

# HOME & DECOR

STYLISH LIVING MADE EASY

**BRAND  
NEW  
LOOK!***hot trend!***ORIGAMI-INSPIRED FURNITURE**

## 101 FRESH WAYS TO DECK YOUR HALLS!

**CUTTING-EDGE CHRISTMAS TREES  
STYLISH GIFTS FROM JUST \$6!  
NO-COOKING PARTY MENUS****SECRET SOURCES OF SINGAPORE'S  
COOLEST DECORATORS****THE TRANSFORMERS**  
FROM HELMET TO  
HANDBAG & MORE!

THE WALLS OF AN ART GALLERY BY NIC WILLIAMS. PHOTO BY BETTY WONG



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**Who** MIXED MEDIA ARTIST KETNA PATEL  
**Why** SHE BRINGS ART INTO EVERYDAY LIVING AND HER ATTENTION-GRABBING WORKS DEFY STEREOTYPES OF ASIAN-THEMED ART  
**she loves** SINCERITY, INNOCENCE, INDIAN VILLAGES AND ORIGINALITY  
**she hates** MEDIOCRITY, FEAR, PROPAGANDA AND CONSUMERISM

If Ketna Patel's furniture pieces could speak, they would have plenty of stories to tell. Loud, punchy images of Asian symbols, icons and life as she sees it are translated onto couches, lampshades and carpets. More than just utilitarian objects, the mixed media artist sees these "alternative canvases" as one of the ways for her to share her observations of Asia.

"Art is communication," says the African-born Indian who is now a Singapore permanent resident. For Ketna, this means "taking art out of its traditional gallery or museum context

and bringing it into everyday life instead." Ask her who her inspirations are, and she answers: "Everyday common people who have a strong sense of values."

Likewise, Ketna's pop art creations that are executed in a variety of media – from furniture to photo collages and installations – are something the man-on-the-street can easily appreciate. Whether it's something they can sit on or look at and appreciate on the wall, her use of eye-catching colours and message-filled imagery appeals on every level. ●



Singapore Starfruit chair by Ketna Patel

**Ketna Patel** Log on to [www.ketnapatel.com](http://www.ketnapatel.com) for more of the artist's works. Her current installation *Beside The Point* is on at Wheelock Art Gallery on 6 Scotts Road (between Marriott and Grand Hyatt hotels) till Dec 17, 2007.