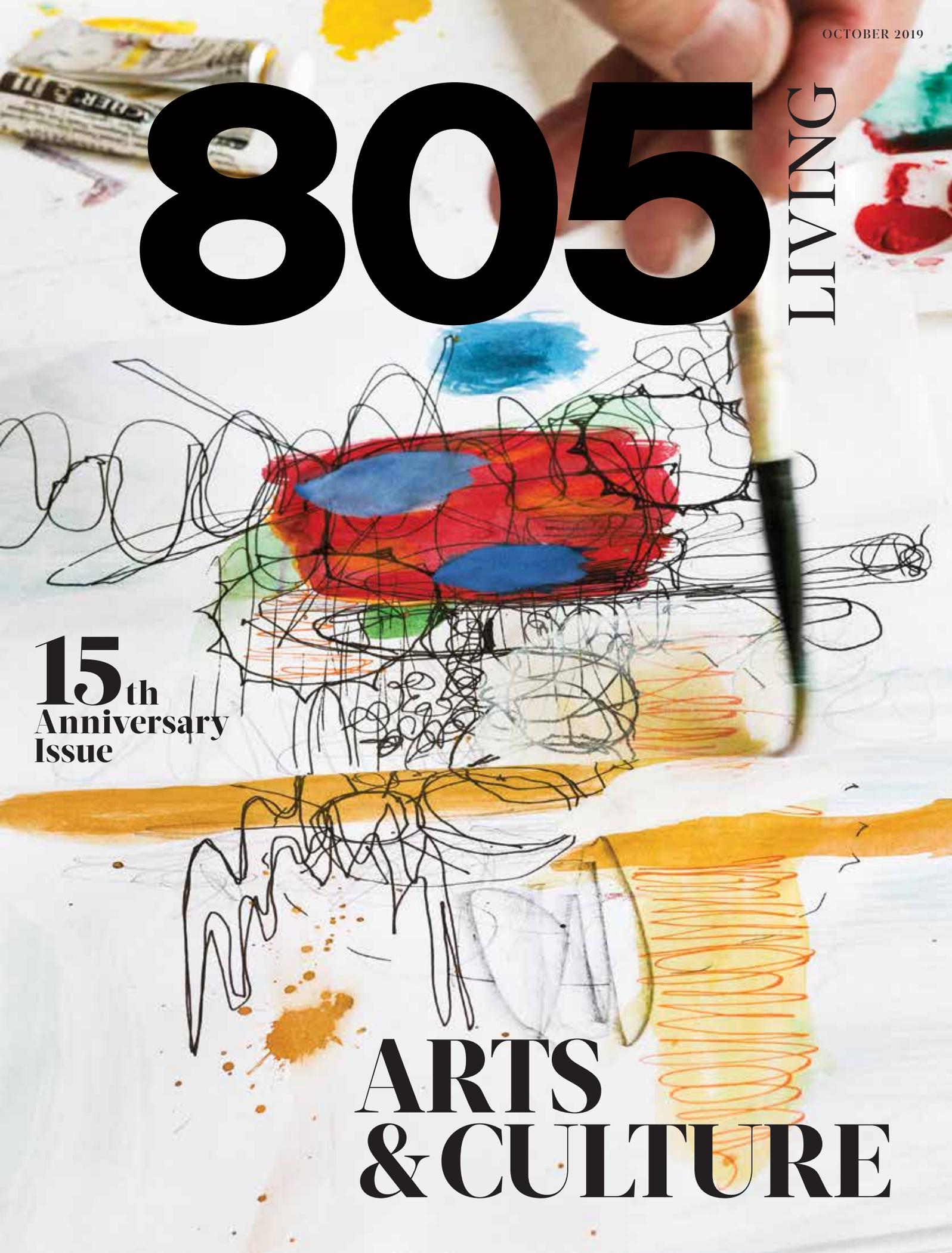


805

LIVING

15th
Anniversary
Issue

**ARTS
& CULTURE**



Pulse

TRACKING THE BEAT OF THE 805



DESIGNS ON CHOCOLATE



Set to open this month in Ventura Harbor Village, custom chocolate store **Top This Chocolate** (topthischocolate.com) allows patrons to design their own gourmet treats. Beginning with a choice of dark, milk, or white chocolate, customers may add up to three of a selection of 40 sweet and savory toppings and a name or one of nine greetings. The combinations are then brought to life by expert “chocologists” in a matter of

