

The world is round and the place which may seem like the end may also be only the beginning. ~ Ivy Baker Priest

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M-GEOUGH messenger

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Lucia Lawrence Fine Collection



California native Lucia Lawrence (1910 ~2008) had a lifelong love of art. It began in childhood when she won a small prize in an art contest and carried through a life filled with adventure and artistic pursuits including the founding of Lawrence & Scott.

"My mother had a great head for business and a wonderful eye and sensitivity for finding sweet objects," daughter and Lawrence & Scott Managing Director, Marcia Van Liew says. "She lived a long and remarkable life, and through the M-Geough showroom in Boston and several other showrooms in our network, we will be selling a group of select antique pieces from her private collection to the trade. I have felt that the people in the industry would appreciate them, so we wanted to present the Lucia Lawrence Fine Collection to her own peers."

Lucia's many careers began in London before World War II with studies in orthoptics. She chronicled her time in England, France and



Holland with photos taken on a Rolleiflex TLR camera. Following her return, she taught orthoptics in New York City, in Toronto, and in Los Angeles. In New York, she met Canadian born ophthalmologist, Maurice Wilfred Nugent, her husband of 40 years and father of her three daughters ~ Marcia, Kaylie and Meredith.

In the late '40s, her friends so admired the interior



Lloyd Scott Kirsch & Lucia Lawrence visit the Great Wall of China 1986

of her first home on Wilton Place in Los Angeles that they began seeking her design services for their own homes. By the mid '50s, she established Lucia Lawrence, Inc., and with a team of ASID interior designers, served commercial and residential clients in Los Angeles and Southern California. She even wrote a newspaper column entitled "Dear Decorator!"

At this same time, Lucia began her travels to exotic destinations such as Tahiti, the Fiji Islands, New Guinea and Cambodia. In Thailand, she bought the first of many antiques ~ a Thai spirit house. Her importing career began in Japan where she bought artifacts that she sold through her design business. Her work from that time forward was forever influenced by Asian art. A collection of Hindu paintings on cotton, called Pichavai, led to her association with her first design showroom in Dallas.

"When she asked the showroom owner if he wanted to buy one," Marcia says, "he said he

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Alexander Bunkbed

they print tearsheets, but they can automatically attach a tearsheet to an email. Many of our pieces are shown in a variety of finishes, which really communicates the range that the line offers. We think designers will love this feature.”

With a background in business and marketing, Brooke has been responsible for leading the company for the past 15 years. Brent joined the team as lead designer in 2000 and together they continue to grow the company.

“Brent is an architect by training,” Brooke says. “He loves to design pieces that are exclusive to Farmhouse, and he is responsible for designing all of our signature hardware. He carves each piece in wood or molds it in copperplate, and then he sends the pieces to one of two foundries where they cast the pieces for us. His starburst hinge on our Carrara Coffee Table makes it a best-seller.”

Every single piece in the Farmhouse line is made one at a time. From the workshop in Twin Falls, Idaho, master craftsmen train apprentices and journeymen in the old world joinery techniques such as mortis and tenon and dovetailing. Each finished piece is then signed and dated with a bronze tag.

“In our growth, we have not cut corners,” Brooke says. “This is what distinguishes us.” **AG**

Hong Kong became a base for business trips and antiquing excursions. She loved scouring the nooks and crannies of Asia searching for beautiful treasure.

Lucia and Lloyd married in 1988, and they relocated to Seattle in 1989. She took up ballroom dancing and landscaping, welcomed two great grandchildren, and continued to scout and acquire properties.

Jim M-Geough traveled to Seattle in August along with Buzz Dicken, President of E.C. Dicken in Dallas, to select items for the Lucia Lawrence Fine Collection.

“We had a wonderful time revisiting Lucia's life and visiting with two of her daughters, Marcia and Meredith,” Jim says. “We will have a small section of the showroom as a tribute to this magnificent woman and her amazing life.” **AG**

Lucia Lawrence Fine Collection



Ching Dynasty (19th c)
Chinese Famille Rose
covered jar on rosewood
stand (#262).



Seven pieces of a large
collection of Ching Dynasty
(19th c) Chinese Cabbage
Pattern porcelains (#210, 39,
43, 44, 45, 211, 41)
surrounding Chinese
lacquered wood box of the
same period (#232).



19th century English
rosewood drawer front table
with reeded legs on ceramic
casters (#593). Ching
Dynasty (19th c) Chinese
blackwood Seal Chest with
large brasses (#415).

client can pick the level of distressing from light to heavy to achieve the effect they want. The outcome is truly in the hands of the designer.”

Designers can now view the entire Farmhouse Collection from a brand new website at www.farmhousecollection.com.

“When a designer logs in, they will have access to all of our pricing,” Brooke says. “Not only can

“Lucia Lawrence” continued from page 1

would buy them all! When she was overseas, she would seek out people with artistic talents and she began working and designing with them. Among the first objects she began to manufacture and import were a collection of archaic bronze vessels. We still make them today.”

Jim M-Geough began representing the Lawrence & Scott line in the early '70s, when the showroom was still located on Boylston Street.

“The most amazing thing about Lucia was her elegance,” Jim says. “She was a dear person and a dear friend. I learned a lot from her. Her knowledge of Asian art and artifacts was phenomenal. Her kindness was unmatched.”

In the '60 and early '70s, Lucia began two new ventures ~ investing in real estate and packaging tours to remote destinations through Wanderlust Travel. Along with business partner, Lloyd Scott Kirsch, she escorted travelers to remote destinations in Pakistan and Afghanistan and rubbed shoulders with the Mir Sahib of Hunzer and Prince Buran of Chitral.

Back at home, Lucia transformed a neglected building on Beverly Boulevard into a stylish showroom and offices for Lawrence & Scott. She expanded her travels in Japan and China, and