

HOME & DESIGN



Photographs by DANIEL MCKEE

POP CULTURE and Matisse are channeled into the blankets, pillows and other works by designer and illustrator Lilian Martinez, who markets her brand as BFGF.

DESIGN

Beauty, humor woven into her art

By HANIYA RAE

For those who love comfort, beauty and humor, a new line of cozy blankets, cushions and sweatshirts by designer and illustrator Lilian Martinez channels pop culture and Matisse.

"I pair elements that make sense to me visually, and I love going to museums and seeing different textures and palettes," says Martinez, whose studio BFGF is based in Chinatown.

The idea for the collection stemmed from a friend who suggested that her digital illustrations would be great as woven cotton blankets — something she'd never have assumed possible.

After some trial and error, however, she found a balance among art, life and technology.

"What I love about the blankets is that they are functional and accessible art objects," Martinez says. "They can be integrated into someone's life in various ways, either as a wall tapestry or a fun throw."

She deems the collection an "art brand," as she spends much of her time sketching different images, playing with different hues and rummaging around the Internet before sending them off to be digitally woven. Luckily, it all comes together in the end.

"I feel very lucky that they resonate with so many people," Martinez says. "It really moves me."

Her products, priced at \$80-\$175, are available at her studio, 970 N. Broadway, No. 204, Los Angeles, or at BFGF-shop.com.



"DESERT DAYS" and her other blankets "are functional and accessible art objects," says Martinez, who also created the ceramic piece.

home@latimes.com

Nodatainad
 LA0128FILLER003-1022
 w:39.8PPh:42PP



NAME HERE: Credit goes here

Lede-in: Caption text goes here and here. And then maybe a bunch more. Caption text goes here and

KICKER 8PT

Fire extinguishers can

The home fire extinguisher has gotten a makeover. For entrepreneur Rodolphe Gimenez, moving into a new home sparked an idea for decorative fire extinguishers that would provide safety without sacrificing style.

And the concept caught on like, well, wildfire. Seven years later, Gimenez's French company, Fire Design, boasts more than 400 designs, including a tank made to look like a bottle of fine wine in a wooden crate, sleek chrome models or ones with whimsical embellishments, colorful graphics, limited-edition novelty designs (think: denim-covered) and options for customization.

Capt. Larry Kurtz, public information officer for the Orange County Fire Authority, said fire extinguishers that are cute and decorative can also be deceiving. He said that if you go with a "cute" fire extinguisher, everyone in the household — guests included — need to know what it is or else they might overlook it in an emergency, or be hesitant to use it.

Fire Design's powder-based extinguishing agents come