

DISCREET CHARM

Amedeo Pace and Kazu Makino, of acclaimed art-rock trio Blonde Redhead, do more than make beautiful music together. They share a pastel-hued apartment, full of hand-me-down antiques and flea-market finds, that has the same warm, moody vibe as their albums.

photographs by COLIENA BENTHEESTER styling by ASHLEY SARGENT produced by LISA AND text by ARIANA SPEYER



When Blonde Redhead released their debut record, in 1995, they played avant-garde noise-rock. Perhaps it's not surprising to learn that band members Pace and Makino lived in an NYC apartment that used to be just as loud, with a '60s mod Italian look. "This place was completely red—and it drove me crazy. It was too exciting," Makino says. The band's music (Makino and Pace share guitar and vocals, while Pace's twin brother, Simone, works the drums) has since evolved into a melodic moodscape, and Pace and Makino's mental has mellowed too. "I wasn't sure what I really liked before," Makino explains. "Slowly, I've become clear that I feel so much better this way." By "this way" she means pale Farrow & Ball paint, rustic Swedish and Victorian furniture and artfully spare tableaux.

MAKINO'S HEADQUARTERS

The sweetly faded palette and mix of historical styles are on full display in Makino's office/dressing room. A blue Gustavian chair is paired with a anti-worn pink washstand table (a gift from fashion designer Jane Hayes), while the Marie-Antoinette toile wallpaper leads to a neatly chic bygone era.

Armchair (similar to above) "Toucan Love" from \$150 lovelandesigns.com
Wallpaper (similar to above) "Toucan at Sea" \$90 (about \$2), Paros Deco (800) 343-7752 for stores
Wall paint (similar to above) in Caliente, farrowball.com





Stool
Light
Tori Boonje, "Garden"
E70 usacohome.com

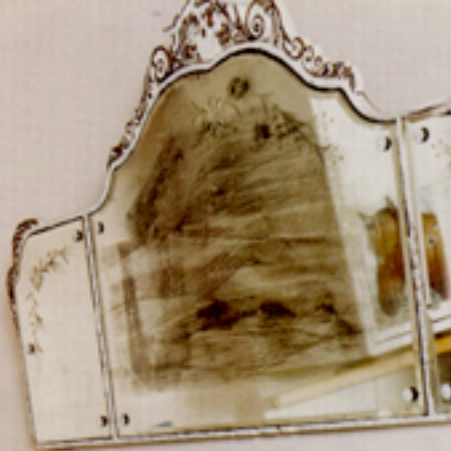
DINING AREA

Although it's a two-bedroom apartment, there are almost no closets or built-in shelving. Hence, a wooden dish rack, inherited from Pace's father, does double duty as display and storage. "It freaked me out, because it's so old-fashioned, but it's been really useful. We use those plates every day," Makino says. The china spans the globe (kind of like the band itself—Makino grew up in Japan, and the Pace brothers are from Italy) and was picked up mostly on tour. "It's a drag to bring back fragile things, but after a while on the road, you miss the domestic stuff. I can't help buying anything that makes me feel like I'm home," Makino confesses. She found the Victorian piano stool at a shop in Montreal; the 19th-century wooden chair came from Pace's grandmother. The rectangular table isn't ideal for the tight space ("You can feel like you're in the dining car on a train"), so Makino is on the hunt for a round one.



KITCHEN

Makino made the no-frills kitchen homier with a vintage mirror from a Manhattan flea market and French linen curtains that camouflage the "ugly doors" under the sink, she wrapped the heating pipe in bits of fabric trim (opposite) and hung a Tori Boonje light fixture above the stove. Horse-themed artwork and objects abound here and throughout the apartment. "I like horses more than I like people," Makino says, only half jokingly. Despite a riding accident five years ago, she is still passionate, traveling to a barn in upstate New York whenever she can. "I'm obsessed. The feeling you get is similar to playing music. I don't think of it as a sport—it's artistic." The walls are the same soft pink as in her office/dressing room, creating continuity.



Mirror (also for a shared closet)
Tori Boonje, "Garden"
E70 usacohome.com

◀ LIVING ROOM

Not having an actual fireplace didn't stop the couple from making a painted wood mantel the focal point of the room. Spotted at an antiques shop in Montreal, it supports a changing display of books, art and objects. The chair, from furniture dealer/interior decorator Ricky Clifton, is Aesthetic Movement, a style that flourished in the late 19th century between the Victorian era and the Arts and Crafts look. "That time is really about Americans and Europeans finding out about Japan. I like Victorian things where you can see the influence of Asia because it looks so wrong!" Makino says. The sheepskin protects the seat cushion from the claws of their cat, foto.



Two highlights in the tranquil bedroom: African fabric as a quilt and a '50s-era cabinet with a stone built in. Bed similar to shown from and fabric "Sage" by J. Jill (www.jill.com). Cabinet similar to shown "Chicago" cabinet (www.2ndstreet.com). Wall paint similar to shown in first Toronto Toronto.com

◀ the world of blonde redhead

THE MUSIC

Blonde Redhead's seventh album, *23*, due out in April, follows *Mary Is a Butterfly* (right), from 2004. Besides perfectly capturing their visual style (shown) that blue door look uncannily like the mural on the opposite page!), Mary signed a stuff from an awful disbandance to a nostalgia-filled haunting sound.



"The Swedish Room" **\$28.99** AMAZON.COM

"The Swedish Room" is a top fan of Gustavian furniture, a style associated with late-1700s Swedish King Gustav III. "It's not as decorative as French antiques," she explains. "For those, you have to have a proper house. Gustavian has more simplicity and an artisanal quality, the beech wood painted in pale blues. It feels like the country. It's perfect for me!"



"Gloss" dress
\$888 and
"Black" top
\$440 WWW.2NDSTREET.COM

THE FASHION

Makino's best friend is fashion designer Jane Marie, who is known for romantic, bohemian designs that could almost be vintage. "I wear so many of her clothes as I can afford" says Makino, who counts on her for stage attire too. "I always want to know what Jane is thinking—she has amazing taste and she inspires me."

the end