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STYLE

WHERE THE ART IS
Carolina Bucci wears silk and sequin blouse, £1,050, Chloé at Harrods. Cotton and silk trousers, £565, Antonio Berardi at Harrods. Patent heels, £445, Stella McCartney. All jewellery, by Carolina Bucci.
Bottom left: Bucci's bedroom; the cushions spell out her husband's name on the reverse

Carolina Bucci is sitting in her Bayswater apartment, trying to describe her signature style: 'I suppose I always want things to feel easy,' says the Italian-born and now London-based designer, who has brought irreverence and wit to fine jewellery. 'And inspiration always comes from something I have seen or done, always from my own life,' she adds, as she leans on one of the many fruit-print cushions that are dotted around her living room - cushions that gave her the idea for one of her bestselling collections, gold 'tropical-fruit' pendants dotted with precious stones.

Bucci moved into this flat five years ago, after spending her twenties in New York, and lives with her English husband James Pyner, an art dealer, and their sons Lucas, five, and Julius, three. The towering ceilings and open space provide the perfect backdrop to the couple's diverse style.

'I am obsessed with all tones of grey,' says Bucci of the dove-grey walls (Farrow & Ball's Pavilion Gray) that contrast with the elaborate white cornicing, black Murano-glass chandelier and sleek dark-wood floors. Her latest purchase is a vast rug in all shades of grey from Jonathan Adler. 'I have waited so long to find the right thing - I can't wait for it to arrive.'

The space is an ever-changing gallery of contemporary art (current pieces include Sarah Pickering's haunting images of the



Jewellery designer Carolina Bucci opens her elegant home, revealing colourful contemporary art and chic family heirlooms

BY CLARE COULSON
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARCO WALKER

My life, my style

STYLE



MIRROR IMAGE

From far left: Bucci's grandparents' headboard, which now acts as a living-room mirror. A porcelain 'stag trophy' by Nymphenburg. Bucci's bookshelves, crammed with art and design tomes. Bucci wears a wool dress, £620, Stella McCartney. All jewellery, by Carolina Bucci. Watch, her own. The artwork features Kate Moss is by Stefan Bruggemann



'We love modernity, but I also like to include lots of memories too'

fake towns used for riot-police training), mixed with much-loved personal items like the Livio De Marchi Murano-glass balloons that Bucci bought for her husband's birthday.

There are ingenious twists on family 'néahooms, too. A chunky oak *malina* (a deep dresser that was traditionally used for proving loaves of bread) has been lined in

blue-grey leather and is used as a bar, and an elaborate gilt and mirror headboard that once belonged to Bucci's grandparents tops a chunky marble mantelpiece. 'We love modernity, but I also like to include lots of memories too,' adds Bucci, who contributes to the heirlooms with her own intricate sketches – given to her husband each year

– that are dotted around the apartment.

Bucci's family has been making fine jewellery since 1885, when her great-grandfather became known in Florence for his handmade gold chains. It was always a given, she says, that she would join the family trade. 'But I wanted to make things that felt precious but were also fun – that women could buy like they buy a new handbag or pair of shoes.' Pieces like the woven-gold cuffs in countless colours with which she has made her name, or the 'Lucky' bracelets strung with diamond talismans – a design inspired by the friendship bracelets that she used to make as a girl during summers in Forte Dei Marmi. It's that sense of youthful ease that defines Bucci's work.

Her own wrists are a jumble of bracelets: a Cartier love bangle given to her by her father for her 16th birthday and her own 'Lucky' bracelets. But her taste in clothes is far more minimal. On the day we meet, she is wearing an emerald silk top by Prada and jeans from Forever 21. 'I have two boys, so everything has to be simple,' she says with a laugh.

Her most treasured piece is a gold and diamond pendant of two little boys – which she created as a talismanic design for her sons. 'We all want very personal pieces now,' adds Bucci. This autumn she is launching monogrammed rings that can be made with different-colour stones and letters. 'These days, everyone is wearing the same things, so having something that feels special to you is becoming more and more popular.' □

THE FINE DETAILS

On books

'A lot of my inspiration comes from nature.'

Cabinet of Natural Curiosities by Albertus Seba (£27.99, Taschen)



On room scents

'I adore the smell of this Fico Selvatico fragrance.'

£49.50, Dr Vranjes



On jewellery

'I don't like the idea of saving something for a special occasion'

Pendant, £3,625; chain, £1,305, Carolina Bucci



Customised tote, from a selection Goyard GB

On bags

'Monograms feature a lot in my jewellery. This tote is one of my favourite accessories.'



£98 each, Jonathan Adler



On cushions

'I drive my husband crazy with my pillow obsession.'