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Interiors

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On a Pedestal

Ashley Tudor brings big game bronzes to the Bay.

By Joanne Furlo | Photography by Jen Siska

Even with a shotgun in her hand, you'd never mistake Ashley Tudor for a tomboy. "I wear lace while hunting," she says. "It's kind of the way I roll."

So it only makes sense that when Tudor snagged her first elk two years ago in Idaho, the product designer found sculptural beauty in the animal's skull and antlers and wanted to preserve them. Tudor, who became a huntress so she could get "clean, pastured meat," was turned off by the fur, fake eyeballs and artifice of taxidermy. She opted instead to do "something more modern," an alternative to the traditional "European mount" you'd find in the halls of Downton Abbey.

She had the skull cast in bronze, polished to a high gloss and mounted with antlers. Since then, she has transformed four other types of big game caught by hunters stateside (white-tailed deer and antelope) and in Africa (impala and gemsbok) into sleek and highly stylized decorative works of art.

Up until now, the San Francisco-based Tudor's one-of-a-kind sculptures were only available to a small coterie of hunters and designers in the know (interior designer Kendall Wilkinson recently used one of Tudor's elk sculptures in a San Francisco living room). But now Tudor's so-called "Trophies" series can be found in San Francisco's Coup d'Etat and New York's BDDW. Prices range from \$9,800 to \$1 million (in solid gold), depending on the provenance of the animal and size of the casting.

To Tudor, her creations are more than just beautiful decorative objects. "These pieces serve as a constant reminder of our fragile place in nature and that life comes at a cost," she says. "I'm obligated to do something wonderful with them."

ANIMAL NATURE
Ashley Tudor and one of her modernized, mounted pieces