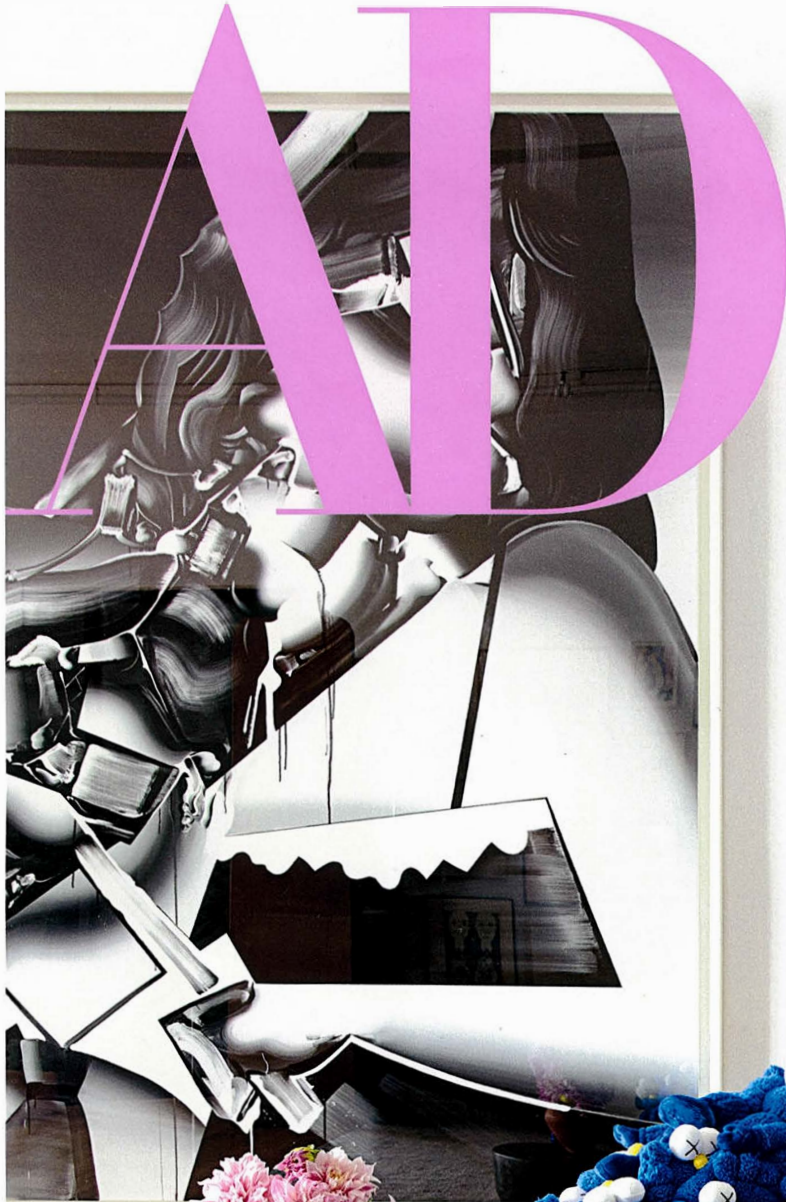


PRESSBOOK

KAWS

AD

December 2017



AD VISITS ARTIST
BRIAN DONNELLY,
A.K.A. **KAWS,**
IN BROOKLYN



LIVING WITH ART
COLLECTORS, CURATORS, AND ARTISTS
BRING IT HOME

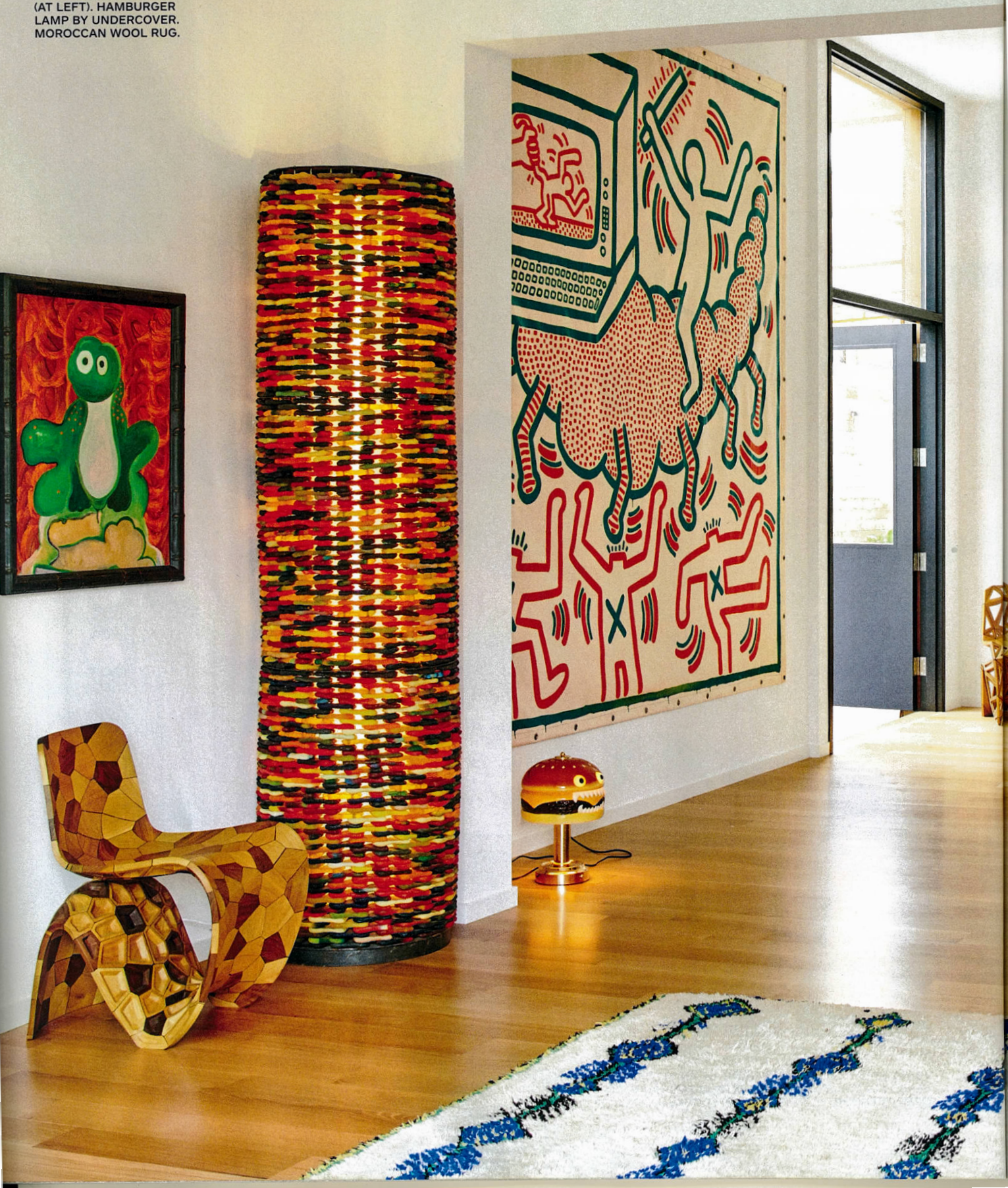
ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

*Brian Donnelly, a.k.a. KAWS, and
Julia Chiang build a collection-
and kid-friendly home in Brooklyn*

TEXT BY **GAY GASSMANN** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **JASON SCHMIDT** STYLED BY **MICHAEL REYNOLDS**



SUNNY LOOKS AT A
PICTURE BOOK NEXT TO
A CABINET BY GAETANO
PESCE. ARTWORKS BY MIKE
KELLEY, KEITH HARING, AND
DONDI LINE THE WALLS.
CHAIRS BY JORIS LAARMAN.
LAMP BY GAETANO PESCE
(AT LEFT). HAMBURGER
LAMP BY UNDERCOVER.
MOROCCAN WOOL RUG.





DONNELLY AND CHIANG
WITH TWO H. C.
WESTERMANN SCULPTURES.
OPPOSITE THREE MARTIN
WONG ARTWORKS HANG
ABOVE THE BED. BLANKET
BY CHRIS JOHANSON.
SCULPTURES BY HAROSHI
SIT ON A TWIST TABLE BY
WENDELL CASTLE. SIDE
TABLE BY FAYE TOOGOOD.
EAMES LCW CHAIR.





