

Designer Profile



OPPOSITE A set of Mimi lounge chairs in cotton velvet flank the walnut-and-maple Nina side table—all from the Hable for Hickory Chair collection—in Susan Hable's parlor. Artwork by Hable. **LEFT** The Dove sideboard, Frankie sofa and Rose ottoman are all part of the Hable for Hickory Chair collection. A green-stone-framed mirror and a green marble-and-brass tray are from Hable's collection for Maitland-Smith Collection. Artwork by Hable. **BELOW** Susan Hable.

SUSAN HABLE

A Renaissance Woman Designs For Hickory Chair

BY VANESSA KOGEVINAS | PHOTOGRAPHY BY RINNE ALLEN

SUSAN HABLE'S CREATIVITY CAN NOT BE HARNESSSED—from drawings and paintings to textiles to accessories, and most recently a furniture line for Hickory Chair, as well as a book, *A Colorful Home*. She is forever designing, developing and pushing her own boundaries.

Inspired by the natural beauty of Texas, where she was born and raised, her career took shape through drawing and painting, which quite organically led to textile design. "All of our patterns are based off of art that is painted in the studio," she says. "We manipulate our motifs to create dynamic and unique pattern structures." She now has hundreds of patterns—all of which remain true to her self-described signature style of lively and sophisticated creations.

In 1999, Susan and her sister Katharine Hable founded



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Hable Construction, an e-commerce site that features her textiles and products that incorporate them. “We aim to make colorful, thoughtful product for the person who appreciates design and a natural hand,” she says. Offerings include totes, pillows, storage boxes and whatnots—journals, fabric-covered horse shoes, even cots; think summer outdoor reading and napping! “The online shop is an extension of our retail shops that we closed once I moved to Athens, Georgia, where I am currently based,” she notes. “We wanted to remain accessible to our customers.”

They went on to partner with Hickory Chair in 2011 on the industry’s first exclusive fabric collection, Hable for Hickory Chair, which led to an exclusive pillow collection in 2013. They continued their fruitful partnership and in 2015 introduced a furniture line featuring

modern bedroom, dining room and living room pieces inspired by mid-century modern and Scandinavian designs, world history, travel, contemporary art and textiles. Ever prolific and vibrant, they are launching a second collection this fall with a focus on upholstery and case goods. All told, Hable for Hickory Chair will count sixty pieces by the end of the year and is available through Witford at Pacific Design Center and Laguna Design Center.

Her collaboration with Hickory Chair has resulted in collections that exude the melding of an innovative artist with a classic brand. Walnut and maple, gold and white brass, rich linen velvets and wovens, all work together to bring Hable’s signature distinct lines and strong forms to life through furnishings. “I hope to have created some iconic pieces to be passed down for generations,” she says. **CH**

ABOVE Hable’s artwork, *Stawberry Vine*, 2014, is installed above Hable for Hickory Chair’s Lake sofa. The collection’s Lake armchair (right), Anderson armchair (left), Selah cocktail table and Beatrice side tables complete the living room in Hable’s guest cottage.