# Art Meets Design

## New at Groundworks

# Hunt Slonem

## FABRIC, WALLPAPER & CARPET








# FRITILLERY



# Hunt Slonem



Hunt Slonem is an American painter, sculptor, and printmaker best known for his Neo-Expressionist paintings of tropical birds and exotic butterflies, painted in a style he describes as “exotica.” Slonem has traveled all over the world, but it was a childhood spent in Hawaii and a year studying in Nicaragua that has had the most profound impact on his life’s work, exposing him to new plant and animal species as well as a heightened awareness of cultural norms and spirituality. Though he has not been back to Nicaragua since his visit as a teenager, his memories are as vivid as if he’d just stepped off the airplane. The color combinations and wildlife he encountered there inspire him to this day.

Slonem’s New York City loft as well as his art studio function as walk-in aviaries, and house his extensive collection of antique sculptures and Neo Gothic furniture. The environments he creates have become as important as the works themselves, as he is constantly surrounded by the world he seeks to recreate through his paintings. He spends a week every month at his other homes, two historic Louisiana plantations, Albania and Lakeside, as well as a mansion in upstate New York. All of his homes are decorated with period antique furniture, collectibles and sculpture, as well as his own work.

Today, the motifs he explored in his early works have been reduced to their essence and have become recurring themes: birds, butterflies, bunnies and portraits. To Slonem, repetition is divinity. Just like the act of repeating a phrase creates a mantra, the object is elevated and the act of repeating these forms becomes an act of worship. The process of painting is sacred to Slonem, and as a result, his body of work represents so much more than what’s painted on the canvas.

Slonem’s empathy for, and connection to biodiversity in all of its forms, as well as the spiritual connection to the concept of metamorphosis, led him to include the butterfly as one of the recurring themes in his work. Appearing in a range of color-saturated palettes, the paintings in this series feature butterflies in multiples, reinforcing the theme of repetition as meditation and mantra.

His paintings are layered with thick brushstrokes of vivid color, and are often cut into in a cross-hatched pattern to add texture to the overall surface of the painting. This technique of painting wet onto wet, then layering the crosshatched pattern, mimics the effect of viewing the subjects through a cage, as he often does when he paints. It also reveals colors buried below the top layer of paint, adding dimension and light that reveals itself to the viewer and enhances the bright bold colors he employs in his paintings.

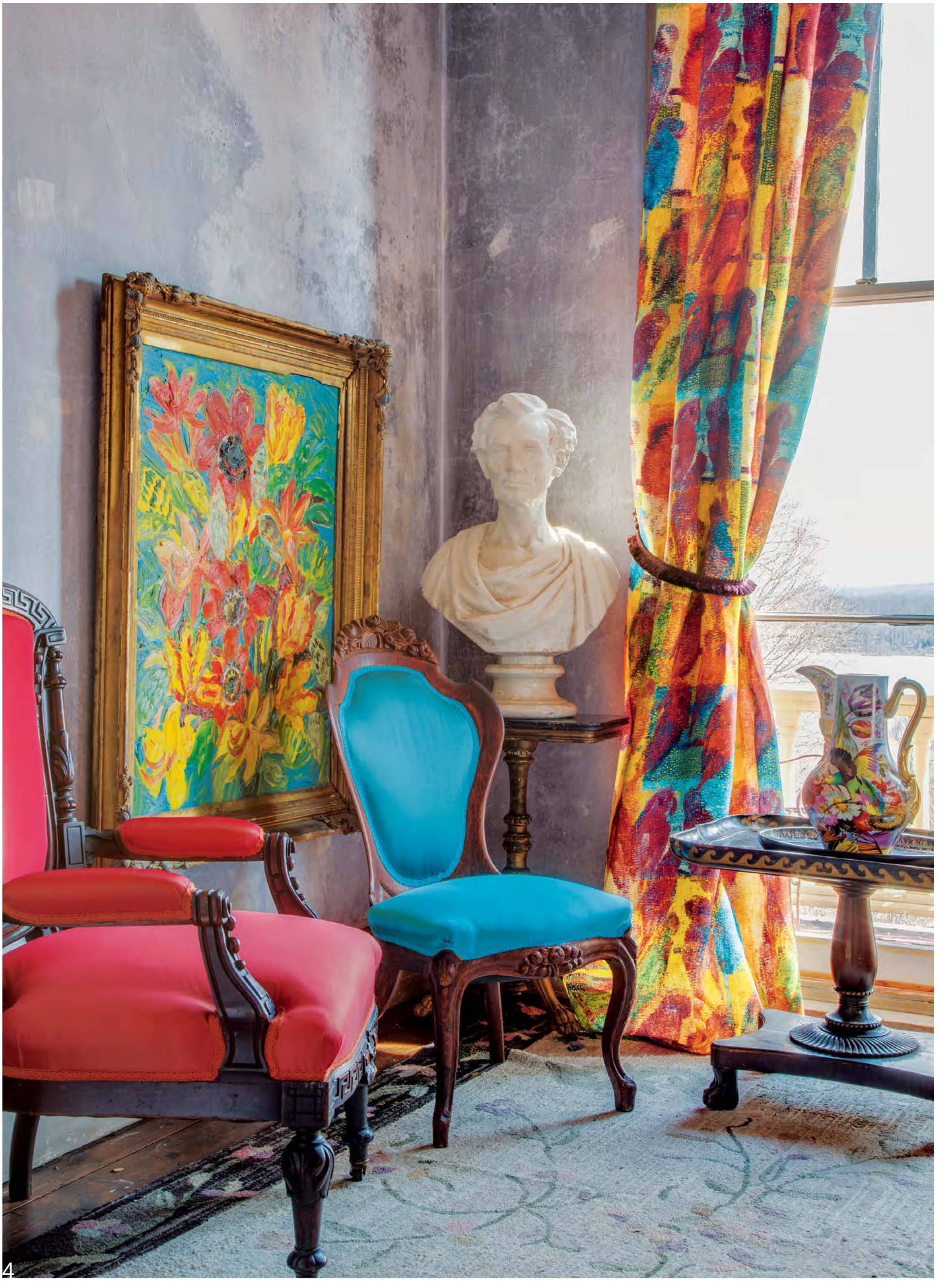
The butterfly motif is represented in Fritillery through layers of embroidery, woven to mimic his signature cross hatch technique. The butterflies in this series are based on the specimens Slonem studied and collected as a boy and now paints from memory.





