

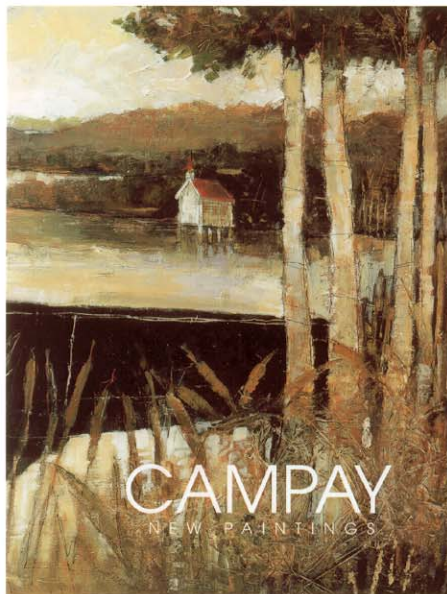
The Art of Gifting

Satisfy any book-lover's tastes.

Thos. Moser: Artistry in Wood, by Thomas Moser with Brad Lemley, foreword by Andy Rooney (Chronicle Books, LLC, San Francisco), \$60.

When Thomas Moser quit his college teaching job in 1972 to pursue furnituremaking, he and his wife had four children, little money and scarce belief that he would succeed. Thirty years later, Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers sets the standard for fine wood furniture by fusing Shaker, Arts & Crafts, Mission, Japanese traditions and more. Meditations on craft, materials, design and creativity give insight into the designer's style and process. The evolution of the Moser aesthetic—simplicity of form, meticulous craftsmanship, respect for natural materials—is

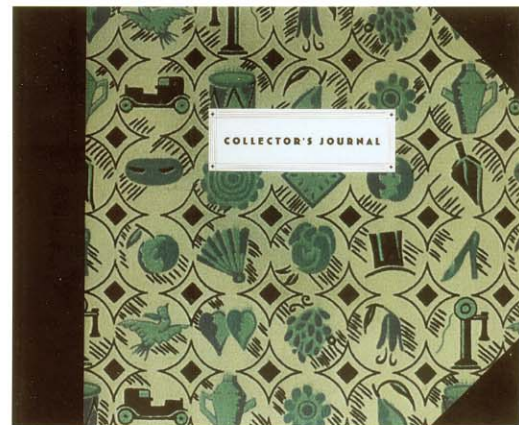
traced in loving detail. At 192 pages and illustrated with more than 300 color photographs and shop drawings, *Thos. Moser: Artistry in Wood* is crafted with the same care and expertise that go into Moser's woodwork. Beautiful and enlightening, this book is a unique celebration of a master artisan and his work.



Campay: New Paintings, by John T. Spike (Lagerquist Gallery, Atlanta), \$75. www.campaystudios.com.

Art critic and *Art e3 Antiques'* Florence, Italy, correspondent John T. Spike debuts his latest book, *Campay: New Paintings*, containing 70 full-page reproductions of mixed-media works by Southern painter Dennis Campay. In his thoughtful introduction, Spike lauds Campay's unashamed embrace of regionalism, warmth, romanticism, self-portraiture and storytelling. He also notes the artist's love for Southern writers such as William Faulkner and Pat Conroy. In fact, Campay's paintings are full of images right out of Southern fiction: white-washed porticoes, rickety footbridges, old churches, sleepy swamps. These images, however, Spike argues, have nothing to do with the South's quaint,

nostalgic side and everything to do with Campay's need to re-create and reinterpret "the decayed elements of myth," especially the often painful elements of the artist's own personal history. This approach would be considered *de rigueur* for a Southern writer. But after what Spike describes as "four very cool, detached, butter-wouldn't-melt-in-the-artist's-mouth decades" of modern art, it is a brave stand for a painter.



Collector's Journal, by Dana Micucci (The Little Bookroom, New York), \$59.95.

Whether your home is filled with Chinese porcelain, Louis XVI furniture or Abstract Expressionist paintings, the handsome *Collector's Journal*, by *Art e3 Antiques'* New York correspondent Dana Micucci, provides a place to record it all. Important information on up to 36 objects is divided into three sections: vital statistics, including purchase and sale details, and value appraisal; object description, with space for a photograph, dimensions, date and distinguishing characteristics; artist/maker, and collector's resources, for the contact information of preferred dealers, art fairs, flea markets and storage facilities. Don't be surprised if you find yourself going back for a second—or even third—*Collector's Journal* once you realize what an asset it is for you and your collector friends.

