

# MERYL SIEGMAN

## BIOS

Indian-born artists **Kaveri and TJ Singh** are partners in life and in art. They share an unspoken language, created by working together for over a decade, that guides their work and their philosophy. Together they share a story and an experience that is the foundation on which their practice is built.

Based in southern California for over forty years, Kaveri and TJ bring different backgrounds and talents to their team. Growing up in India, art and creative expression were at the core of Kaveri's development. An autodidact, she started painting and drawing at age three. As a child she was exposed to ever-present decoration in the form of mehandi, the exquisite inlaid panels at the Taj Mahal, and the painted decoration and inlaid mirrors at the Amber Palace. At seventeen, she traveled extensively throughout Europe, exploring the Western masters, igniting a passion for the arts that has endured for a lifetime. Kaveri's work represents the balance and synthesis of Eastern and Western traditions.

TJ also grew up in India. He holds a B.A. in management and accounting and earned his Master's in Public Administration at Punjab University, but his heart was in pursuing a more creative career. His natural aptitude for art led to the positions of designer and then art director at the L.A. office of the iconic advertising firm BBDO. It is his collaboration with Kaveri that has resulted in the creation of the dynamic firm Kaveri Singh Artwork and the realization of their shared artistic dreams and talents. They work as a perfect team, weaving together Kaveri's rendering skills and intuition with TJ's talent for art direction and sense of structure.

Kaveri's love of pattern and design has led her to explore different mediums including textiles, glass and ceramics. But the couple's focus on painting murals is perhaps the defining feature of their practice. Their work can be seen at the historic Greer Mansion, the Brody House and the Dominguez Wilshire restoration of the L.A. Philharmonic conservancy. One of their most significant projects was the creation of 8900 square feet of murals depicting the life of Buddha, lining the main Meditation Hall of the sacred temple in Sarnath, India. It was work on this project that had the greatest influence on Kaveri's current work, whose guiding concept is to depict the visible world as a mirror of the spiritual domain. Using the external to balance the internal and design elements to create harmony is her mantra.

**Angele Asselin**, a native of Quebec, Canada, brings her continental French aesthetic to her interior design practice. Taking inspiration from such luminaries as Joseph Le Corbusier, Jean Prouve and Peter Zumthor, her style is tailored and contemporary, yet deeply rooted in

tradition. The result is an expression of elegant and classical interiors designed for practical, modern living.

Angele hails from an illustrious family of design professionals, starting with her great grandfather, who was an architect. As a young child she began arranging furniture in her home and designing her own bedroom. As a college student she fell in love with the magic of architecture and design while studying in Italy; she was particularly moved by the ruins of Pompeii. Angele favors luxurious, rich materials to create well-appointed, layered spaces while maintaining a level of restraint that evokes a French Modernist aesthetic. Her approach to each project focuses on attention to details, authenticity and an understated interior landscape incorporating monochromatic palettes and simple, clean lines.

Angele holds a Degree in Interior Design from Parsons the New School for Design and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec. She has honed her skills under such prominent New York designers as David Howell, Bennett Leifer, and Janko Rasic. Her portfolio encompasses luxury apartments, stylish townhouses and expansive country residences ranging from New York to Los Angeles and Canada.

Dow Hartzog Design, the interior design firm of visual artist **Stephen Hartzog**, offers end-to-end design services for residential and commercial projects, from interior design and decoration to project management and construction administration. It represents the culmination of Steve's lifelong journey through different landscapes of culture, continents and professions, combining artistic talent, business expertise and global experiences to create spaces designed to bring individuality, function and value to clients' homes and businesses.

Dow Hartzog draws on Steve's international education in Gstaad and Paris, his study of fine arts in California and Europe, and his world travels. It is informed as well by his diverse career spanning Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York City. The firm offers clients a full range of services, including space planning and selections of color schemes, furniture and fabric, lighting, and cabinetry and woodwork. As the co-owner of Almond Hartzog Gallery in San Francisco, a dealer of 20<sup>th</sup> Century vintage design, and as an insider in L.A.'s rarified world of art auction houses earlier in his career, Steve developed a keen eye for quality and value, and a knack for acquiring one-of-a-kind furniture and accessories, giving Dow Hartzog the unique ability to bring a vast global network of sources of art, furniture and objects to his clients.

Steve brings a successful combination of creativity and business expertise to Dow Hartzog. He loves making spaces his own and delights in the unexpected, mixing objects and juxtaposing elements in novel ways – vintage with newer pieces, splashes of color, working with layers and textures. His work reflects a sophisticated fusion of world-wide influences, not defined by a strict style or single vision.

