



IN DETAIL

ideas from the Zammit home

Dreaming away

When an art curator lives just above her own gallery/store, there are endless opportunities for adding, moving and tweaking her private collection at home. As London-born but now Sydney-based Nichola Zammit explains, the two-storey apartment in eastern Sydney's Charing Cross is attached to the gallery but with a small internal hallway separating the two spaces. Stark, industrial elements are softened by an abundance of artworks in the stylish apartment – many by Aboriginal artists. Beautifully hung and easy on the eye, they add personality and warmth to the eco-friendly space.



(Above, from top) Muskhane paper **garlands** in Silver and Red, \$12 each; Bamboo **salad bowl**, \$35; Warp & Weft handmade **bag**, \$150, all from The Gallery Shop, contact (02) 9369 3555, www.thegalleryshop.com.au. (Below, from left) 'Marsupial Mouse Dreaming', 'Family and Country' and 'Tjulpun Tjulpunpa' **rugs**, all from \$630 (60 x 91cm), from The Gallery Shop, as before.



Q&A with Nichola Zammit

Q. WHY ARE YOU ATTRACTED TO ABORIGINAL ART? It evokes a feeling in people that they want to have close to them in their own homes. Sometimes it is happiness and joy and sometimes peacefulness and calm. It is truly amazing how compelling the work can be.

Q. WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR WHEN SELECTING ABORIGINAL ART FOR THE GALLERY SHOP?

I am very specific about what work comes into the gallery. I don't pick by artists' names but on each individual painting. I'll look at literally hundreds of paintings and often only pick a handful for the shop.

Q. WHO ARE SOME OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ARTISTS AT THE GALLERY SHOP? The majority of the gallery contains works by emerging artists and that is very much the core of what the gallery offers; however, we do also carry quite a selection by collectable artists.

Q. WHAT'S IN YOUR HOMEWARES COLLECTION? Rugs, wallhangings and cushions from Better World Arts (www.betterworldarts.com.au) are made by bringing together Aboriginal art with traditional craftsmanship from artisans across the globe. We also stock jute baskets and bags from Bangladesh by The Dharma Door, with some gorgeous felt homewares from Nepal by Muskhane.

Q. ANY TIPS WHEN BUYING ABORIGINAL ART? Check that any art comes with a certificate of authenticity.

The Gallery Shop, 254 Bronte Road, Charing Cross, NSW, call (02) 9369 3555 or visit www.thegalleryshop.com.au.

WORDS & SOURCING BY KERRY RAMSEY. MAIN PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL FOTOULIS. STILL-LIFES BY GUY BAILEY & CRAIG WALL



IN DETAIL



cover-ups

Zammit's much-loved London sofa was shipped to Sydney before being treated to fresh red upholstery fabrics. While it was more of a cosmetic job – recovered, rather than reupholstered – it brought the piece back to life and reinvigorated the room.

(Upholstery-fabric swatches, from top)

'Georgian Ticking' in Red, \$47 per metre;
'Marina Ticking' in Red, \$47 per metre;
'Mahesh' in Scarlet, \$54 per metre, all available from No Chintz, call (02) 9386 4800, or visit the website at www.nochintz.com.

ART-HANGING SYSTEM

When Zammit was ready to hang her collection of artworks, she chose the FX Hanging Systems 'Locator', as all screws are hidden and the components can be powdercoated or sprayed to match a wall colour. As you can see from her dining-room display, the tracks are unobtrusive and chic. As a bonus, they are also easy to install and use slim steel cables and discreet tracks. 'Locator' is \$12 per metre (plus installation) from FX Hanging Systems, www.fxhangingsystems.com.au.



LOVE THAT, TRY THIS

↑ **CUSHIONS** In Thea's room, cheery cushions add to the sense of colour and pattern achieved elsewhere with prints, paintings, toys and garlands. The playfulness is balanced by the ethical sourcing of the cushions themselves. (Above) Better World Arts striped and floral cushions by Imiyari Adamson, \$110 for large (50 x 50cm), \$65 for medium (40 x 40cm) and \$35 for small (30 x 30cm), from The Gallery Shop, call (02) 9369 3555, or visit www.thegalleryshop.com.au.

← **WALL STICKERS** Bird stickers adorn the walls of both girls' bedrooms, personalising and softening the surfaces. For a similar look, try the 'Sparrow' range by Queensland designer Amanda Carney. Pretty Creatures 'Sparrows' removable wall stickers available in Blue, Green, Red or Yellow by Amanda Carney, \$64.95 for six, from The Wall Sticker Company, www.thewallstickercompany.com.au.

↓ **AUSTRALIAN ART** A dedicated collector of local art, Zammit was drawn to the nature-inspired oil-on-linen work *Wattle Map #11*, by Peter Stevens. The artist grew up in Bathurst, NSW, and spent his days roaming the bush, noting wildlife detail. Several of his bird-inspired works are available from Hill Smith Gallery, www.hillsmithgallery.com.au.

