

By Diane Dorrons Sacks
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Franco File

From Louis XIV to vintage embroidery to Old Paris plates, if it's chic and French, it can be found in San Francisco, a city that still lives up to its old nickname, "Paris of the West." Savvy collectors of both the fine and funky head for stores and design shops along Sacramento Street, Polk Gulch and in hidden corners around the Design Center, Jackson Square and Hayes Valley.



Fit to be Tied. Devotees of impossible-to-find French silk ribbons, Parisian face powders and traditional French school-children's cotton smocks head for Claudia Schwartz's fragrant curiosity shop **Bell'occhio** (8 Brady St., 415.364.4048). Schwartz and her family are devoted Francophiles who seek out small family-owned ateliers that make such extravaganzas as down powder puffs, artisanal chocolates, point de Beauvais embroidered handkerchiefs, and French-made chocolate-orange and brioché-scented candles by Ladhurée.

Seduced. Try to contact antiqueur Ed Hardy at his grand and glorious 20-year-old antiques gallery, and chances are he's in Paris or Provence on a buying trip. Recently, Hardy has been seduced by the esoteric glamour of French art deco. The gallery, **Ed Hardy San Francisco** (188 Henry Adams St., 415.626.6300), has always presented a comprehensive offering of French antiques ranging from a Louis XVI fauteuil or a Napoleon III table and Directoire pieces to art populaire and Empire furniture. Now visitors



Swallowtail



Claudia Schwartz at Bell'occhio

will find an Emilio Terry 1950s writing desk with a glazed lacquer cabinet and pierced bronze gallery (\$19,500) or curvy art deco scones.

In Stitches. Seventeenth- and 18th-century French damasks, tapestries, velvets, silk-on-silk embroideries and fragments of hand-embroidered silk faulle and moire are the luscious specialties of antique textiles



connoisseur Kathleen Taylor and her Jackson Square gallery, **Kathleen Taylor — The Lotus Collection** (445 Jackson St., 415.398.8115). Taylor is admired in the design community for the excellent condition of her antique textiles, including mid-century Paris couture fabrics. A sampling of prices at her atelier include \$1,500 for a yard of 18th-century French brocade to \$3,500 per yard for an elaborately embroidered fabric with silk and metallic threads.



Kathleen Taylor—The Lotus Collection

Ave., Oakland, 510.658.2901; **Swallowtail**, 2217 Polk Street, 415.567.1555; **Summer House Gallery**, 21 Throckmorton Ave., Mill Valley, 415.383.6695.

Polk Gulch Pioneer. Interior decorator Sheri Sheridan opened **Swallowtail** (2217 Polk St., 415.567.1555) five years ago, and her antiques and lighting gallery has become a weekly



Sheri Sheridan at Swallowtail



stop for Japanese stylists, New York photographers, Los Angeles interior designers, and young trendsetters and bargain hunters. Several times a year, Sheridan takes off for France to scout up architectural fragments, art deco lamps, chandeliers, bronze statuary and

Fingerprints. From a remote 15th-century townhouse near Angers where he lives half the year, Sausalito artist Woody Biggs hunts for rare hand-colored prints, fine engravings and etchings. Images we love include vintage hand-written French menus and hand-colored 30s costume designs. Among his pricier specialties are images of Grand Tour antiques, botanicals, and black-and-white architectural drawings, Parisian monuments and Greek and Roman sculptures. **Paris Prints** can be found at **Collective Antiques**, 701 Bayside Blvd., 415.656.0300; **Maison d'Etre**, 5640 College

eccentric vintage machine-age lamps. Sheridan is one of the pioneers who made Polk Gulch a design destination. Recent highlights include three French architectural clock faces with dramatic Roman numerals (\$2,800 to \$12,000), an art nouveau armoire with hand-carved water-lily decoration (\$7,500), French photography, wire birdcages, and botanical and entomological prints.

Go for Baroque.

Antiqueur Bob Garcia's **Therien & Co.** (411 Vermont St., 415.956.8850) long-time partner and secret weapon, Garcia's non-stop travels between Los Angeles,

San Francisco, Paris, London and Stockholm are legendary. Recent treasures include exceptional and rare neoclassical dining chairs, Versailles-worthy antique stone garden statuary and gilt clocks. And there's a Régence black painted and parcel-gilt rectangular



Bell'occhio

table with carved and gilt-decorated apron and cabriole legs; a rare Louis XV serpentine-shaped cabinet with a *brèche* marble top, raised on cabriole legs; and a pair of large-scale Louis XVI giltwood fauteuils upholstered *en chassiss* with a guiloché carved and molded frame and the original parcel-gilt finish.

Place and Proportion.

Antiquaire Terry Gross, her daughter Lisa and the staff of **Urban Chateau** (3228 Sacramento St., 415.673.8026) fly to the South of France and the Ile-de-France at least three times a year. There they seek out unique sources for gilded and painted antique furni-

ture, vintage Paris salon leather club chairs and quirky decorative objects. Terry has a special love of neoclassical French styles, and Louis XVI is one of her idols, so her collections tend to be refined and understated, with just a splash of gilding. She gathers superbly proportioned, classical

French furniture, portraits, statuary, decorative porcelain, carved candlesticks, elaborate chandeliers and sconces. Chairs and sofas are upholstered in the traditional,

very subtle French manner — no frills or over-stuffing.

Small Wonders.

Interior designer/antiquaire J. van Doorn (**Antique & Art Exchange**, 3419 Sacramento St., 415.567.4094) flies to Paris so often that United Airlines flight attendants at SFO greet him warmly by name as he embarks. On his return flights, the Paris flight crews help him stash the small, precious crystal sconces and gilt frames he hand-carries for his personal collections. Van Doorn specializes in small decorative

objects, 19th-century Grand Tour souvenirs, antique faux-bamboo frames, romantic gilded mirrors and antique shell-encrusted boxes. He travels to Provence and brings back pottery crickets (which signify good luck in the Midi), and gilt bronze and marquetry frames. Among recent treasures: gilded forged iron and crystal sconces, and a Napoleon III-era portrait. Prices from \$650 for a horn cup to \$650 for a Napoleon III figure on a marble plinth.



Emilie Terry neoclassical style gilded roll-top writing desk, circa 1950, \$18,500, at Ed Hardy San Francisco.



Louis XV chestnut commode, mid-18th century, \$78,000, at Thorne & Co.



Antique & Art Exchange



Paris Prints at Swallowtail