Fritillery, Multi
GWF-3402.953

# BAYOU CASINO



Slonem's birds are the witnesses of his life. His home and his studio house hundreds of birds, both in and out of cages. The variety of species at any given time includes macaws, troupials, tanagers, hornbills, hummingbirds, toucans, barbacks, parrots and more.

Bayou Casino is styled after Slonem's signature parrot series, which he paints using dozens of live parrots as models in his studio. The fabric, which is digitally printed on 100 percent linen, was named in honor of Slonem's plantations on the bayous of Louisiana. Albania Plantation is located on the Bayou Teche in St. Mary Parish, northwest of New Orleans and Lakeside Plantation is located in Bachelor, north of Baton Rouge.

Lakeside Plantation was once owned by Marquis de La Fayette, whose close relationship with lifelong friends such as Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, James Monroe, John Adams, and Robert Livingston played a pivotal role in the Louisiana Purchase. The property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places listings in Louisiana.



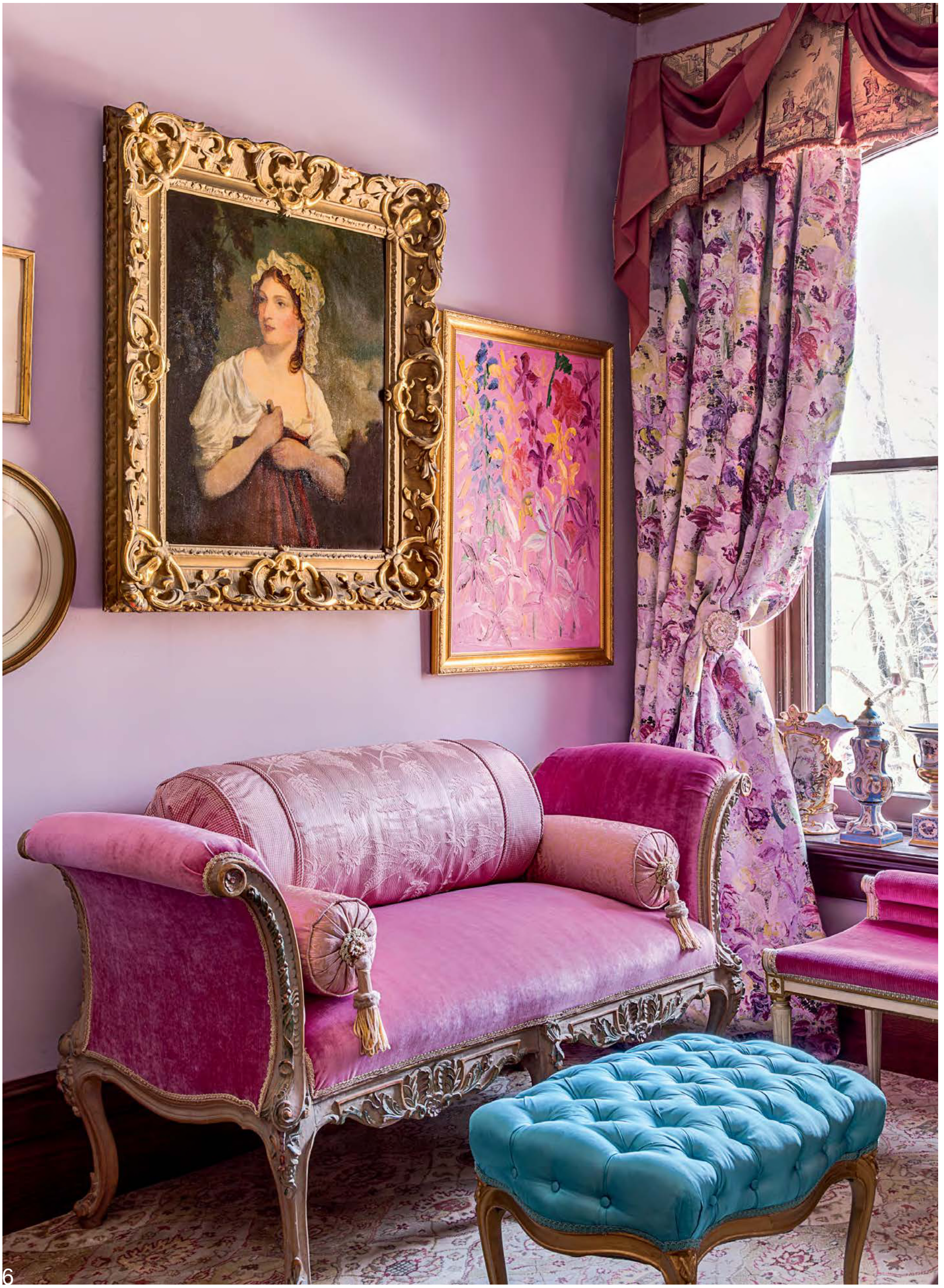






Bayou Casino, Multi/Red
GWF-3407.953

# CATELAYAS 2



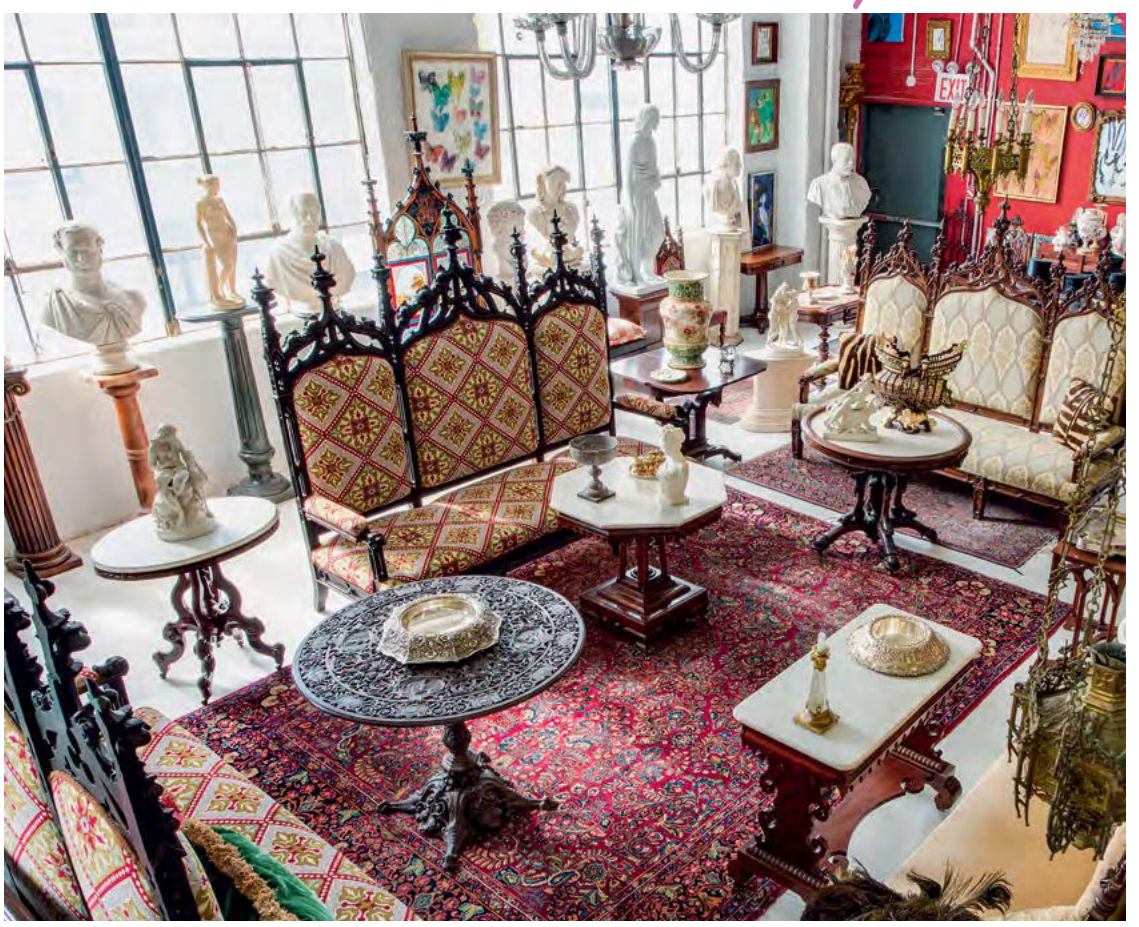


Catelayas 2, Purple/Berry
GWF-3406.104

# Hunt Slonem







As a child in Hawaii, Slonem collected orchids, and his passion and respect for the flower continues to this day, including this fragrant, tropical variety. For Slonem, the orchid is a constant source of inspiration and pure spirit. The fabric, Catelayas 2, is digitally printed on 100 percent linen to capture the nuances and explosive color of Slonem's orchids, which are presented against a subtle backdrop of Guardian monkeys.

