

House Beautiful

Creative, Thoughtful Gift Ideas for the Person Who Has Everything

Trust us, they haven't thought of these before.



BY [HADLEY KELLER](#) SEP 13, 2021

Whether it's a wealthy aunt, a picky partner, or that friend who *always* seems to get her hands on the newest must-have item first, sometimes there's that one person on your gift list for whom the perfect present seems impossible to proffer. There's no one harder to shop for than the person who seemingly has *everything*—and the task is made all the more daunting when that recipient happens to be a talented gift giver. But fear not: As editors whose job it is to scour the internet and the real world for the best-of-the-best, we have plenty of ideas for gifts that fall way outside the box. No matter how hip your recipient, trust us—there's something on this list they won't have heard of. And, because the best gifts have much less to do with money spent than thought put into them, there's something at nearly every price point. So read on and stock your shopping cart—just make sure you get to it before they do. Happy gifting!



HADLEY KELLER

A House Portrait

For a friend with an enviable pad, consider preserving it for posterity, with a custom painting of the exterior or a favorite room, like this one by LuluLiveArtStudio, available on Etsy. (See more artists here).

From \$99, etsy.com

SHOP NOW



ALASTAIR MATTHEWS

A Candle Portrait

Sure, your most well-heeled friends may have a marble bust of themselves à la Mr. Darcy, but do they have a likeness in candle form? Delight your loved ones with a custom candle portrait of them, their significant others, or even a beloved pet, from

artist Janie Korn—for them to burn or save, depending on the mood.

\$150 for human, \$125 for [pets](https://www.janiekorn.com). [janiekorn.com](https://www.janiekorn.com)

[SHOP NOW](#)



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A Design Scholarship

What better gift for people who have it all than a gift in their honor to someone who could use it? For design lovers, consider a scholarship supporting diversity in design education, such as the [Black Artist + Designers Guild's Creative Futures Grant](#) or the [New York School of Interior Design's](#) recently-launched Diversity Scholarship.

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HADLEY KELLER

A Surprise Monthly Gift

If you can't think of the perfect delightful surprise, leave it to someone else: Brother Vellies's Something Special subscription program sends a unique, handmade gift to your recipient monthly. Expect anything from Ethiopian coffee beans to a sisal doormat to this miniature terra cotta vase by Oaxacan artist duo José and Teresita. (Note: Future gifts are, well, a surprise, but these are examples of past ones!).

*\$35 per month,
brothervellies.com*

SHOP NOW

A Decadent Silver Vessel

Whether used to house Q-tips or a floral centerpiece, these silver-plated cups from designer Cece Barfield's home line are the perfectly unusual offering to add a pretty touch to any home—no matter how much silver it already houses.

*From \$120,
cecebarfieldinc.com*

SHOP NOW

A Bespoke Library

What to gift an avid reader? How about a full library, curated just for them. Bibliophiles and tastemakers (Gwyneth Paltrow among them) entrust Thatcher Wine of Juniper Books to hand-

CECE BARFIELD



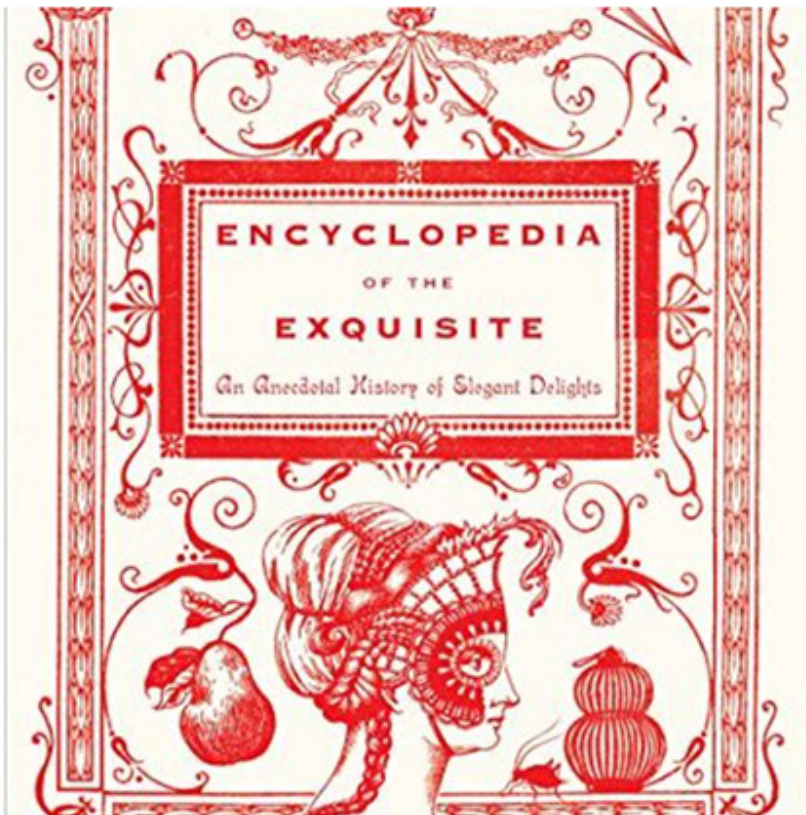


JUNIPER BOOKS

select a collection, then wrap them in custom covers, which can be printed to spell out a name, show a design, or create a colorful backdrop, like in this library designed by Windsor Smith. Not up for the full treatment? Shop Wine's own book on the art of collecting and displaying books for a less hefty fee [here](#).

