

For Immediate Release: May 2020

Kaffe Fassett; Erin Lee Gafill: London, UK; Big Sur, CA

Internationally Renowned Artists Collaborate in ‘Color Duets’

A conversation in color between generations.

For over 12 years, internationally renowned London-based textile designer [Kaffe Fassett](#) and his niece, award-winning artist and author [Erin Lee Gafill](#), come together each May to paint complementary still lifes in the home where they both spent their formative years. They retreat to a cabin in a redwood grove adjacent to their family’s famed restaurant, [Nepenthe](#), in Big Sur, California. In this stolen week, they sit side by side, surrounded by palettes, easels, and brushes. They observe and render the nuance of color and form as the canyon light illuminates selected groups of vases, pots, and flowers.

[Color Duets](#)—as book, e-book, and as an upcoming exhibition at the [Monterey Museum of Art](#)—represents the outcome of their annual retreat, but also reflects on the contemplative experience of sharing a studio and focusing the artist’s eye on simple objects. The book, due for release June 15, 2020, and available now for [pre-order](#), offers readers particular inspiration for this unprecedented moment in time, by highlighting the artist’s ability to elevate everyday objects to a place of honor. It is about looking and seeing and finding the rhythm and the melody in the juxtaposition of simple objects. It speaks of taking time in retreat and drawing refreshment from the cup of creativity.

The objects, photos, and ephemera collected in *Color Duets* are gleaned from the family home where Fassett and Gafill meet each year. There are images as well of the shared influences that bring them to their work each day. This is the expression of their parallel missions: trying with each fiber of their beings to express their reverence for the beauty of the world. Through this labor they hope to make the world a bit more beautiful.

About the artists, museum, and publisher:

Kaffe Fassett, MBE

[@kaffefassettstudio](#)

An internationally renowned textile designer, Kaffe Fassett, MBE, began his career as a fine art painter. Throughout his life he has maintained a regular painting practice, and both his paintings and textiles have been featured in museum and gallery shows around the world. Kaffe was born in San Francisco and has lived in London, England, for over 50 years. He is the author of over 50 books on textile, craft, and design. In 2018, Kaffe was appointed as an honorary Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. He resides in London with his partner of 30 years, Brandon Mably, who oversees the Kaffe Fassett Collective design group.

Erin Lee Gafill

[@erinleegafill](#)

Erin Lee Gafill is an award-winning artist, writer, and teacher from Big Sur, California. She is an artist member of the Carmel Art Association, and her work is collected internationally and exhibited around the United States. In 1998, she founded the Big Sur Arts Initiative, a nonprofit arts education organization. Her 2009 memoir, [*Drinking from a Cold Spring. A Little Book of Hope*](#), is also available now. She resides in Big Sur with her husband, Tom Birmingham.

[Monterey Museum of Art](#)

The Monterey Museum of Art cultivates curiosity in the visual arts and engages the community with the diversity of California art—past, present, and future.

26 Letter Press

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26 Letter Press is a small publisher in Big Sur, California, specializing in books that inspire everyone to find their creative voice.

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