



5. All Eyes carpet by Hunt Slonem for Groundworks through Lee Jofa.



8. A parrot.



7. Slonem's Albania plantation in Louisiana.

# HUNT SLONEM

## THINGS HE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT

Hunt Slonem has been painting in a prolific outpouring since the mid-1970s. A Southern spiritual kin to Andy Warhol, he is perhaps best known for his repeat paintings of rabbits and birds. Slonem has also turned his eye to the revivification of historic properties. Unsurprisingly, his restorations have been on a grand scale, including three plantations in Louisiana, two houses in New York, and a mansion in Scranton, Pennsylvania. A recent endeavor—a 100,000-square-foot armory also in Scranton—is the subject of the Assouline book *Gatekeeper: World of Folly*, out in June. Slonem has transformed the former home of the Pennsylvania National Guard into a magical kingdom brimming with chandeliers, portraits, and a conservatory worth of plants. “My mother said, ‘Well, you’ve wanted a castle since you were a little boy,’” he says. **VANESSA LAWRENCE**



6. A circa-1850 Henry Siebrecht-designed sofa.

2. A marble bust.



### 1 GATEKEEPER: WORLD OF FOLLY

My idea was to make the armory grand. It's very solid—almost like visiting Downton Abbey.

### 2 MARBLE BUSTS

I lined the armory's walls with 1860s marble busts and over-scale Victorian things.

### 3 CATTLEYA ORCHIDS

I've grown these since I was a child living in Hawaii. They were quite fashionable in the 1950s, but

phalaenopsis, which I call the dandelion of the Upper East Side, has taken over.



3. A Cattleya orchid.

### 4 GOTHIC REVIVAL SCENT BOTTLES

These are glass bottles in metal Gothic Revival bases, made from the 1840s to the 1860s. I got most of mine from the estate of Lee B. Anderson, the godfather of Gothic Revival.

### 5 LEE JOFA

I take little vignettes from my paintings and turn them into patterns for wallpapers, fabrics, and carpets for Lee Jofa. It's something artists in other periods have done a lot.

### 6 SIEBRECHT SOFAS

Henry Siebrecht was a cabinetmaker based in Louisiana. There are only five known Siebrecht sofas in the world; I have three of them, and one is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

### 7 LOUISIANA

I studied at Tulane University, and I just loved the state from the minute I set foot there. I did a series of bayou paintings at my Albania plantation in southern Louisiana.

### 8 PARROTS

They live forever. I have maybe fewer than 60? I was in a relationship with somebody who loved parrots for a while. We broke up, and I got the parrots.

1. An interior from *Gatekeeper: World of Folly*.



4. A Gothic Revival scent bottle.

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