

OVER THE *Rainbow*

A New York apartment is transformed from plain-Jane new build to a candy-colored, pop culture-laced wonderland



◀NICE SAVE

The living room's exuberant wallpaper invigorates the space, but the patinated pieces, such as the French mirror (also shown on page 43) and peeling trestle bench give it soul. The former was found early one morning discarded on a street in Brooklyn.



DRINK IT IN

A flea market favorite—an old Coke crate and bottles—pours on the personality when paired with a quirky assortment like a felt onion by UK artist Lucy Spellman and a pancake mix tin-turned-vase.



KITCHEN

A plain wood table wasn't going to cut it for this apartment! Instead, the owner enlisted a friend to hand-paint leopard print legs and a floral top (her take on "natural" finishes).

STYLE TIP
Expansive swathes of white, like these kitchen cabinets, throw dizzying patterns into sharp relief.



Jeanie Engelbach and her dog Tater Tot

Jeanie Engelbach may have only lived in her East Village apartment for a mere ten months, but its colorful, one-of-a-kind décor is a lifetime in the making. The professional organizer and founder of the lifestyle curation company apartmentjeanie (follow on Instagram @apartmentjeanie) has been collecting since she was a child. "I started with PEZ at age four," she recalls. "It was candy and a toy, what was not to love?" That early infatuation proved to be more than just a youthful sweet tooth. Today, she boasts more than 650 of the dispensers, plus a host of additional colorful, kitschy collections, including aluminum



Score!

A medicine cabinet houses retro soda cans and bottles.

lunch boxes, pin-up girl posters and Bobblehead dolls. “I’m drawn to items steeped in nostalgia,” she explains. “I love pieces that remind me of my childhood or, at the very least, make me feel young at heart.” Those Technicolor collectibles inspired a one-of-a-kind sense of décor with amped-up hues and plenty of pattern, to boot. “Color just makes me smile!” she explains.

And, so, friends were more than a bit puzzled when Jeanie decided to trade the apartment she’d called home for 25 years for a smaller, sleeker one a few blocks away with the avowal that she was going all-white this time. “My last apartment had 14 different wall colors—I’m not kidding!” she says. “I wanted to streamline here.” But the siren-song of color, especially her favorites pink and yellow, proved too strong to resist.

She quickly took her paintbrush to the new build, creating accent walls of blush and aqua to perk up the home without completely overwhelming. She also fell hard for a trippy 1970s-inspired wallpaper with swirling illustrations of clouds, rainbows, shooting stars and airplanes. Torn between two different color options, she decided to go all-in, adding the pink version to the living room and the turquoise iteration to her bedroom.

◀SWEET ESCAPE

One of Jeanie’s earliest collectibles—PEZ dispensers—get a starring role on the living room’s eclectic gallery wall. The candy-colored collection is displayed in wall-mounted drawers painted by acclaimed Brooklyn artist Steve Keen.

STYLE TIP
A single piece of black-and-white artwork lends just the right dash of sophistication to a color-filled space.



A vibrant green mirror brings bold contrast to the dreamy pink walls.

With the color palette in place, Jeanie then turned her attention to what she does best: creating streamlined living spaces and vignettes that are big on personality but light on chaos. “I may not take design too seriously, but I take organization very seriously,” she explains. “You can surround yourself with things you love, without feeling overpowered by them.” For her, that meant corralling like items—Shoney’s Big Boy figurines, Bobbleheads, you name it—into more sophisticated vignettes. When possible she also sorted pieces by color. Here beloved PEZ, by example, are displayed ROYGBIV-style in the living room. She took the same approach to her aluminum lunch box display (“I began

