





CULT SHOP

THE HOUSE BY MAH

The stylist Laura Fulmine has brought her artistic eye to an innovative concept store. By Charlotte Brook

Halfway down a cobbled, canal side alley in Hackney, a door leads into what feels at first like an extremely sophisticated home, full of earthy hues, contemporary sculpture and intriguing textures. A kidney bean shaped mirror framed in patinated bronze hangs from a timber-clad wall and the veins on a dove-grey marbled-line floor reflect those in a Sicilian jasper stone table lamp. Fortunately for impressed visitors, this is a new store masterminded by the super-stylist Laura Fulmine, and everything is for sale.

Having studied multimedia textiles at university, Fulmine worked as an embroiderer with Giles Deacon and then Anya Hindmarch, before moving towards set and interior design, creating clever mises en scène for brands from Loewe to Penguin Random House. She founded MAIT (Modern Art Hire) in 2019, commissioning artists to make bespoke works that can be rented for photo-shoots or events, and most recently opened her own shop.

Trealised the calibre of the pieces artists were producing was so high that it would be worth encouraging them to try making new things — ones that wouldn't necessarily work for hire, but that someone might fall in love with and want to keep for themself, she says. It was crucial to Fulmine to have a bricks and mortar store (although all items are all available on the website, too). It has long been my job to show objects in context, and create spaces that are a pleasure to experience. Touch is encouraged. I like to see people feeling the glossy marbles, stroking painted lines or running fingers over the bumpy tiles in the kitchen.' It is also intentional that the



shop feels like a home. 'Our building is about the same size as a small London house, so we've arranged it as such – we'll have an ever-evolving set of rooms here,' she explains. At the moment, there is a kitchen, living-room and dining-room; later this year, the latter two will be transformed into a study and bedroom.

Fulmine enjoys challenging the artists she works with to step out of their comfort zones. These the outsize screen that the printmaker Alessandra Chambers made—it was bigger than anything she'd ever done,' she says. 'And I can't wait to showease the tables we've made with Viv Lee, who is predominantly known for her ceramic vessels.'

The store is open by appointment and Fuhnine is available to offer her expert advice. Her aim is to transmit her enthusiasm for bold paintings, imaginative craftsmanship and interesting materials. Hove things where you can trace the human hand, and see the consideration and passion that made them, she reflects. I want our pieces to be like heirlands.



