

# hospitality design

november 2022 [hospitalitydesign.com](http://hospitalitydesign.com)

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the guest editor issue

hd vol. 44 no. 10

Presenter of HD Expo, a hospitality design event

setting the table  
**guest editor:**  
**marcus samuelsson**

hd Presenter of  
**expo+**  
**conference**



# products **profile**

By Kathryn Greene



## DREAM BIG

Meet five Black Artists + Designers Guild members who are changing the future of the industry



### Malene Barnett

Black Artists + Designers Guild  
Brooklyn, New York

According to Malene Barnett, art has always been an essential part of her life. When studying fashion illustration at FIT, she discovered textile design, one medium of her prolific creative output, which spans paintings, tiles, ceramics, wallcoverings, and rugs.

Then there's the Black Artists + Designers Guild (BADG). Her lived—and shared—experience as a Black designer, including frustration at the lack of support and representation in the industry came to a head in 2018 when she noticed the annual What's New, What's Next conference in New York didn't have a single Black designer or artist on a panel. "That's when I was just like, 'Okay I'm done with this. Enough is enough.'" She took to Instagram to voice her opinion, which ignited a conversation. "This wasn't anything new. It just was not talked about publicly," says Barnett, who transformed her feelings into a catalyst for change by creating (BADG), which started as a directory of Black artists and designers in the industry. "I had no idea where it was going to take us," says Barnett.

Soon, it evolved into "an opportunity for us to think about how we could explore our culture, explore Blackness, all the multiplicities of it, and use art and design as a tool to do that." There are the BADG of Honor Awards, which recognize those who are building a more equitable industry; the Obsidian project, a virtual wellness-focused concept house for Black families that 25 BADG members collaborated on; and the recently announced Creative Visionary Grant program that will reward three winners in art, architecture, design, and materials who are decolonizing the industry through their work while affirming Black Diasporic culture.

"BADG is the glue that brings everybody together," she says. Members feel empowered, meet others in the industry, and work together. Barnett encourages the industry to join BADG on its mission, not just spiritually but financially. "When you work with BADG, or do anything with us, it's an investment into the future for everyone."

BADGUILD.INFO; MALENEBARNETT.COM

**Hadiya Williams**  
Black Pepper Paperie Co.  
Washington, DC

As the founder of Black Pepper Paperie Co., the Washington, DC-based Hadiya Williams creates colorful ceramics, arts, and other products informed by her nearly two decades of graphic design experience. Rooting her work with influences from the African diaspora, Williams has brought her characteristically linear designs to brands including Wallpops, Walpa, West Elm, and most recently, Schumacher (shown). Taking cues from Black culture and history as it relates to collective memory, ritual, and migration, the line spans wallcoverings, fabrics, and throw pillows, each collection with bold graphics rendered in bright colors.

BLACKPEPPERPAPERIE.COM



Photos courtesy of JOHANNA HOWARD and HADIYA WILLIAMS



**Johanna Howard**  
Johanna Howard Home  
Montclair, New Jersey

Johanna Howard's native Sweden is the cornerstone of her creative inspiration. Growing up, Howard was influenced by the simple yet elegant forms that comprise traditional Scandinavian design, as well as her mother, who handmade and sold dresses in her atelier. After moving to the U.S. to pursue clothing design, Howard worked with some of the biggest brands in fashion, including BCBG, Katayone Adeli, and Gap. But soon, she turned her attention to the home, founding her eponymous brand Johanna Howard Home, offering cozy throws (shown), pillows, scarves, and candles. Putting sustainability at the forefront of her luxurious products, textiles are spun from baby alpaca, cotton, and wool, and woven by family-owned mills in Peru and Portugal who are paid a fair wage.

JOHANNAHOWARD.COM

**Lisa Hunt**  
Maplewood, New Jersey

Drawing inspiration from West African textiles, African American quilt-making, typography, and Art Deco, Lisa Hunt's work is characterized by lines, symbols, and typography. Based in Maplewood, New Jersey, Hunt is both an artist and a designer. Her artwork, which ranges from collages to canvases to screen prints is distinguishable by Hunt's signature gold leafing, like in Astral Variant (shown), with some of her collages acquired by Google's New York headquarters and the Weisman Museum in Minnesota. Hunt also recently collaborated with textile artist Lori Weitzner, bringing her bold geometric forms and signature shimmer to five wallcovering designs. [LISAHUNTCREATIVE.COM](http://LISAHUNTCREATIVE.COM)



Photos by GEDIYON KIFLE and courtesy of LISA HUNT and JOMO TARIJU

**Jomo Tariku**  
Springfield, Virginia

After growing up in Ethiopia and spending two summers learning from a local furniture builder in Addis Ababa, Jomo Tariku went on to study industrial design at the University of Kansas where he based his thesis on contemporary African furniture. His sculptural designs have found their way into museums across the U.S. His Nyala chair, for instance, has been exhibited at the Mint Museum in Charlotte, North Carolina and LACMA in Los Angeles, and in 2021, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York acquired his Mido chair, which merges the silhouette of an afro comb with the African tradition of a ceremonial seat. Meanwhile, his Mukecha table (shown)—inspired by traditional African mortars used for grinding crops and decorated with orange rings that nod to the neck rings adorning bronze busts from the historic Kingdom of Benin in southwestern Nigeria—will be exhibited at Design Miami this year. [JOMOFURNITURE.COM](http://JOMOFURNITURE.COM)