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ike an impassioned docent, three-year-old Sunny Donnelly, with baby sister Lee in tow, leads the way around her family’s art-filled home in Brooklyn. From the living room, through bedrooms and outdoor spaces, and into one back room she calls the “Haring Room” (in reference to the large Keith Haring painting hanging there), Sunny points out everything of interest. The

tour is very thorough, especially when we reach her bedroom, where she shows off her many beloved toys, books, and her own favorite work of art, a frog painting by Chris Martin. “She is very proud of *her* room and *her* art,” says Sunny’s mom.

Mom is sculptor Julia Chiang, and Dad is artist Brian Donnelly, more famously known as KAWS. A veritable rock star in the art world, Donnelly has a devoted following (nearly 900K on Instagram) that reaches far beyond the rarefied confines of the contemporary art scene. A master at balancing

personal and commercial work, he has collaborated with brands like Disney, Lucasfilm, Uniqlo, and Jordan, music stars like Pharrell Williams and Kanye West, and design-world darlings the Campana Brothers. A 40-foot-tall balloon version of his cartoon-like *Companion* joined the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in 2012, and the following year he reimagined MTV’s iconic Moonman for the 30th anniversary of the Video Music Awards. Exhibited in museums from Texas to Shanghai, his work is sought out by collectors and worn by teenagers around the world.

A few years ago, Donnelly had just completed an ambitious new working studio in another Brooklyn neighborhood with Japanese designer Masamichi Katayama of Wonderwall, when the triangle-shaped industrial building the family now calls home caught his eye. “I used to walk by here every once in a while,” says the artist. “I wasn’t looking for a place—though I always like to look—so it was a spontaneous purchase. And after completing my main studio, which was a ground-up project, I came into this wanting to just get in as quickly as possible.” Though he has had a long and fruitful working relationship with Katayama, with whom he created the OriginalFake store in Tokyo in 2006, this time he chose to forgo the services of an architect. Instead, he turned to good friend and contractor Jake Klotz to help make the best of the oddly shaped floors. →





PILLOWS BY KAWS AND
 ALEXANDER GIRARD
 LIVING ROOM, AN ETTORE
 PILLI'S CHAIR BY GAETANO
 PRATT'S CHAIR BY GAETANO
 PESCE, KAWS' BFF PLUSH
 CHAIR BY FERNANDO AND
 HUMBERTO CAMPANA.

AN ARRAY OF ARTWORKS
 COVERS A WALL IN THE
 SOTTASS CABINET AND A
 CHILD'S CHAIR BY GAETANO
 PILLI'S CHAIR BY GAETANO
 PRATT'S CHAIR BY GAETANO
 PESCE HELP PARTITION
 THE SPACE. WYETH SOFA
 COVERED IN CUSTOM LINEN.

THE FAMILY GATHERS IN THE LIGHT-FILLED DINING SPACE. EARTHENWARE SCULPTURE BY CHIANG. VINTAGE HANS WEGNER TABLE AND OAK-AND-LEATHER DINING CHAIRS. ALVAR AALTO CHILDREN'S TABLE SET FROM KINDER MODERN. ARTWORKS BY BARRY MCGEE (IN REAR) AND ALEX KATZ (AT RIGHT).



“When I come home,” says *Donnelly*, “it’s refreshing to focus on the work of other artists.”





“I don’t buy art to put in specific places. I just collect what I love and hope to find a place for it.”

“We made it work for us,” says the artist. “We have room, we have walls to hang art, and we love the indoor/outdoor space for the kids. The challenge has been to make the home feel ‘cozy,’ Sunny’s favorite word.”

Donnelly acquired the entire building and divided it between the family living areas on one side and administrative offices and art storage on the other. His studio, where most of the art-making takes place, is just a short bike ride away. For Donnelly, who describes himself as “not very social,” time is mostly spent between there and the house, with trips to the park with Sunny. “I tend to live in a bit of a bubble between home and work.” For Chiang, whose studio is now in the building, “the most exciting part was that I would be able to work every day and still be right next to the kids.”