**Richard Clarkson** is not just a product designer – he is an artist and a visionary. The creative mind behind the eponymous Richard Clarkson Studio, he has always been fascinated with color, materiality, shape and form, drawing his inspiration from nature, especially from the sky. With strong foundations in furniture and industrial product design, he is engaged with media and graphic design, as well as photography, painting and architecture. His work is guided by inspiring awe, joy and a sense of magic. Known for his creation of the iconic Clouds lighting systems, Richard is also the designer of unique furniture, lighting fixtures and home accessories. Born in New Zealand, Richard holds an MFA in product design from New York's School of Visual Arts and a Bachelor of Design Innovation in industrial design from Victoria University of Wellington. His installations can be seen around the world.

FACTURE is an art furniture studio located in Brooklyn, NY. Founded by designer **Quincy Ellis**, the studio creates dynamic pieces from molded resin by manipulating the elements of light, color and transparency. This exploration is central to all of FACTURE'S work, with each design featuring unique colors, shades and opacities. The final product is a body of work that achieves new dimensions in the medium of resin, consisting of objects whose compositions and meaning change in response to the environments in which they are placed.

Quincy Ellis grew up in Philadelphia, where as a child he was fascinated by Wissahickon Creek. After spending nearly a decade solving the most complex design challenges for other studios & world-renowned artists, he sought out how to recreate that phenomena for his own work, to turn a glancing shimmer on water into a geometrical shape composed of color, to transform a fleeting natural phenomenon into an eternal object. With a background in engineering and industrial design, Ellis has become a pioneer in using eco-based epoxy resin, a challenging and often finicky medium. By pushing the limits of technique through exploring and expanding the floating dimension of color inside the resin, he creates objects that can best be described as transcendent.

The studio is driven to create pieces that challenge perception by perplexing the eye, rendering it virtually impossible to intuit what it is perceiving. Through the use of color, space, depth and light, it produces objects that perpetually reveal and obscure their own essences. The studio's goal is to explore new dimensions of visual phenomena in physical forms that have quite literally never been seen before.

Looking ahead, the focus of the studio is to expand upon its ground-breaking work, creating commissions for its clients by venturing further into the unexplored realms of color and light. Using the innovative techniques he developed over time and pushing boundaries by building upon what has already been established, the studio has the ability to create objects of any size or shape, as well as wall murals, flooring and installations, unfettered by preconceived notions of color, light and transparency.

**Aaron Cooke** is a proven leader in product management and operations execution with eighteen years of experience in new product development and technology commercialization. After a distinguished career in automation software and information, product line and field engineering management, he has created Helio Summit to help companies of all sizes as they move through digital transformation to automation, providing easy access to on-demand top quality product management and business development services.

Fascinated by the process of transforming theoretical knowledge into practice, as well the business and engineering challenges that established industries face as they seek to streamline their technology commercialization pipeline, Aaron's success is built on constructing teams of talented people and combining them with the best products and processes. He is comfortable with driving the development, marketing strategies and deployment of complex mission-critical products in oilfields around the world, including IOT, data aggregations, SaaS and mobile apps. Adept at using his skills and expertise to develop new processes to help companies of all kinds avoid system-wide stagnation and improve business performance and advantage, Aaron's years of experience have enabled him to deliver complex technical solutions that enhance organizational operations and decision-making.

Aaron spent most of his professional career at National Oilwell Varco in Austin, TX. He began as a Field Engineering Manager (Rig Solutions) whose responsibilities included overseeing all field engineering activities and managing customer facing testing for new hardware and software products, then moved on to become a Product Line Manager (Rig Solutions), where he led, set and communicated the strategic direction of a product line family with over \$120 million in annual revenue. His next promotion was to Product Line Director in Information Management (Wellbore Technologies), where he set the strategic direction for a team of product line managers, and finally to Managing Director of eVolution RTCC and Automation Software (Wellbore Technologies), where he was responsible for the eVolution RTCC (Real-Time Technologies Centers) business as well as drilling automation software development and commercialization, a position which included managing a team of over 30 employees including project and engineering managers, software developers, QA engineers and support staff.

With his new company, Aaron hopes to bring his unique blend of entrepreneurial skills and deep technology expertise to help companies improve their performance and market competitiveness, from start-ups that cannot justify a full-time product management role, to Fortune 500 companies looking to ensure efficient product development and successful launches.

Aaron graduated from the University of Texas at Tyler, where he studied computer science with a concentration in engineering. He received his Masters of Science and Technology Commercialization (MSTC) from the University of Texas' McCombs School of Business. He is a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers, a global membership organization for the upstream oil and gas industry.

**Janelle L. Winston's** personal and professional experiences as well as her passion for teaching and mentoring are the driving forces behind her desire to establish a foundation to help minority students fulfill their dreams of attending and graduating from college. Currently a labor relations attorney at the National Football League, she began her legal career as an Assistant District Attorney with the Bronx District Attorney's Office. Assigned to the Child Abuse and Sex Crimes Bureau, Janelle prosecuted some of the most sensitive and difficult cases in the borough. This experience shined a light on those who are most vulnerable, and inspired her to fight to assist and advocate for them as they navigated the turbulent waters of today's world.