*From \$350,
juniperbooks.com*

SHOP NOW



A Book on Expensive Things

For the pampered loved one who's a bit self-aware, offer up an encyclopedia of luxuries throughout history in the form of this book, which also makes a chic addition to a coffee table.

\$28, amazon.com

SHOP NOW



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A Star

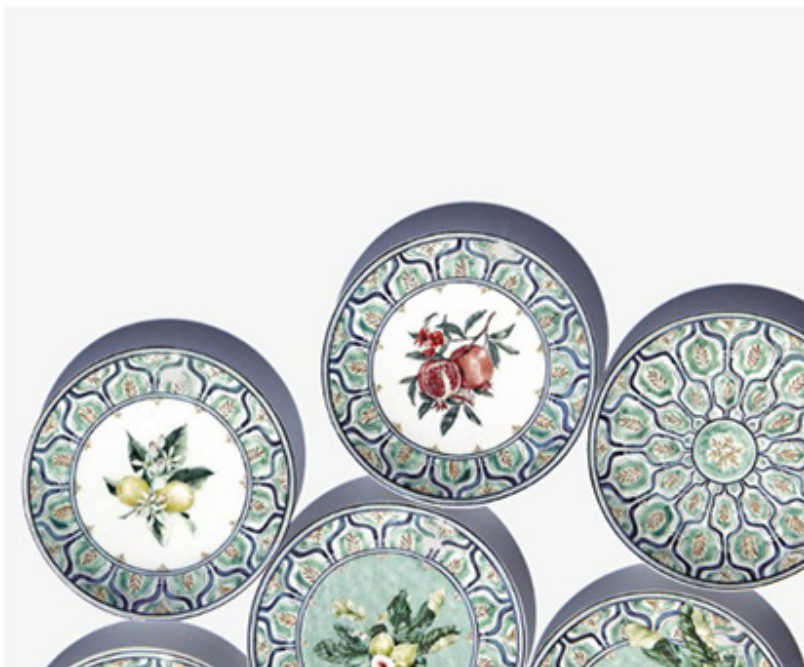
Make a wish upon a star come true, and register a twinkling nova for your loved one through Star Register.

From \$25, starregister.com

SHOP NOW

A Set of Handpainted Dessert Plates

In an enchanting courtyard in Milan, artisans at Laboratorio Paravicini meticulously handpainted fine porcelain tableware. Their patterns—





DIPTYQUE PARIS

like the figs, shown here—are whimsical enough to stand out on even the most exquisite tabletops (for a real over-the-top offering, fly your recipient to Milan to commission a custom set).

\$85 each, diptyqueparis.com

A Screen Owned by Mario Buatta

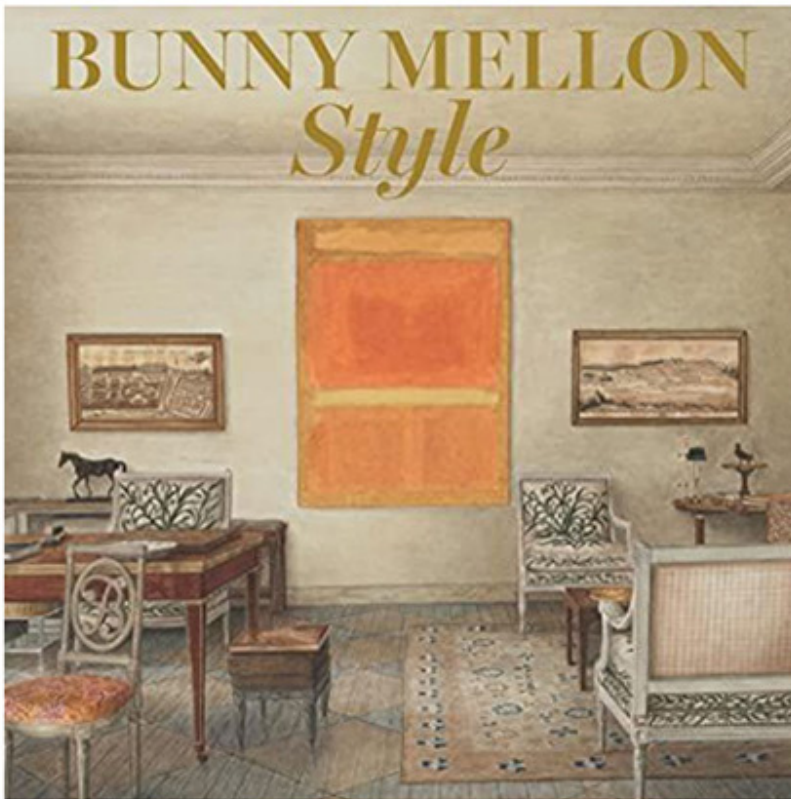
Fans of the late "Prince of Chintz" flocked to Sotheby's to bid on the offerings of his estate last year. If you—or a lucky loved one—missed out, good news: You can still score treasures from the Prince's trove through the [Buatta Boutique](#) at Eerdmans New York. Painted flora not quite right? A ceramic [asparagus box](#) is a steal at \$350.

\$3,000.

eerdmansnewyork.com



EERDMANS



GIBBS-SMITH

A Book on a Legendary Tastemaker

Speaking of tastemakers with buzzworthy Sotheby's sales, chances are even your most privileged friends would envy the collection of legendary socialite, horticulturalist, and tastemaker Bunny Mellon. Inspire them with a forthcoming tome on her many stylish residences.

\$59, [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

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Hadley Keller is a writer and editor based in New York, covering design, interiors, and culture.
