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BRIAN J. MCCARTHY
Interior Designer



MCCARTHY: FRANCESCO LAGNÈSE; KELTIE FERRIS: PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK WOODS; MARIA PERGAY: PHOTOGRAPHY BY THIERRY DEPAGNE; COURTESY OF GARETH MASON

— MUST-HAVES —

The Art of Design

Renowned decorator Brian J. McCarthy shares his muses of the moment

by Tobey Grumet Segal



2. MARIA PERGAY
Not one to be part of any design movement, 86-year-old Pergay creates within the framework of her imagination. She's represented by Demisch Danant in NYC. demischdanant.com/designers

“Art is an incredibly important element and layer in any project.”

1. KELTIE FERRIS
Ferris lives and works in Brooklyn and is represented by Mitchell-Innes & Nash in Chelsea. miandn.com/artists



CELEBRATED NEW York-based interior designer and author of two books, Brian J. McCarthy has created interiors for a football-field-sized yacht, a Virginia horse farm, a Monte Carlo penthouse, and even the official residence of the Ambassador to the Court of St. James in London. What—and who—is inspiring him right now?

“For me, art is an incredibly important element and layer in any project. And I don’t just mean art that hangs on the wall,” says McCarthy. “Art can also be in the furniture and objects that one chooses.”

“A young artist whose work I’m currently crazy for is Keltie Ferris,” he says. She’s known for her mostly large-scale canvases covered with layers of spray paint and hand-painted geometric fields. Ferris also uses her body to press natural oils and pigments against canvas in a series of self-portraits she calls body prints.

“When it comes to furniture as art, I love the work of Maria

Pergay, who creates sexy furniture in steel,” McCarthy explains. This Paris-born furniture designer incorporates luxurious materials like mother-of-pearl, lacquer, and wood materials in her evolving, dream-like designs. Other patrons of her work include Pierre Cardin and the Saudi royal family.

Among his other current favorites are “ceramics that practically represent a small cosmic explosion by Gareth Mason.” Mason is known for original, transformational ceramics, and his work goes through a series of metamorphoses and manipulations—multiple firings, glazings, and the addition of materials like gravel or waste scavenged from the Thames—before becoming a genuine piece of art. This British designer works to capture and condense explosions of color, density, and texture.



3. GARETH MASON
Celebrated for his avant-garde jars, Mason is represented by Jason Jacques Gallery in NYC. jasonjacques.com/contemporary