At her previous job as senior labor attorney at the MTA New York City Transit Authority, Janelle served as a mentor and supervisor to junior attorneys on case presentation and preparation of legal briefs. Since 2007, Janelle has been an adjunct professor at Fordham Law School in Manhattan, an experience which has enabled her to appreciate the power and importance of teaching others.

But it was perhaps her participation in Black History Month's symposium on the impact of law on the minority population in the United States that made the biggest impression. In her research on the theme of women in the law, she was dismayed to discover how often women - women of color in particular - pursuing a legal career were forced to drop out of school due to lack of funds. She knew at once this was a problem that could be fixed, and something she wanted to do. With a commitment to the notion that education should not be a luxury, she threw her heart and soul into changing the world through the JL Winston Foundation.

A native of Utica, New York, Janelle graduated with a B.B.A. in accounting from Tennessee State University, and received her law degree from Fordham Law School. A practiced litigator and negotiator, she hopes to use her skills to advocate for students in their pursuit of academic achievement and personal success.

**Daryl Sims** has devoted his entire career to public service and brings his passion for helping others to the foundation. As a detective in the New York City Police Department for 25 years until his retirement in 2019, he worked in the Organized Crime and Control Bureau, as an undercover officer and investigator in Narcotics Borough Bronx, and as an investigator in the Firearms Investigative Unit. In 2008 he transferred to the Detective Bureau where he joined the Bronx Special Victims Squad and DNA Cold Case Squad.

Daryl's experience working in the Special Victims Squad was transformative, forming the basis of his desire to commit himself to helping those in the greatest need. One of the highest profile cases he participated in was the Horace Mann School investigation of the sexual abuse of young students. The case shed light on the systemic nature of abuse that can occur in supposedly "safe" places and resulted in legislative changes in reporting throughout New York State.

In 2015 Daryl was transferred to the DNA Cold Case Squad, an elite unit formed to re-examine unsolved cases dating back for decades. While working on the successful closure of some of

those cases, he recognized the importance of professionalism and proper training from law enforcement in today's climate.

During his career, Daryl completed both the National Child Advocacy Extended Interview and Sex Crimes Investigations courses, a reflection of his affinity for helping the victimized and the vulnerable, and his strong commitment to advocating for their rights.

Daryl holds a Bachelor of Science in Police Science from John Jay College. As an active member of his community, he was the Vice President of the PTA at Zeta Charter School and is wholeheartedly involved in his daughter's homeschooling during the pandemic. Having grown up in Jamaica, Queens, he is a native and life-long resident of New York City.

Meet **Anu Sharma**, a native of Ludhiana, India who has been cooking for shef.com since 2020. One of our most in-demand chefs, Anu brings the exquisite and exotic cuisine of Punjab to our selection of authentic global meals. One of the most distinct and popular cooking styles in all of India, it offers both meat and vegetarian dishes prepared in a wide variety of styles, most notably tandoori.

Anu grew up in New Delhi, North India in a comfortable home. The youngest of three children, she often observed her mother cooking delectable food in their home kitchen, and spent days helping her grandmother milk the buffalos while visiting her in Phagwara, Punjab. She fondly recalls hovering around her grandmother with her brothers while she cooked, and enjoying her savory meals, which continue to inspire her own cooking today. Occasionally, she even pretended to not feel well so that her grandmother would cook her favorite dish, besan ka halwa, a dessert made with chickpea flour and milk. She was fascinated by the entire process of making a dish, which started every morning with preparing a clay fire.

Although she began taking cooking classes when she was in the eighth grade, Anu learned most of what she knows today by watching her mother and grandmother in the kitchen. She discovered early in life that the person who cooked for the family earned everyone's love and respect, and knew she wanted to follow in the footsteps of her mother and grandmother. She adored not just cooking traditional meals, but also trying out new recipes.

Later in life Anu discovered how similar the street food of Punjab was to her grandmother's cooking. She and a friend once tried to recreate the gol gappe they sampled from a local vendor, discussing every detail, from how to fry it to what gave it its taste. They even went back to the vendor to find out how it was made. Even today, she isn't satisfied until what she creates aligns closely with the taste she experienced, often spending days trying to replicate it. She will then pepper family and friends with questions such as, how does it taste? and what do you think it needs?

As an adult, Anu came to the United States after being sponsored by her brother. She recalls that when he picked her up from the airport, his first words were to ask her to make his favorite dish, baingan bharta.