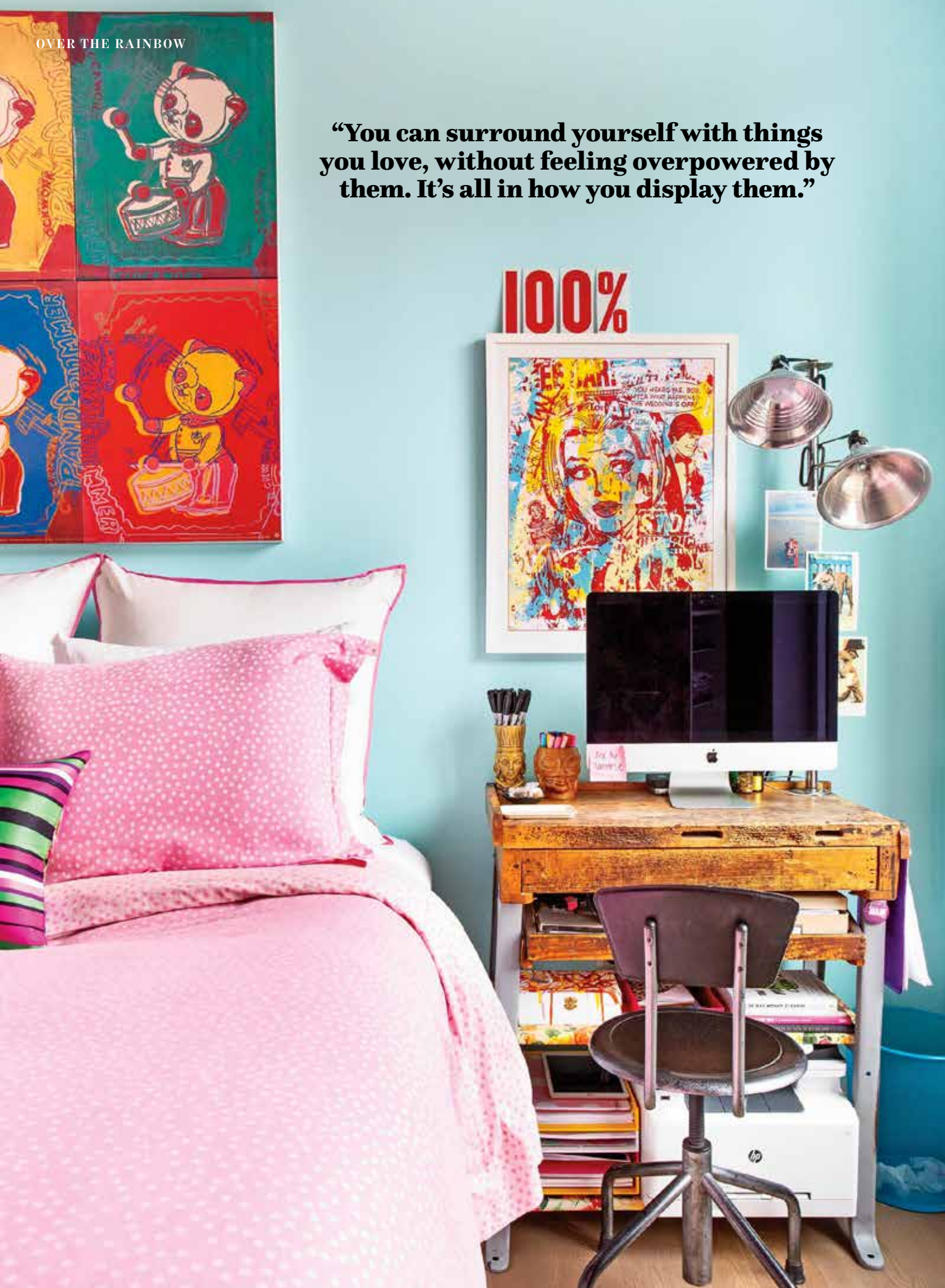
▲WALK THIS WAY

Punk (the modern photos and concert posters) and junk (the found wooden crate and yellow hutch) come together in the apartment’s entry way, setting the confident vibe that envelops the home.

◀HELLO YELLOW

To enliven the sleek new kitchen, Jeanie painted the ceiling a daring shade of yellow and continued the dreamy wallpaper on from the living room. An old cabinet, painted yellow and filled with cartoon characters and mascot Bobbleheads (yes, that’s a Fred Flintstone you spy!) puts some kitsch in the kitchen.

“You can surround yourself with things you love, without feeling overpowered by them. It’s all in how you display them.”



STYLE TIP
Repeating a single pattern in different color schemes lets a small home feel both exuberant and cohesive.

◀SIDE HUSTLE

Jeanie carved out a gem of a home office by storing her computer and printer on an old jeweler's table. Vintage Tiki cups help her organize office supplies, while a pop-art piece keeps her inspired. Above the bed, prints from Andy Warhol's Toy Series match her nostalgic aesthetic.

▲IT TAKES TWO

Look closely! The bedroom's groovy wallpaper is actually the black-blue colorway of the same pattern in the living room. The modern design is paired with a duo of weathered antiques—a carnival ride remnant above the television and a chippy Chinese buffet below.

collecting these in college—I started by carrying one as a purse,” she recalls.) The display feels kitschy but curated thanks to its color-coded scheme.

All settled into their new digs, Jeanie and pup Tater Tot are surrounded by thousands of mementos, tchotchkes and flea finds. And they couldn't be happier: “This apartment may be 775-square-feet, but it lives large. I wouldn't have it any other way.”