minutes. Chief executive chocolatier and owner Shana Elson’s own love for sweets is as boundless as her shop’s offerings. “I go through phases with my favorite combinations,” says Elson, “and am currently obsessed with pretzels, peanut butter chips, and honey-roasted peanuts in milk chocolate.” For patrons hoping to get hands-on in the process, Top This Chocolate even plans to offer chocolate-making classes. —Ryan Brown

THE SCOOP ON HEATHER McDONALD

PIECE OFFERING

The humble jigsaw puzzle has been given a modern makeover thanks to **Piecework** (pieceworkpuzzles.com) co-founders Rachel Hochhauser and Jena Wolfe. Hochhauser, who was born and raised in Santa Barbara, discovered her love of the meditative qualities of puzzles when she was rained in during a visit to Yosemite. Soon the pair, who are partners at Major, a creative agency specializing in brand strategy and design, began working on puzzles as a way to unplug and unwind, but they were dissatisfied with the selection available. “We decided to start Piecework because we wanted to bring thoughtful curation and design to an activity we really loved doing and to show people how much pleasure can be found in a puzzle,” says Hochhauser. —Leslie Dinaberg



On October 18 and 19, **Heather McDonald** (heathermcdonald.net) returns to the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza for two nights of stand-up comedy. Expect the comedian, author, and podcaster to find the funny in her own family life, pop culture—and even the 805. Here, she shares some thoughts about her work and the 805.

At this point in your career, what are you mostly known for?

Definitely comedian. It’s the hardest one, even though I was always told I was funny. It’s the one I’ve been doing the longest. Then podcaster. I started the Juicy Scoop [podcast] over three years ago. It’s done really well. So many people like it, and I’ve done it all myself.

How long have you been living 805-adjacent?

I grew up in Woodland Hills, and a couple years after my husband and I got married we bought the house next-door to my parents. So I’m on the street I was raised on. I love it. But we just joined the North Ranch Country Club in Westlake Village, so our goal is to move toward you guys eventually. I love the whole area. We have a lot of friends who live out there. Plus, it’s, like, 12 degrees cooler in the summer.

I guess you want readers to know that your shows are great for the kids, right?

No! It’s definitely *not* for the kids. But my stand up is very relatable to multigenerational audiences—like the 20-something daughter and her mother. They all love my stand-up. It’s non-political, it’s not male-bashing. It’s just funny, relatable stuff about life.

So what’s so funny about the 805?

What I love is how attractive everybody is. I see all these beautiful women, all dolled up, really put together. I mean, how have they not had a *Real Housewives of Westlake Village*, yet?

How many of the world’s problems have you solved with your podcast, the Juicy Scoop?

What is nice is that it’s really not that kind of show. It’s an escape. It’s whatever is juicy, so oftentimes it’s the latest thing in pop culture, the latest Hollywood couple has broken up and I want to investigate that and relate it to my life. I have comedians on, I have reality stars on, authors. I share listeners’ issues and what’s juicy going on in their life.

Since October is 805 Living’s 15th birthday, what’s a good present for our magazine?

Well, besides going to see me? Well, maybe a big cake. Or a learner’s permit.

