

Apartment tour

1BR in the West Village

Textile expert Mary Nelson Sinclair adapts Southern charm to modern city life.

By **Sarah Bruning**



1 As the studio director for a bespoke textile company Vanderhurd (vanderhurd.com), Mary Nelson Sinclair relies on her fine-arts training and eye for color in the professional realm. An appreciation for skilled craftsmanship, bold patterns and classic design also informs her home life. The Texas-born sophisticate has rented her 525-square-foot pad since May 2011, decking it out with items that reflect both her Southern heritage and her passion for foreign destinations. "I'm definitely eclectic, and I love to travel," says Sinclair, who shares the apartment with her teacup terrier, Coco.

2 The pale pink headboard in Sinclair's bedroom emerged from a DIY project: Using her old daybed's frame as a starting point, she had the piece trimmed to fit the width of a full mattress, then covered it in Oxford cloth from Mood Fabrics (225 W 37th St between Seventh and Eighth Aves, third floor; 212-730-5003, moodfabrics.com). "My mom and I sat there for two hours trying to stretch the material perfectly before stapling it on," she

recalls. She hangs her own abstract oil painting alongside framed prints from her childhood bedroom, including an intricate display of her initials done by a book-illustrator friend of her parents.

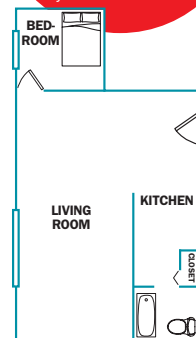
3 When Sinclair took over the apartment from a friend, she personalized the sun-drenched living room with a mix of antique and vintage furnishings, contemporary artwork and modern accents, including the blue geometric rug she custom-ordered from her employer. She also tweaked an eco-friendly sofa from Lee Industries (leeindustries.com), swapping out the original natural canvas covering for a lilac Manuel Canovas linen (manuelcanovas.com).

4 Sinclair admits she doesn't cook for herself much, but she



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does enjoy preparing meals for other people—despite the limited kitchen space. "I break things all the time when I'm hand-washing dishes," she says, referring to her petite sink. "It's super cute, but admittedly inefficient."

5 Sinclair scored this retro Mastercraft console from the Showplace Antique Center. "I was looking for a bar-slash-storage situation for that wall, and it ended up being the perfect size," she says. Her best friend, artist Sally Benedict Read (sallybenedict.com), created the abstract painting atop the royal-blue unit. The monochromatic flower print by Tom Wesselmann (tomwesselmannestate.org) is a hard-earned bidding win from a Phillips de Pury (phillipsdepury.com) auction.

6 Shelter Serra (shelterserra.com) created the framed wax cast of an Hermès Birkin bag, which was the first piece of art Sinclair ever purchased for herself. "He mostly works in wax, but he's also used silicone and resin," says Sinclair, who picked up the funky piece at a pop-up art show curated by a friend.

LOVE THE LOOK? GET IT HERE!

► **Estilo Upholstery** 170 Rivington St between Attorney and Clinton Sts (212-473-1735) "It's super cheap, super fast and really good," enthuses Sinclair. "I used them to re-cover my couch. They'd quoted me two weeks for the job, but it only took them a week and a half."

► **John Derian** 6 2nd St between Bowery and Second Ave (212-677-3917, johnderian.com) "I don't think you can go wrong there," says Sinclair of her go-to ephemera shop.

► **Portmanteau** 81 Grand St at Wythe Ave, Williamsburg, Brooklyn (718-384-0777) A favorite from Sinclair's days of living in the neighborhood, this shop stocks an eclectic mix of new tchotchkes—many of which are made by emerging local vendors—and antique wares. "I love the smaller accessories there," she says.

► **Showplace Antique Center** 40 W 25th St between Broadway and Sixth Ave (212-633-6063, nyshowplace.com) "The guy who has the whole top floor, Showplace on 3, is my go-to for light fixtures and furniture," notes Sinclair, who scored her lucite-and-leather living room chairs at the sprawling antiques emporium.

