re looking to decorate a mantel, we’ll clear a space and do the styling on the spot.” It’s little wonder then that casual forays into this new destination often leads to full room—and even home—transformations. juliekaydesignstudio.com



TALKING SHOP PHOTOS: MARGARETT HANSEN PHOTOGRAPHY; MEET THE MAKER PHOTO: WES MAGYAR.