

HOUSE & HOME/STYLE DESK

## PERSONAL SHOPPER; Too Up-to-Date to Stay in the Attic

By MARIANNE ROHRLICH (NYT) 378 words  
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PAINTED furniture -- with fanciful finishes like country scenes, geometric patterns and fake wood grains -- is popular now for the same reason as in the 18th and 19th centuries: it mixes well. Decorators are using painted pieces to add interest to contemporary interiors. For those who like the look but aren't interested in investing in an antique, there are reproductions and modern interpretations made with old-fashioned techniques. Painted pieces have long been used as accents, said Stacy Hollander, the curator of "Surface Attraction," an exhibition of painted furniture through March 26 at the American Folk Art Museum, 45 West 53rd Street. In the 19th century, "it was common to see fanciful painted pieces mixed in with much more formal furniture," she said. "Painting on furniture supposedly delighted the eye and stimulated the brain."

1. A hand-painted reproduction of an original made in Pennsylvania around 1780, the Lehigh County Chest comes in several sizes; one 18 inches wide, 9 high and 8 deep is \$125 at (717) 486-4058 or [yellowbreechesboxco.com](http://yellowbreechesboxco.com).
2. A gentleman's chest 33 inches wide, 48 high and 18 deep is hand-painted by Bill Russell, a Philadelphia artisan, who gives workshops and sells kits for do-it-yourselfers; \$1,800 from (215) 203-0068 or [billrussellstudio.com](http://billrussellstudio.com).
3. Not for sale, but on exhibit at the American Folk Art Museum: an armchair made in Ithaca, N.Y., around 1817.
4. An 1820 vanity made in Portsmouth, N.H., is 34 inches wide and 18 deep; \$11,500 at RJG Antiques in Rye, N.H., [rjgantiques.com](http://rjgantiques.com) or (603) 433-1770.
5. A chest of drawers with a fake grain finish by Dan Coble of Angola, Ind., is 36 inches high, 28 wide and 12 deep; \$650 at [drcobleandcompany.com](http://drcobleandcompany.com) or (260) 665-2362.
6. A desktop box on ball feet is painted by Stephen Mottram of Saugatuck, Mich.; \$60 at [stafforddesign.net](http://stafforddesign.net) or (323) 687-2321.
7. A painted chair by Dan Coble is \$325; [drcobleandcompany.com](http://drcobleandcompany.com).



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