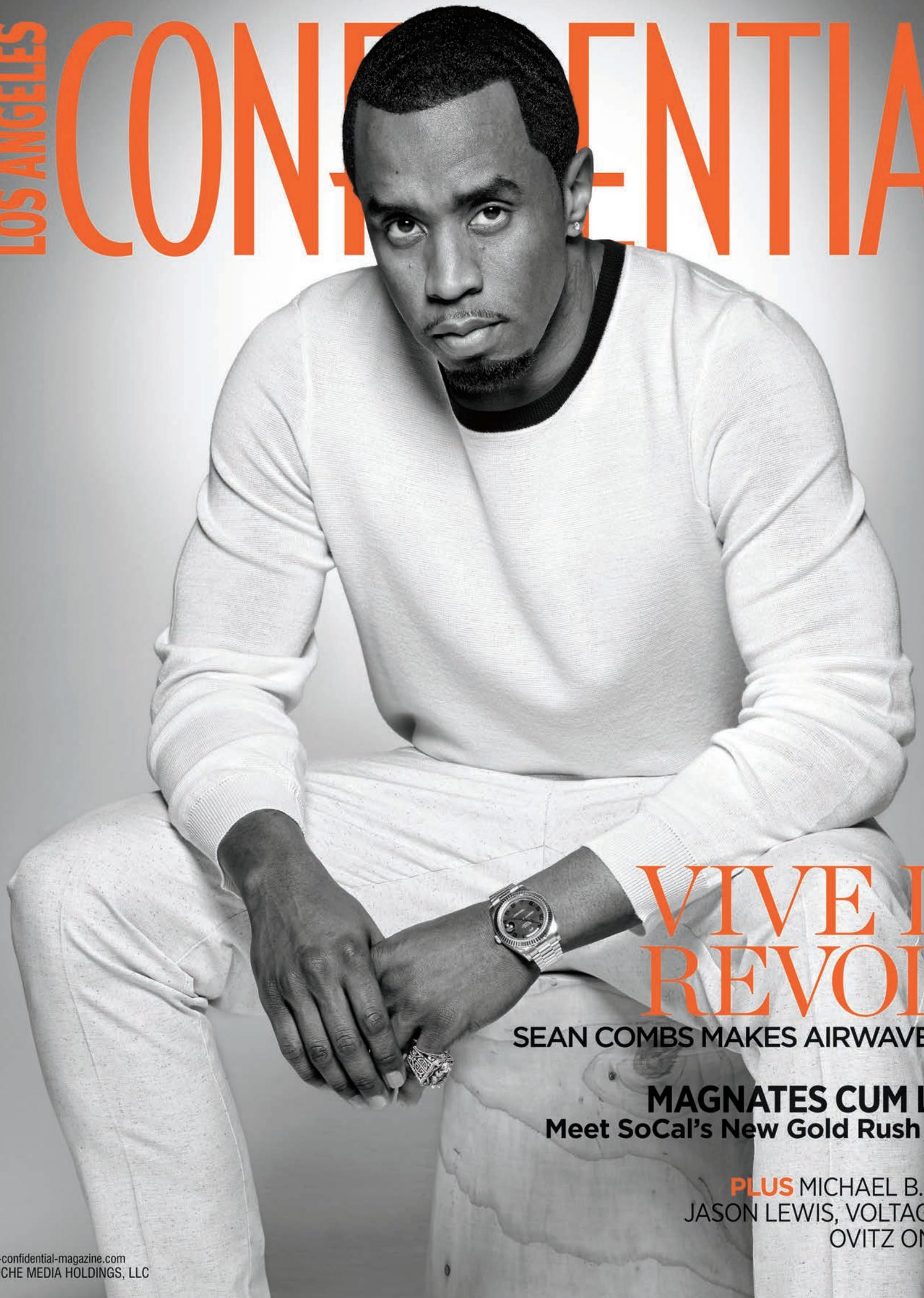


LOS ANGELES CONFIDENTIAL



VIVE LA REVOLT!

SEAN COMBS MAKES AIRWAVES IN LA

MAGNATES CUM LAUDE

Meet SoCal's New Gold Rush Royalty

PLUS MICHAEL B. JORDAN,
JASON LEWIS, VOLTAGGIO AND
OVITZ ON A ROLL!

Antiques and collectibles from the Venice "cabinet of curiosities," Obsolete.

artistic licenses

PER THESE TOP SHOPS, FINE ART FOR THE HOME DOESN'T HAVE TO HANG ON THE WALL!