Anu has been cooking for almost 45 years. Now the mother of two grown boys, she lives with her husband, a professional chef and excellent cook in his own right. The pair met in tenth grade, and it was love at first sight. They dated for ten years before getting married, and to this day, the support they give to one another is palpable. Anu spends at least eight hours a day cooking the food she grew up on, often with her husband by her side as they perfect recipes together. He showed her how to make one of her most popular dishes, paneer peshawari. It's named after paneer, an Indian cottage cheese, and Peshawari, a place in Pakistan that formerly belonged to India, using local ingredients such as cashews. Paneer is a dish in itself, but it was her husband who taught her how to elevate it from its humble origins.

Now, when making this staple North Indian dish, Anu adds onions, tomatoes, and bell peppers, putting her own personal stamp on the meal. She notes it is important to add the peppers before the tomatoes to ensure that they remain crisp. She also tosses in spices, including one of her favorites, cumin, followed by the coriander and fenugreek seeds, which are simmered in heated oil to bring out their flavor. After the addition of cashew and milk powder, the dish is finished with cream, then paneer, and garnished with cilantro.

After her husband lost his job due to the COVID pandemic, Anu began looking for something to fill the gap. As an experienced home cook, she found that Chef was the perfect solution, as well as a blessing: not only does it allow her to do what she loves every day, but it also replaced a lost income and has helped her realize her dream of cooking for people beyond her family.

While Anu believes a restaurant can make some delicious food, it can never replace a home-cooked meal, because it's the little things that a mom cooks that make the difference. Cooking for Chef has allowed her to fulfill her dream of preparing home-cooked for other people – and their kids. She also continues to perfect her recipes.

Anu's philosophy is to treat others how you want to be treated, feed others how you would want to eat. Each of her dishes is made with care, whether it's the paneer pashawari, the chole, a dish made from chickpeas in a delicious tomato-based sauce, or the deep-fried bread that accompanies it. It's clear that Anu puts herself into everything she creates.

**Ratna Meherte** is an interior designer specializing in kitchen and bathroom design. Her full-service design firm, Hans Spaces LLC, is named after the Sanskrit word for swan. In Indian mythology, the swan personifies purity; in ancient Greece, it was seen as the traditional symbol of beauty and grace. For Ratna, the swan represents her passion for transforming interiors into spaces that embody purity, functionality, elegance and grace.

After an illustrious career as a software designer and developer, Ratna took time off to have her first child. During that period, she and her husband purchased a home that was built in 1958. To satisfy her creative and inquisitive mind, she executed a gut remodel of the entire house, including the master bedroom and bathroom, kitchen, guest room and hallways. That challenging but rewarding experience convinced her that interior design was her true calling, and Hans Spaces, along with her child \_\_\_\_\_, was born.

Committed to the notion that we all deserve to have beautiful, functional spaces that reflect our personality, lifestyle and tastes, Ratna's embraces a design philosophy that great design should be affordable and accessible. In addition to creating beautiful interiors, she is focused on safety and on incorporating the elements of a life committed to green, eco-friendly green principles into her work.

A born problem-solver, Ratna begins her design projects by sitting down with her clients to discover their needs, inspiration and aspirations, as well as their daily routines and stresses. Then the creative process begins, when she imagines the spaces her clients want to inhabit. Influenced by her technical background, she pays close attention to detail, believing that careful planning results in the best possible outcome.

A native of India, Ratna earned her MS in Software Systems from the Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, India and BE in Information Technology from Pune Institute of Computer Technology. It is the knowledge she gained through her education and her work as a software engineer that provide the backdrop for her analytical and practical approach to bathroom and kitchen design. Her work is also influenced by her life experiences, worldwide travel and irrepressible creative streak. Ratna's new career has given her the opportunity to pursue her dreams, in keeping with her message to the world: "Follow your bliss and the universe will open doors where there were once only walls."

**Yulida Angelides** is one of Nova's principals as well as Senior Project Architect. She has comprehensive experience in the design and building industries. Over the course of 20 years, she has consistently delivered high-quality solutions for mixed-use and multifamily developments in New York and New Jersey, while also participating in academic and other commercial projects.

With a focus on the fusion of place and soul, Yuliya has the ability to realize the story of each project through architectural language. She distills context from the project teams and members of the community to support the creation of unique experiences for end users. This approach helps to foster trust while building a strategy that embraces community input to clarify issues and strengthen solutions.

Yuliya is a graduate of New York Institute of Technology and the Fashion Institute of Technology. With degrees in both interior design and architecture, she possesses a wealth of expertise in building codes and zoning requirements. She also brings to Nova a background in professional



permit expediting and has extensive experience helping owners, architects, and engineers navigate the project approval process effectively and efficiently.

Yuliya is a member of AIA and a certified LEED Green Associate with USGBC. Additionally, she is pursuing LEED AP BD+C specialty certification.