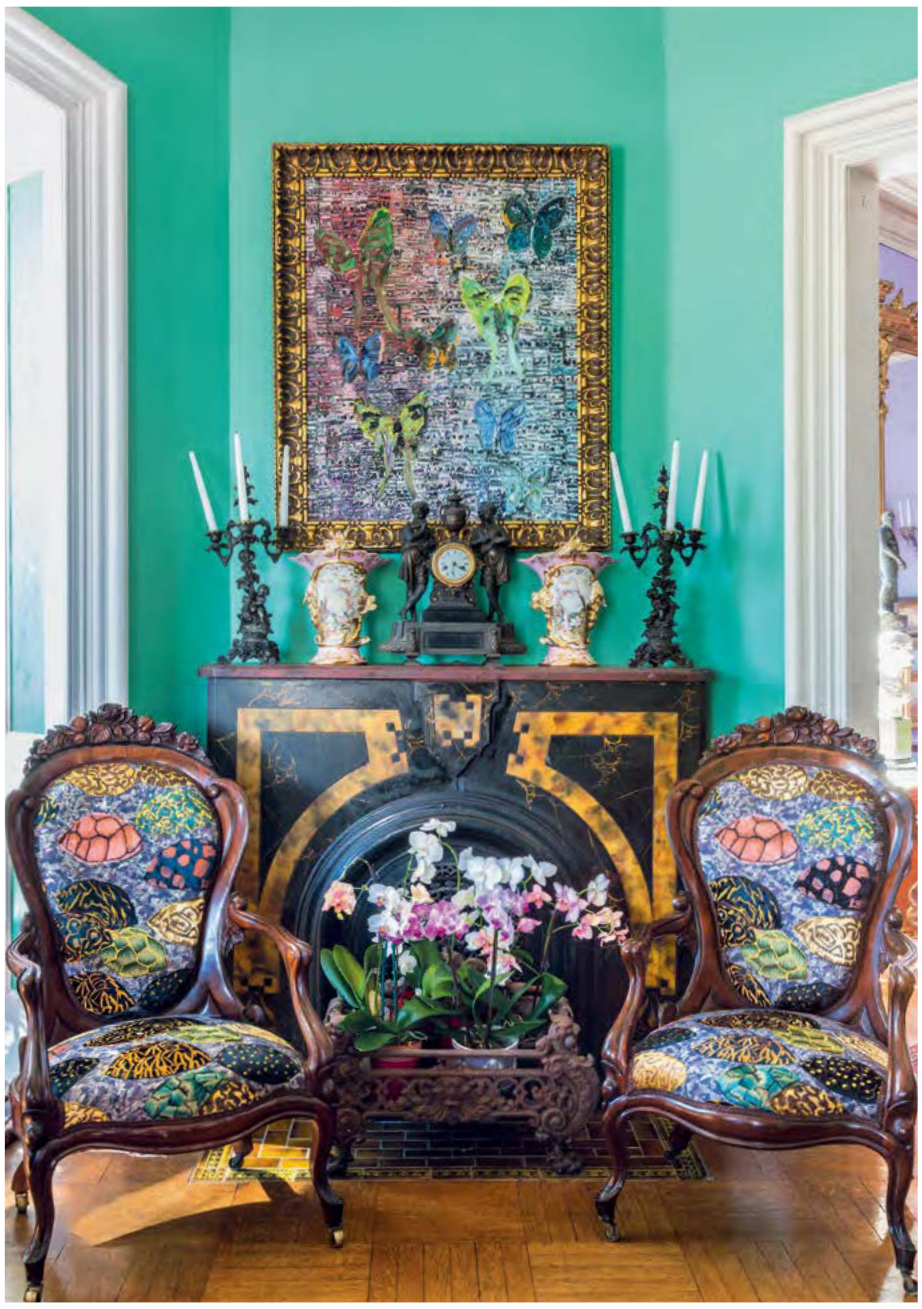


# STAR OF INDIA





Star of India, Multi
GWF-3400.437





Star of India describes a type of tortoise that was a former pet of the artist. The name also describes a famous sapphire that is one of the largest in the world. The Maharani, or Princess, of Cooch Behar, in the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas, carried around a jeweled tortoise for luck. The fabric application of Star of India is digitally printed on linen with a combination of viscose velvet applique and viscose embroidered shells.



# MONSTERRA






Monsterra, Red/Green
GWF-3401.923

Hunt Slonem



Slonem's paintings express a strong affinity for nature, combined with the meditative repetition of objects and forms.

Monsterra is one of Hunt's most beloved leaf forms. Surrounded by Queen Alexandra's Birdwing Butterflies, this pattern has a dynamic and exotic motif. It is digitally printed on linen and the butterflies are applied with viscose embroidery, adding dimension and texture.







Monsterra, White/Spring
GWF-3401.173

# BUNNY WALL





Bunny Wall, Ivory
GWP-3410.101





Slonem's fascination with the rabbit began in the early 1980s when he discovered that he was born in the year of the rabbit, according to the Chinese zodiac calendar. They first appeared in his paintings of saints surrounded by animals. Over time the rabbit has become a singular motif, appearing on its own on small canvases, or grouped together on larger ones, all framed in authentic antique 19th century portrait frames which are hand selected by Slonem.



