



IN CHARACTER

Chris Wolston

30, artist living in Chinatown

By Jillian Anthony Photograph by William Jess Laird

chriswolston.com

What kind of artist are you?

I make art furniture. I have studios in Brooklyn and Medellín, Colombia. I was on a Fulbright grant in 2013 [in Colombia], exploring the difference between manual and manufactured techniques. When I was watching [terra-cotta] bricks being made by hand at this one factory, the workers would smooth out the surface as one of the last steps of the process, and sometimes streaks from their fingers would be left on the wet surface of the clay. I thought there was something really beautiful about that process.

Your career has taken off in just a few years.

In 2014, I shipped back a collection of terra-cotta furniture; that was the first work I showed. Then I presented a collection of sand-cast glass lights, called “Fetish Lights.” Two years ago, I showed work with Patrick

Parrish Gallery at Design Miami, had a solo show with him last May, and now I have an exclusive aluminum collection debuting with [furniture gallery] the Future Perfect on Great Jones Street this May. It’s crazy because it all happened so quickly.

Why does furniture interest you?

It’s a format that people don’t have any reservations on how to interact with. [All of my art is] functional. The terra-cotta chairs are totally strong and can support people.

What does your own home look like?

I live in a tiny apartment jam-packed full of bizarre finds from my travels—like a carved totem from the South Pacific bedazzled in painted shells—and sculptures from my artist friends. It feels like [Istanbul’s] Grand Bazaar but in a curated, chic way.

WORD ON THE STREET

The most ridiculous things we’ve overheard in New York this week

“He kept calling the movie *I, LaToya*.”

“I eat the purple Jolly Ranchers first because they’re inferior.”

“Sometimes I’m late just because my eyebrows aren’t cooperating.”

“They don’t even sell alcohol at my nephew’s Little League games.”

“She thought a sugar daddy was a new kind of chocolate bar.”

“I was on a huge Nicholas Sparks kick for a while. Maybe that’s why I’m so picky with men.”

“Yeah, hit me up. I’m just chilling with my cat.”