One of the most surprising, and wonderful, things about visiting Donnelly at home is discovering his vast and varied collection of art, ranging from the 1950s to the present. He goes wide and deep, meaning he’s interested in many different artists and, in a few cases, has acquired dozens of works by

the same artist. “I collect piece by piece,” he says of his method. “But then you get into it and you just start thinking about the missing pieces.” The fruit of his assemblage can be seen in every room of the house, where works by such art stars as Raymond Pettibon, George Condo, Mike Kelley, Alex Katz, and many more are on constant rotation. (In addition to works in storage, at any given time there are also several pieces out on loan to various exhibitions.)

“I don’t buy art to put in specific places,” he explains. “I just collect what I love and hope to find a place for it to be visible.” Notably, with the exception of some plush toys like *BFF*, his own art is nowhere in sight. “I spend all day every day surrounded by my work,” he says. “When I come home, it’s refreshing to focus on other artists.” He also collects decorative arts and sculpture, and highlights include large and impressive works by architect/designer Gaetano Pesce and American artist H. C. Westermann. This is a family that truly lives with art, art that includes more than a few “jump on” pieces. What could be more cozy than that? **▲**

A COLORFUL WORK BY
TAKASHI MURAKAMI
ENLIVENS SUNNY'S BEDROOM.
BIRCH SPARROW CRIB BY
OEUF WITH IKEA BED LINENS.
OPPOSITE FROM LEFT, ART-
WORKS BY CARROLL DUNHAM,
H. C. WESTERMANN, AND
DANA SCHUTZ. VINTAGE
HENRY W. KLEIN WINGBACK
CHAIR IN A WYETH FABRIC.
MOROCCAN RUGS.



design notes

THE DETAILS THAT MAKE THE LOOK



ARTWORKS BY TOMOO GOKITA (LEFT) AND GEORGE CONDO HANG ABOVE A KAWS BFF PLUSH CHAIR BY FERNANDO AND HUMBERTO CAMPANA. FAYE TOOGOOD SIDE TABLE. BFF TOY BY KAWS.

FLOWER BALL (3-D)
LITHOGRAPH BY
TAKASHI MURAKAMI
FROM OBJECTS20C;
\$3,000. 1STDIBS.COM



MAKER CHAIR
(DIAGONAL WOOD), BY
JORIS LAARMAN, 2014.
FRIEDMANBENDA.COM



CUP/EARTH, BY
FAYE TOOGOOD,
2016. FRIEDMAN
BENDA.COM



ARTEK STOOL E60
BY ALVARO AALTO;
\$310 EACH. VITRA
.COM; 212-463-5750

“The idea was to bring warmth into this industrial building.”



CHILDRENS CHAIR BY
GAETANO PESCE, 1998.
PATRICKPARRISH.COM



VINTAGE
MOROCCAN
RUG; \$4,600.
WOVEN.IS

INTERIORS: JASON SCHMIDT; MAKER CHAIR: ADAM REICH/COURTESY OF FRIEDMAN BENDA AND JORIS LAARMAN; CUP/EARTH: COURTESY OF FRIEDMAN BENDA AND FAYE TOOGOOD; CHILDRENS CHAIR BY CLEMENS KOIS/PATRICK PARRISH GALLERY; HAMBURGER LAMP: COURTESY OF END. ALL OTHERS COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE COMPANIES

“Every project is a challenge—as you get into it, you make the best of the space you have.”



BFF, BY KAWS, 2017.
STORE.MOMA.ORG

EAMES MOLDED-PLYWOOD LOUNGE CHAIR; \$930. DWR.COM



HAMBURGER LAMP BY UNDERCOVER, 2002.
ENDCLOTHING.COM

BLANKET BY CHRIS JOHANSON FOR THE STANDARD; \$340.
STANDARDHOTELS.COM



KAWS X PEANUTS TOY; \$40.
UNIQLO.COM

GENESIS SOFA WITH BRUSHED-BRASS BASE; \$3,499. CRATEANDBARREL.COM



CHECKER SPLIT PILLOW BY ALEXANDER GIRARD FOR MAHARAM; \$150. STORE.HERMANMILLER.COM



A BRUNO MATHSSON FOUR-SEATER BENCH SERVES AS A CATCHALL. KROKIG CLOTHES STAND FROM IKEA. ARTWORK BY BARRY MCGEE.