

805

LIVING



HOME
+ GARDEN

ROMANTIC NOTIONS

Elizabeth Messina's passion for exploring antique shops started from a young age and has continued throughout her career as an artist and portrait photographer. The various antiques and housewares that this self-proclaimed "collector at heart" has gathered over the years now serve as the inspiration behind **The Arte Department** (theartedepartment.com), her new artisan boutique and gallery in Carpinteria.

Opened in January, The Arte Department features an eclectic selection of antiques and gifts, including a number of antique crowns, decorative ornaments, and santos. Adding an air of whimsical romance to the space is a gallery wall showcasing Messina's own photographs printed on 8-by-10-inch wooden panels. "Carpinteria is such a beautiful community with a great appreciation for the arts," says Messina. "It feels meaningful to share the things that I love with the community."

—Hana-Lee Sedgwick

Artist-photographer Elizabeth Messina applies her aesthetic sensibility to the collections in her new Carpinteria boutique and gallery.



WALL COVERING GOES PAPERLESS



Create wallpaper-like patterns with The Original Wall Stamp.

Personal touches make rooms resonate, and these days, nothing gives a room more of a "wow" factor than wallpaper. However, the work of a professional installer can be pricey. **The Original Wall Stamp** (theoriginalwallstamp.com), invented by Simi Valley artist Laurie J. Steinfeld, is an affordable and foolproof way to achieve that wallpapered look. Her translucent rubber stamps come in six designs, but the secret to success lies in the accompanying self-leveling system that makes application simple and straight. Wow! ♦ —H.D.