BY JADE CHANG



Espasso

With outposts in New York and London as well as on Melrose in LA, Espasso is becoming the global go-to for modern and contemporary design from Brazil. It seems like an unexpected niche until you remember that the list includes well known midcentury modernists like José Zanine Caldas and Sergio Rodrigues, who last year opened a shop within Espasso, selling reissues of his most iconic pieces.

Pacific Design Center, 8687 Melrose Ave., B205, LA, 310-657-0020; espasso.com

Galerie Half

Elegance and restraint are the bywords at this gallery, set with tableaux that demonstrate an enviably worn-in luxury, mixing rare finds—a Jean Prouvé table, a Kaare Klint sofa—with nameless-but-classic early European pieces. Co-owner Cliff Fong is also an interior designer who has done homes for Ryan Murphy and Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi, plus local retail outposts (Cynthia Vincent) and restaurants (Ink).

6911 Melrose Ave., LA, 323-424-3866; galeriehalf.com

Gray Gallery

A favorite of Diane von Furstenberg, this spot is the work of a Parisian interior decorator and an LA-based jewelry designer. The result is a gallery that specializes in unequivocally statement-making pieces, both vintage and contemporary—a stance that's best

represented by the imposing, brass-toned sculpted wall by ceramist Peter Lane. The gallery carries his work, along with works by Antoinette Faragallah, whose pieces look like they were fished up from a Byzantine shipwreck, and Marie Khouri, a jewelry designer who also makes furniture.

8751 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood, 310-854-0091; graygallery.com

JF Chen

Collector and curator JF Chen is an integral part of LA's design landscape. Besides building a vast storehouse of antiques that spread across three retail locations, he has also played host to James Franco's MOCA show, "Rebel," and staged an Eames retrospective for "Pacific Standard Time." Go for modern masters like Jean Prouvé and Ettore Sottsass, but don't forget to check the latest finds from new designers.

830 N. Highland Ave., LA, 323-466-9710; 941 N. Highland Ave., LA, 323-466-9700; 8590 National Blvd., Culver City, 310-559-2436; jfchen.com

Obsolete

This Venice cabinet of curiosities is the work of former fashion exec Ray Azoulay, who started out as an enthusiastic collector and opened a store because he had a farmhouse full of antiques he was hoping to sell. Today, the inventory ranges from pedigreed English chesterfields to scientific curiosities; the shop also serves as a gallery—the

latest show features Amanda Demme's photographs. For another peek into the world as seen by Azoulay, take a look at the "We Love" section on his website—it's a fabulous resource guide of his favorite things to eat, see, and buy.

222 Main St., Venice, 310-399-0024; obsoleteinc.com

Reform

There are many LA furniture stores dedicated to the love of craft, but Reform is the only one we know of with a proprietor so serious about his scholarship that he maintains a full library of design books as part of the shop. Gerard O'Brien has created a mecca for those seeking the work of masters like Gerald McCabe, Paul Tuttle, and John Kapel.

6819 Melrose Ave., LA, 323-938-1515; reform-modern.com

Siglo Moderno

Young designer Jorge L. Cruzata, who has worked on interiors for two very-LA entities—Juicy Couture and the SLS Hotels—sells his own cheekily named S+M Collection here as well as a selection of everything from current Ross Lovegrove to vintage B&B Italia. The vibe is louche-meets-global—all that sexy furniture is surrounded by unexpected things like African-influenced accessories and Frédérique Morrel animal sculptures crafted from found needlework.

8373 Melrose Ave., LA, 323-653-3100; siglomoderno.com LAC

HIGH-ART MINDED

Industry Gallery owner **Craig Appelbaum** turns furniture into art.

What's happening at the PDC? It's exciting to be part of the new Design Lab and Helen Varola—the lab's curator—is leading the effort to transform the PDC into a destination for collectible art and design.

Any local up-and-comers to watch? Oyler Wu Collaborative and Atelier Manferdini are going to be huge. I also love the direction in which LA-based designer Sami Hayek is going. His designs are extraordinary for their craftsmanship.

If my chair is art, can I still sit in it? Of course you can sit in it. Just because a piece is dimensional doesn't mean it's not art. It just means we need to reconsider our predecessors' narrow definition of "art."

Industry Gallery Los Angeles, Pacific Design Center, 8687 Melrose Ave., B-270, LA, 424-245-4662; industrygallerydc.com/la



An installation by Mathias Bengtsson at Industry Gallery.