

STYLE

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JEWELLERY
SPECIAL
THE NEW PIECES
TO WEAR NOW

MEET THE
WOMEN WHO SPEND

INSIDE
THE SECRETIVE
WORLD
OF COUTURE

£100,000
ON A DRESS



Right A 19th-century French day bed in the garden room. The antique Chinese lantern is home to carpenter bees who return each year to nest. **Below** Antique kantha quilts sit on top of a workbench in Watts's atelier, beneath an exposed section of 18th-century stonework.

Bottom The throw and cushions in the living room were made by Watts from embroidered antique fabrics. She also upholstered the salon chair in red and white ticking. The 1930s painting was bought in Prague by her daughter, Naomi



For the interior designer Miv Watts — also mother of the Hollywood actress Naomi and the New York-based photographer Ben — home for the past 11 years has been a four-bedroom, three-bathroom house, spread over three floors, in an idyllic village at the foot of the Cévennes mountains, in southern France. Her house is filled with a “melange” of pieces collected on her travels, from French flea markets to Indian bazaars, family heirlooms and upcycled finds. She is like a magpie, “continually making my nest”, she says, “drawn to pieces resonating with texture and soul”. The walls are washed with the soft limed hues of Francesca’s Paints, contrasting with exposed stone and terracotta floors.

Watts has created a space filled with light, thanks in part to the lofty ceilings of this 18th-century former silk factory. Her style, however, is very much “anti-design”, much like the spirit of the people and places she writes about in *The Maverick Soul*, her coffee-table book about the homes of creatives and bohemians across the world. “It’s so important that our homes reflect an essence of our story,” she says.

Best of all, it’s the perfect European escape for her three grandchildren, Sasha, Kai and Ruby. “I love being in France,” Watts says. “It stands for old values — we still gather around a table once a day, the markets are fabulous. Sometimes I feel like I grew out of its soil.”

The Maverick Soul by Miv Watts (Hardie Grant £30) is out now



Watts with her whippet, Lovely, on a Louis XVI wing chair, covered with an antique leopardskin throw

SHE'S ECLECTIC

Miv Watts, interior designer and mother of the actress Naomi, has made a home in southern France that is a curiosity box of family heirlooms and cool flea-market finds

Photographs Tim Beddow Words Fiona McCarthy



Above The kantha quilts Watts collects. **Left** An old painted wrought-iron bed in the bedroom where Watts's granddaughter, Ruby, sleeps when she comes to stay