

THE ART OF LIVING

Yvonne Force Villareal, a co-founder of Art Production Fund, the nonprofit public art organization, knows firsthand the way art can fill a void. "I didn't have a TV until third grade," she says, "so I was an obsessive drawer, creating elaborate soap operas about my life, page after page, daily." Fast-forward to the loft she shares with her husband, the artist Leo Villareal; their young son, Cuatro; and a fluffy black Pomeranian named Puff Baby. (The couple's second child is due this month.) Their airy West Village space is populated with pieces by artists she "knows and loves," like John Currin, Alex Katz, Lisa Yuskavage, Aaron Young, Nate Lowman, Rachel Feinstein and, of course, Villareal. The art shares billing with bold vintage furnishings. "I'm a freak for sexy, sleazy, tacky, beautfiul design from the '70s," she says. She attributes her love of big sectionals by Pierre Cardin, blocky tables by Paul Evans and massive John Chamberlain parachute couches to her eccentric upbringing. "I lived in a 24-foot trailer with a few flimsy built-ins, and then moved to a huge Victorian house where my mom had all uncomfortable antiques, and no couch."