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▼ MAKI YAMAMOTO

NEW YORK

A modern-day textile couturier, Maki Yamamoto is known for her highly specialized work using sumptuous fabrics as her canvas. When studying fashion design at the renowned Bunka Fashion College in her home city of Tokyo, Japan, Yamamoto found herself simultaneously immersed in painting and drawing, passions which led her to seek further artistic training at the National Academy School of Fine Arts in New York City. "I always enjoyed fashion, art and design, so I wanted to do something where I could mix these together," says the designer. And in 2003, she did just that—she merged her work as an artist and fashion designer by artfully embellishing luxury textiles with painterly motifs, modern embroidery, contemporary appliqués and handstitched details to adorn furnishings, lighting pieces, bed linens, drapery, pillows and art installations for her high-end interior design clientele. While her Japanese design background and penchant for traveling have played a large role in her work thus far, she also finds herself deeply moved by the long legacy of American craftsmanship. "I am very impressed by the extremely talented furniture and textile makers in the United States," says Yamamoto. "Their techniques and passion inspire me greatly."



▲ GREYTAK

MISSOULA, MONTANA

Since his childhood, the Montana landscape has influenced John Greytak's life journey. As a boy taking breaks from working on his family's farm during the summer months, he would explore and scour the surrounding lands rife with natural elements. Fast forward to when Greytak was decorating his Montana lodge, he accompanied his designer to Tucson's gem and mineral show where his love for the craft was rekindled, and his passion for a larger artistic purpose brought about the birth of Studio Greytak. "In elevating

these minerals and geodes to take a prominent place in homes, people can further appreciate the beauty nature provides," says Greytak. All rare materials are sourced from six continents and brought to Missoula, where his team curates each gem to incorporate into furniture, objets and jewelry. After local artisans craft the accompanying metal, wood and glass pieces, the components return to the studio where they are assembled into "functional art." Greytak's greatest source of pride: "We are crafting these heirloom-quality pieces in Montana—one of the most beautiful and inspiring places in our country."



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