

what's hot!



fit to print

By land or by sea, inspiration comes to a fabrics firm in many forms

More than a love of water inspired SeaCloth, artist Susan Harris's new textiles collection. Named for her Connecticut-based fabrics and accessories firm, the line actually takes its cue from the seasons—mixing vibrant colors that evoke the sky and sea with geometric and floral motifs—and its moniker from the theater.

"Sea cloth is a bolt of fabric that's stretched across a stage and flicked up and down to imitate waves," says Harris, who put her lyrical watercolors to fab-

ric four years ago on the advice of a decorator friend. The screen-printed cotton-linen textiles feature painterly images that range from leaves and vines in the reds and browns of winter and fall to shells and sea life in spring and summer's blues and greens. "Our fabrics are for the more adventurous person who wants her home to be warm, comfortable, and fun," says Deirdre Halper, Harris's business partner and a former advertising executive at Coach. "They're cheerful and welcoming," adds Harris as she sits in her studio overlooking Long Island Sound, which has informed many of her works.

Last fall SeaCloth launched four collections of Harris's favorite patterns as well as coordinating solids through John Rosselli & Associates in New York. And this spring Harris and Halper are going retail, opening a home-furnishings shop in Greenwich that will extend the company's signature textiles to pillows, slipcovered sofas and chairs, and outdoor furniture. One thing remains the same, however. "I begin every fabric with a watercolor," says Harris. "Art should always evoke a feeling, and it doesn't have to be a painting to do that." **KATHERINE ANN SAMON**



Clockwise from above: SeaCloth owner and designer Susan Harris and business partner Deirdre Halper in the company's Connecticut studio. Fabrics (from top): Archidot, Facet, Flutter, Sea Vine, and Tile Leaf. A tote in Sea Bouquet. A vintage Dunbar chair slipcovered in Mini Bloom. Big Bloom shopping bags. See Resources.

