CULT SHOP

cutter brooks

An eclectic boutique lined with New York-cool fashion finds and artisanal homewares is putting a bucolic Cotswolds village on the style map

One look at the historic 17th-century building in bucolic Stow-on-the-Wold and Amanda Cutter Brooks was sold. "It seemed like a complete money pit, but I loved it," says the former fashion director of Barneys New York, who lives with her artist husband and two children on nearby Fairgreen Farm. "It took a year to bring the space back to its original form." The self-described American Anglophile (pictured above) has paired the weathered-oak beams with soft-pink walls to lend it a "feminine feel, but not too girly."

Since May last year, Cutter Brooks' eponymous eclectic boutique has enticed a mix of locals, weekenders from Soho farmhouse and tourists from further afield – primarily Asians and Americans – with its curated clothing and housewares. "I embrace the English countryside style and craftsmanship," says Cutter Brooks, highlighting the delicate fabric flowers (£100-£350) made exclusively for the shop by her neighbour Silka Rittson-Thomas and the traditional basketry (£100-£300) by Jenny Crisp, who has been growing and weaving her own willow in Herefordshire for over 30 years. "But I also incorporate things from my travels," she adds, noting a selection of decorative items that includes Indian hand-block-printed napkins (£40 for six) and sisal placemats (£25 each), made by a group of women in Swaziland, as well as découpage trays (£124) by fellow American Erin Derian – "an old friend whose work somehow feels very English, and a huge seller for us."

There's a strong New York accent to Cutter Brooks' clothes, too, with the flowing designs by Ulla Johnson (tiered Claribel dress, £415) and LoveShackFancy (embroidered cotton dress, £520) offset by Khaite's more tailored pieces (tweedy walking shorts, £620) – and all bought in very limited quantities. "My customers appreciate I stock things you won't find easily elsewhere," says Cutter Brooks, whose closer-to-home buys range from The Tweed Project – "two Irish girls from Galway I discovered on Instagram" – creating summery linen petticoat dresses (£380) and cropped, fringed Aran sweaters (£650) – to Florentine nightwear specialist Loretta Caponi, whose cotton voile "granny nighties" (£350) in pastel shades are "old-school, smocked and very Shakespeare in Love". Cheerful accessories run from chic canvas tool bags (£495) by Paris label L/Uniform – hand-stamped with monograms by Cutter Brooks – and hair ties (£60-£150) repurposed from Hermès, Liberty and Gucci scarves by Copenhagen's Line Sander Johansen.

"At first, I think a lot of locals were sceptical about this project," says Cutter Brooks, whose most precious pieces are the limited edition porcelain blackberry branch sculptures (£2,800-£7,900) by Ukraine-born artist Vladimir Kanevsky. "I've certainly made a few mistakes – selling resort fashion in December in the English countryside was pretty much a bust – but I think we've found our place now. When people visit and say, 'It's so warm and cosy here – and the coffee is great,' I know I'm doing something right."

CHRISTINA OHLY EVANS

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FOR GOODNESS' SAKE

a trinity of charitable channels

Is it possible to put a price on the guitar used to record The Dark Side of the Moon? Christie's just has. David Gilmour's 1969 Black Fender Stratocaster is set to go under the hammer (estimate $400,000-$600,000) in New York on 20 June as part of a sale of 100 of the rock star's guitars. With other highlights including the 1954 White Fender Stratocaster (estimate $100,000-$150,000) he played on Another Brick in the Wall and an ultra-rare Gretsch White Penguin 6134 (estimate $120,000-$180,000) he played on stage to the public at Christie's at the Rockefeller Center from June 14. "Guitars were made to be played," said Gilmour when asked why he'd chosen to sell the tools of his trade. "It will be a wrench to see them go." All proceeds will benefit David Gilmour's charitable trust that has worked with organisations from Amnesty International to Shelter and Freedom from Torture. **christies.com.**

Bulgari silver and ruby necklace, £610, from bulgari.com; £60 from each sale goes to Save the Children

"To celebrate Save the Children's centenary and its 10-year partnership with Bulgari, we have launched this silver necklace adorned with a ruby atop a black ceramic pendant. This is just one initiative in our drive to raise $100m by the end of 2019"

Lucia Silvestri, Bulgari jewellery creative director

This month, in support of the Born Free Foundation, London's La Galleria Pall Mall will unveil the latest exhibition by Hannah Shergold. The British painter was Team UK Artist in Residence at last year's Invictus Games and the Wild Card winner for this year's Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the Year. She originally trained as a vet at Cambridge and for this exhibition has portrayed 20 animals – from bears swimming to gazing chimps and elephants playing – with her signature juxtaposition of anatomic realism and unnaturalistic colours. Prices start at £5,600 and 20 per cent from the sale of each piece (VAT exclusive), as well as all proceeds from one painting auctioned at the private view, will support the Born Free Foundation's efforts to protect species at risk of extinction. The exhibition runs from June 17 to 29. **lagalleria.org.** **MARIANNA GIUSTI**