

TEXTURAL TOUCH

TEXTILE ARTIST **JANELLE PIETRZAK** JOINS FORCES WITH WELDER **ROBERT DOUGHERTY** TO PRODUCE ONE-OF-A-KIND HOME GOODS UNDER CREATIVE COLLECTIVE **ALL ROADS**. THE PAIR RECENTLY MOVED TO JOSHUA TREE, SO WE CHATTED WITH PIETRZAK TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEIR WORK.

INTERVIEW BY **KRISTIN SCHARKEY**

HOW HAS THE DESERT INFLUENCED YOUR WORK?

I do wall hangings and things for hotels and private residences, but I also license my work to Anthropologie for a home textiles collection. We've been doing that for a few years now. Last year (the collection launched this summer but we designed it last year), me and the team there came to the desert in March, so everything was blooming. We based the whole textile collection off the colors of the plants and the sunset. That was super direct, like "Let's look at the desert and design something from it." But it's usually not so obvious. It's more of me just observing.

DO YOU USE SPECIFIC MATERIALS OFTEN?

I do gravitate toward certain materials like hemp and rope but it's also how I combine them. So, I'm rarely using one type of yarn. I might be putting five different types of yarn together to create, essentially, a new yarn. I think it's like mixing paint colors. It's not just red from the tube, it's red and another color. How do I manipulate the fibers after observing my environment?

DIMENSION IS VERY PRESENT IN YOUR PIECES.

I'm attracted to contrast. So, a smooth texture versus textural loops, or a rustic texture versus shiny or brass or ceramic. I like the contrast of a high-low. And that could just be on the surface, I don't mean actually 3-D but maybe a sophisticated yarn versus a hemp fiber that I get that smells like the farm that it was processed at.

WHAT'S THE DYNAMIC BETWEEN YOU AND ROBERT?

We challenge each other all the time. We both have very different approaches to solve problems. He is completely hands-on and he's



Janelle Pietrzak and Robert Dougherty at his studio in Yucca Valley, with unfinished metal chandeliers, Pietrzak's textile works and a van that Dougherty is transforming into a truck.

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not really going to sketch something, he's just going to work out the problems while he makes it. I'm more of a planner because I worked in the fashion industry for 10 years, so that's just how I've been trained to work. I think it works really well together because we both have different experiences. The results are something that neither of us could have achieved on our own.

WHAT'S YOUR VISION FOR ALL ROADS?

We've been talking about doing some furniture pieces and maybe some lighting. We just haven't gotten to it yet, but we've sketched some ideas.

YOU'VE POSTED ON INSTAGRAM ABOUT YOUR OWN WORK BEING COPIED. IN THIS AGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA, HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL?

That's hard. It's so frustrating. It's not imitation is the highest form of flattery. That's not an excuse. A lot of people say that to

me, but it doesn't make me feel good when people copy my work because it's my livelihood. The one positive side about the copies or people being heavily inspired is it does push me, like I have to keep moving forward. I have to keep pushing my work to stay relevant or ahead.

DO YOU EVER GET BURNT OUT?

Yeah. I was feeling really burnt out and that's why I started taking ceramics a few years ago because I needed to think differently and not think about weaving. And that was good, it helped. It was really humbling. Textiles and handwork takes a lot of patience and labor, but ceramics takes a different kind of patience that I just don't have. But I'm really excited to be out here because I think my lifestyle is going to change and the quality of life. Already, Robert and I have been really intentional. We take a walk every morning and we take a walk every evening, and we try to enjoy nature because we're here and that's why we moved here. That really helps a lot with turning off work. 🌱





HIGH-LOW Style

CHECK OUT SOME OF OUR FAVORITE **ALL ROADS** PIECES DESIGNED BY TEXTILE ARTIST **JANELLE PIETRZAK**, AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL ANTHROPOLOGIE. WARNING: YOU'LL PROBABLY WANT TO BUY THEM ALL.

1 | What's not to love about the **TUFTED DESERT THROW**, which runs 60 inches long, \$148?

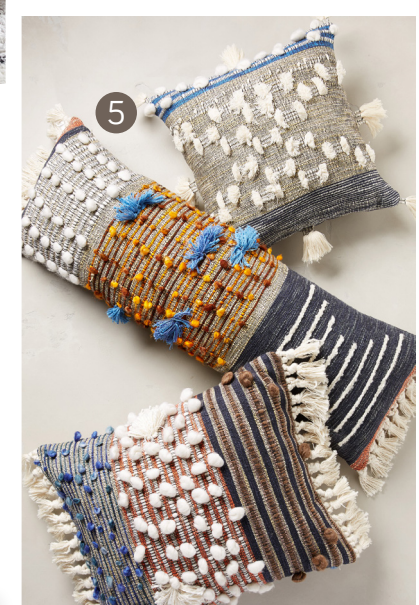
2 | Slip beneath the sky-blue **WOVEN SOLSTICE DUVET COVER**, featuring embroidered cotton, \$248-\$288.

3 | Snuggle up in a **COLLAGED MAJIDA THROW BLANKET**, made with handwoven cotton and wool, \$148.

4 | The palette in the **WOVEN SUNSET EURO SHAM** reminds us of a Joshua Tree sky at dusk, \$58.

5 | Pair pretty patterns with a trio of **COLLAGED MAJIDA PILLOWS**, which sit perfectly on a neutral bed spread or brown leather couch, \$88-\$98.

6 | The **MARISOL FLOOR PILLOW** features fun tassels and bold stripes, \$168. 🌱



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