A signature feature of Slonem's New York City studio is the Bunny Wall, a large expanse of salon-style groupings of Slonem's small bunny paintings, some famously hung while still wet. These signature paintings are collectors' items, and have inspired similar style groupings in both museums and private collections.

Bunny Wall is a trompe l'oeil wallpaper that mimics the effect of the framed paintings against different colored backgrounds. Hutch offers a seamless series of bunnies, unframed and multiplied, on solid and metallic backgrounds. The carpet options are fully customizable and beautifully textured to recreate Slonem's painting technique in pure New Zealand wool as well as wool and bamboo silk combination.





Hop Along – Cobalt/Black
Hutch, Gold
GWP-3413.40

# GUARDIANS





Plan – Neutral
Plan – Taupe/Grey

Plan – Grey
All Eyes – Neutrals

Hunt Slonem





The Guardians is a series of paintings that feature the eyes and mouths of monkeys, repeated in rows across the canvas using simple brushstrokes to create a recurring pattern. Slonem first began painting monkeys after observing the self-portraits of Frida Kahlo in which she's frequently pictured with monkeys. In Mexican mythology, monkeys are symbols of lust, but Kahlo portrayed them as tender and protective symbols, a concept with which Slonem identifies, in addition to her primitive painting techniques, use of color and symbolism.

In the fabric application, Guardians is a jacquard velvet with cut and loop pile, offered in eight saturated hues with a subtle hint of metallic. The carpet options are fully customizable, and woven to order by artisans in Thailand from wool and wool viscose combinations. The enhanced stippling effect of the design creates a beautifully textured heirloom-quality carpet.





