



DRAWING MY  
**Lines**



*My mother is an awesome decorator. We don't share the same taste in décor, but I've always admired the way she can pull a room together. One aspect she is a genius at is finishing touches. She always picks the right print or vase or little accessory to complete a space.*

The artwork that she chose as I was growing up was always tasteful and classic—a bit traditional, and so I was never really drawn to it. The little Victorian girl at the piano with a kitten at her foot, My Old Kentucky Home—these are the “scenes” of my childhood. They were peaceful—and dull.

I was drawn to more modern art, abstract pieces, and bolder colors. I fell in love with Picasso at an early age and was always drawn to the human form, even though the idea of having a nude piece in my room was out of the question. My mom would have fainted at the suggestion. I did talk her into Gustav Klimt's *The Kiss* though, and had it hanging over my bed for a while. Even this, she found a bit questionable and “racy.”

As an adult, I've mentally started to make this shift back to appreciating the human form more, but in reality I still cling tight to my traditional, modest upbringing. I rarely even let my husband see me in “true form.” (Yes, I mean naked...but that word is still scandalous to me!)

I'm growing, evolving, trying to break free from that conventional mindset, but it's taking some time. And really defining what that means is tricky business. There's such a fine line between beauty and explicit sexuality, for example, and I'm starting to learn where my line is and becoming comfortable with it.

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Women have been so objectified since the beginning of time that sometimes we forget our bodies are incredible works of art. I love looking at the form of other women. It's amazing how every single one of us is so completely unique. We are true works of art that a painting or sculpture can only attempt to replicate.

I desperately want to pass on *this* thought to my children, especially my daughter, Lula, and I feel that having these kinds of representations in our home would help create an appreciation of the human body instead of insecurity of it.

I love for Lula to watch dancers on TV for this very reason. Of course we are aware of age-appropriateness. I don't want her seeing things that objectify women or are too mature for her age. But I want to instill the awe for human creation that is stirring in my own soul in her so that, not only is she secure in her own skin, but she's comfortable with what she puts on her walls in her own home someday.

It's hard to forget what we were taught as children and take on new forms of thought that develop into action. One of the ways I've wanted to embrace this new thinking is to display nudity in the form of art around my home—a beautiful painting or an African fertility statue—little things to celebrate our bodies instead of hiding, exploiting, or objectifying them.

Looking through prints on Society6, I'm drawn to images like *Home* by Rubyetc, *Woman in Blue* by Shonnet Nova Brittain, *Anielka* by Anna Reith, and *Nude* by Abundance. I feel at ease with tasteful and gorgeous, but not too sensual, depictions of the female form. We all have our lines and levels of comfort. My mom's is a little too high on the Modesty Pole for me, so I want my home to reflect *my* values.

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Sarah Sandidge can often be found reading a book. When she's not reading for fun, she's reading for work as a freelance editor, which is also fun. Her love for language, cultures and sociology makes people fascinating to her even though she's a bit of an introvert, albeit a chatty one. When she isn't glued to a written sentence, she is spending time with her family—mostly taking care of her two beautiful children—somewhere in the heart of Missouri. See how cute they are on Instagram @LulainLondon.

# Dwell on This

*If there's a tradition or mindset you've been trying to break free from, why not choose this month of growth to fully embrace your way of thinking. Make a purchase or do something bold in your home to begin creating different pathways in your brain that embrace a courageous, new idea.*

1

## Go Bold!

Were you taught that neutrals are "safe" and go with everything? That's true, but also bland. Choose one wall to splash a bold color on this month!

2

## Go Green!

Did your mom always have faux plants around so nothing would die? Easy, but boring. If you're scared of your lack of green thumb roots, start with a succulent or two to prove you can keep something alive!

3

## Go Nude!

Feeling insecure about your beautiful body? Buy a tasteful art print that reflects your own shape and place it in your bathroom...where you're naked the most...to help see yourself as a work of art!

4

## Go Moody!

Perhaps you grew up in a home with little to no ambiance and lots of bright, "illegal" lights. Turn those overhead lights off, and buy a few lamps to create a more relaxed, romantic mood in your favorite spaces.

5

## Go Modern!

Just because your mother thought it was the best style of décor and still thinks you should to, doesn't mean you have to follow suit. Find your own sense of style and start making your home your own with one accessory at a time.



## Share your Space

Tag us ([@theperpetualyou](#)) on your interior photos to be featured in an upcoming issue!

1



2



4

