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Refinery 29 cofounder and global editor in chief Christene Barberich sits amongst a trio of pillows from her [new collection with *The Inside*](#). Photo: Frankie Marin

The 5 Women Designers You Should Know About, According to Christene Barberich

The Refinery29 cofounder and global editor in chief's new collection for The Inside is 100-percent inspired by women

By Lindsey Mather

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Long before her home decor collaboration with The Inside was even an idea, Refinery29 cofounder and global editor in chief Christene Barberich, a longtime arts aficionado and collector of vintage design, had been stockpiling magazine tears, fabric swatches, and other visuals that caught her eye. "I am honestly one of those people who can find inspiration anywhere," she admits. So, when The Inside did approach her, there was quite the trove of inspiration to sift through. But as they delved into the design process, a through line emerged: Women in design who Christene wanted to recognize; five of them to be exact.





Christene on [the Slipper Chair, covered in her cheery Marigold AGT Stripe](#). The collection also includes pillows, bed frames, benches, and ottomans. Photo: Frankie Marin

"As a lifelong lover of history, textiles, and ephemera, I wanted this collection to respectfully honor the iconic work of some of my favorite women artists and makers," she says. "In many ways these references are abstract and not at all visually literal, but The Inside team helped me to find a way to translate those details and samples into a cohesive narrative that felt not only nostalgic of craft but future-facing and livable, too," she says. A common thread connects this diverse group of women: "I think it's the ability each woman had to marry craft and their own interpretation of modernism," Christene explains. "They managed to establish a very distinct POV during a time when modern design was still emerging as a legitimate art form, and while the industry was still largely dominated by men." They sound pretty awesome, right? Without further ado, an introduction to the five female design icons:

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1. The quilt makers of Gee's Bend, Alabama



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Local folks: Mt Holyoke College Art Museum has an exhibit up of the quilts of Mary Lee Bendolph, a Gees Bend quilter. It's full of improvisational goodness and inspiration. I'll be going back again before it closes. [#mhcartmuseum](#) [#geesbend](#) [#improv](#) [#nothingisnew](#)

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Going back decades, African-American women in the small town of Gee's Bend, Alabama, have passed down a distinctive geometric, color-blocked quilting style to future generations. Over the years, their work has created such a buzz that it has gone on to be featured in various museums across the country. In [a review of the Whitney](#)

Museum of American Art's 2002 "The Guilts of Gee's Bend" exhibit, a *New York Times* reporter writes, "These women, closely bound by family and custom (many Benders bear the slaveowner's name, Pettway), spent their precious spare time—while not rearing children, chopping wood, hauling water, and plowing fields—splicing scraps of old cloth to make robust objects of amazingly refined, eccentric abstract designs." Christene's Op Blue Quilted and Spice Quilted prints are nods to these incredible textiles. "We created unexpected color combinations inspired by their rare ability to deconstruct the traditional quilt," she says.



2. Ceramicist Edith Heath

Instagram content

This content can also be viewed on the site it [originates](#) from.

Most design lovers are familiar with Heath Ceramics, but what you might not know is that a woman is to thank for the beloved California pottery brand's inception. Edith Heath cofounded the company with her husband, Brian, in the '40s, and Heath Ceramics has now been in business for an impressive 70 years. The Inside tells us the subtle irregularity of Christene's Block Stripe print is inspired by the organic, human touch that Heath Ceramics is known for.

SHOP NOW: Cocktail Chair in Ink Ivory Block Stripe by Christene Barberich for The Inside, \$399 Photo: Courtesy of The Inside

3. Architect Anne Griswold Tyng

Instagram content

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The late Anne Griswold Tyng spent 27 years working for architect Louis Kahn before going out on her own in 1964 and devoting her time to research and writing, according to the University of Pennsylvania. A 2012 T magazine article says, "The designs generated from [Anne's] studies are simultaneously radical and traditional, unforeseen structures informed by ancient principles and the natural world." A photo from said article, which showcases Anne's wood-clad former home, happened to be in Christene's inspiration folder and sparked the idea of putting a modernized cabana stripe in the collection.



SHOP NOW: Modern Bench in Spruce A G T Stripe by Christene Barberich for The Inside, \$399 Photo: Courtesy of The Inside

4. Printmaker Anni Albers

Instagram content

This content can also be viewed on the site it [originates](#) from.

"The Corsica print pays homage to the work of famed textile artist and printmaker Anni Albers, who in 1949, was the first weaver to secure a solo show at NYC's Museum

of Modern Art," says Christene. Geometric shapes arranged in an orderly fashion—think rows of triangles and stacks of linear lines—dominated Anni's weavings and drawings, and that graphic quality was a strong overall influence on Christene's collection.



SHOP NOW: Throw Pillow in Slate Poppy Corsica by Christene Barberich for The Inside, \$49 Photo: Courtesy of The Inside

5. Artist Georgia O'Keeffe

Instagram content

This content can also be viewed on the site it [originates](#) from.

Celebrated painter Georgia O'Keeffe spent 40 years worth of summers and falls at Ghost Ranch, her New Mexico home. "I wish you could see what I see out the window—the earth pink and yellow cliffs to the north—the full pale moon about to go down in an early morning lavender sky . . . pink and purple hills in front and the scrubby fine dull green cedars—and a feeling of much space—It is a very beautiful world," she wrote in a letter to fellow painter Arthur Dove in 1942. Christene's dusty-hued, striped Sante Fe pattern for The Inside is meant to be reminiscent of the Southwestern landscape the artist loved so much.



SHOP NOW: Square Back Bed in Santa Fe Stripe by Christene Barberich for The Inside, \$599 Photo: Courtesy of The Inside

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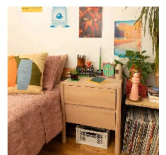
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