Guardians, Grey
GWF-3403.11

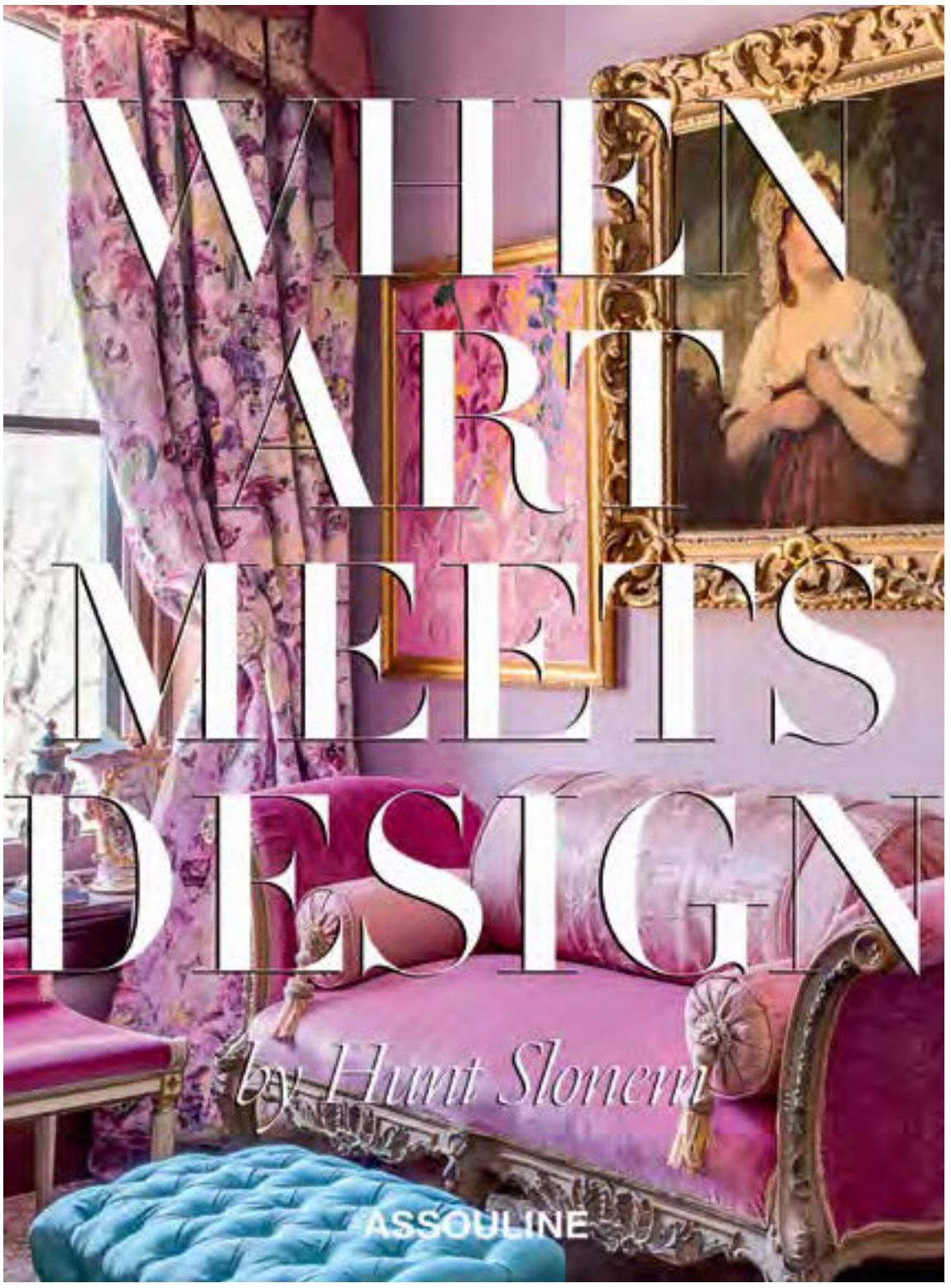
Fritillery, Multi
GWF-3402.953

PRINTED IN CANADA



*When Art Meets Design* by Hunt Slonem explores artist Hunt Slonem's fantastically decorated and meticulously restored homes. Vivid original photography reveals the intersection of antiques, artwork and fabrics—including the artist's eponymous collection for Groundworks—offering an exciting view into his unique world.

**www.assouline.com**








Front Cover: Wallpaper: Hutch, Gold GWP-3413.40
Fabric: Catelayas 2, Purple/Berry GWF-3406.104

Back Cover: Catelayas 2, Purple/Berry GWF-3406.104

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