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## A Ceramist Brings Her Surrealist Touch to Furniture



Pieces from Simone Bodmer-Turner's housewares collection, including a bronze standing lamp and a wooden Chippendale table. William Jess Laird

By Zoe Ruffner

When Simone Bodmer-Turner moved from Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, to a farmhouse in rural Massachusetts last spring, the 34-year-old ceramist suddenly found herself at a professional impasse. Separated from her kiln for the first time in her career, “I had absolutely no idea how I would work,” she recalls. Turning to a range of new materials, she gradually began imagining a collection of purposeful pieces that seemed a better fit for her traditional New England surroundings. In a departure from the abstract, bulbous forms she once routinely shaped in her Brooklyn studio, “It’s now about function first,” she says, “and sculpture second.” Her latest works include a patinated bronze lamp that bears the texture of the original hand-molded clay model from which it was cast, while a simple wooden side table — similar to one she encountered in a local Shaker museum — is offset with whimsical, Surrealist-inspired feet and an *urushi* lacquer finish courtesy of the artist Yuko Gunji, Bodmer-Turner’s former neighbor and frequent collaborator. The works will be shown in the upcoming exhibition “A Year Without a Kiln” at Emma Scully Gallery on New York’s Upper East Side. Editions of the larger furniture, along with a handful of decorative objects — from fireplace andirons to a silk standing screen conceived to conceal an air-conditioning unit — are now available for purchase, with the hope that they’ll become heirlooms. The artist moved into her new home with the intention to stay there forever, which, she says, “really brought about a desire for timelessness.” “A Year Without a Kiln” will be on view from May 2 through June 22, [emmascullygallery.com](http://emmascullygallery.com).