—Interview by Anthony Head



LITERATURE ON DEMAND

Once upon a time, our forebears sat around a fire to listen to elders spin a saga. Things move faster these days. We can now get a quick, free fiction fix, thanks to the Squire Foundation, a nonprofit organization devoted to educational programs in the humanities, and its **Short Story Dispenser** (dispenser.short-edition.com), currently installed in Santa Barbara’s Public Market. A touch of a button on the sleek machine instantly calls up a scroll of eco-friendly paper with a tale inscribed on it that is designed to be read in either one, three, or five minutes—depending on which button the reader selects.

The device—one of just 30 in the United States—was purchased from Short Édition, a French community publisher, and the stories are randomly chosen from an online bank of more than 9,000 brief works. “Squire’s mission is to foster creative empowerment in the world through arts and culture,” says foundation executive director Ashley Woods Hollister. “The dispenser checked all our boxes for that kind of public engagement.” By late August, some 7,719 stories had been given out. That’s a lot of reading happily ever after!

—Joan Tapper



FROM TOP: MELISSA COULIER; COURTESY OF PIECEWORK; O. ALEXANDRE

Bedclothes made from vintage linen soften a modern platform frame at Beautiful Mess Home & Garden.



MIXED-ERA HOME DESIGN

When it comes to home decorating, what's on-trend? Of late, design experts express the sentiment that adding a vintage touch to a modern space is key to making rooms look fresh. Clutter is out; incorporating collectibles that tell a story is in. Clever placement of ageless pieces can create warmth and interest within what might otherwise be a cookie-cutter home.

But how to pull off, say, incorporating a 1963 Ball chair with French Country bedroom furniture? Mixing styles successfully takes a bit of design savvy. The key is to patronize shops that showcase mixed groupings and have experts on hand to impart advice.

In Santa Barbara, the **Antique Center Mall** (antiquecentermall.com) houses 20 sellers of antiques and collectibles, each ensconced in their own self-decorated space. A particularly inspiring vendor is **Modern Vintage**, where jazzy juxtapositions of vintage and newer items—a modern canvas chair and swing lamp alongside a 1900s steamer trunk or a mid-century typewriter and license plate complemented by vintage mirrors and modern art—conjure visions of chic settings composed of eclectic conversation pieces and antiques.

At Whizin Market Square in Agoura Hills, **The Agoura Antique Mart** (agouraantiquemart.com) houses 40-plus dealers, each embracing a different design philosophy. The mart's catchphrase "A Trendy & Vintage Marketplace" speaks volumes about mixing design periods and styles with staged arrangements, such as a farmhouse dining table topped with vintage jugs or mid-century modern style Ralph Lauren chairs gussied up with new indigo pillows.

In the same square is **Beautiful Mess Home & Garden** (abeautifulmesshome.com), not a collective but a high-end home decor destination replete with antiques, collectibles, textiles, lighting, furniture, and art, all exhibited in impressive settings: An antique French dining table is outfitted with modern Belgian dining chairs; a contemporary clean-lined platform bed is dressed in vintage linens.

Thoroughly inspired? Before you test your skills, take a few tips from the owners of these stores. They're highly respected design experts in their own right.



ANNE LUTHER
co-owner, **Modern Vintage**

- An ornate antique gilt mirror looks great in an ultra-modern room.
- A modern glass

table with Lucite chairs can be stunning with an antique crystal chandelier and a silver-framed mirror.

- Pair a vintage rustic dining table with modern aluminum chairs.
- Add modern art in contemporary frames to an all-vintage room.
- Experiment with contrasts: Mix hard with soft, square with round, blocky with leggy, and forget what period they are from.



MARIA BARTOLET
owner, **The Agoura Antiques Mart**

- Select a special vintage piece to anchor a room, and then bring in newer accessories.

• If your furniture is contemporary, choose items such as vintage oil paintings, books, and other accessories to bring interest and warmth to your home.



KYMBERLEY FRASER
owner, **Beautiful Mess Home & Garden**

- Anyone can open a catalog and furnish their home. Ask yourself if the pieces displayed express your individuality.

• Dwelling spaces should be a reflection of what we behold as beautiful as well as what we value most. ♦

—Heidi Dvorak