

golden girl

For this Sacramento artist, home is where the art is.

by catherine warmerdam | photography by michelle drewes

Sarah Golden is on a roll. The fine artist and fabric designer who moved to Sacramento from Portland in 2010 (she grew up in the rural town of Nicolaus, in Sutter County) has more than 33,000 followers on Instagram. Her paintings—typically abstracts featuring broad planes of pink, white and ochre punctuated by polka dots and other patterned markings—are selling like hot cakes. And she just released her fourth collection of fabrics, *Cats & Dogs*, for Andover Fabrics. Her prints are a favorite among quilters who appreciate the playful quality of her designs.

One would never guess that so much creative output could be cranked out of a 175-square-foot home studio. But Golden, like many artists, is both disciplined and adaptable, describing herself as “super ambitious about my creative endeavors.”

She launched her career by working at her kitchen table, stealing snippets of time while caring for her twin daughters, now 5.

She eventually graduated to sharing the home studio (a converted one-car garage) with her husband, singer-songwriter Jacob Golden, carving out a 9-by-9-foot area where she painted and made block prints for her fabric designs. “I started a business there and it grew. It became full of possibilities,” says Golden.

As business expanded, so did her workspace. Golden’s husband moved his recording studio to a structure in the backyard of their Oak Park home so that she could take over the studio, enabling her to paint on larger canvasses and even have room for a sewing table (she quilts and sews clothing for herself and her children) and computer (she is a prolific social media poster).

Golden acknowledges there are drawbacks to working at home. “There are distractions, for sure. Plus you have to be disciplined about guarding your work time.” But the arrangement allows her to be present for her children. And the studio,

which has French doors that open to the backyard, is pretty swell.

“I love the high ceilings and the smooth, white walls. For working with color, that was just so important to me,” says Golden. “I wanted it be a beautiful space where I could hang my work.”

For Golden, having a dedicated space to pursue her creative work has been critical to her success. “Half the value of having your own studio is logistics. When my daughters were little, I would spend half my time pulling stuff out of the closet, setting it up, then putting it away again to keep it out of their reach,” explains Golden. “Now I have a space where I can experience that creative flow, that excitement, and enjoy what I’m doing.”

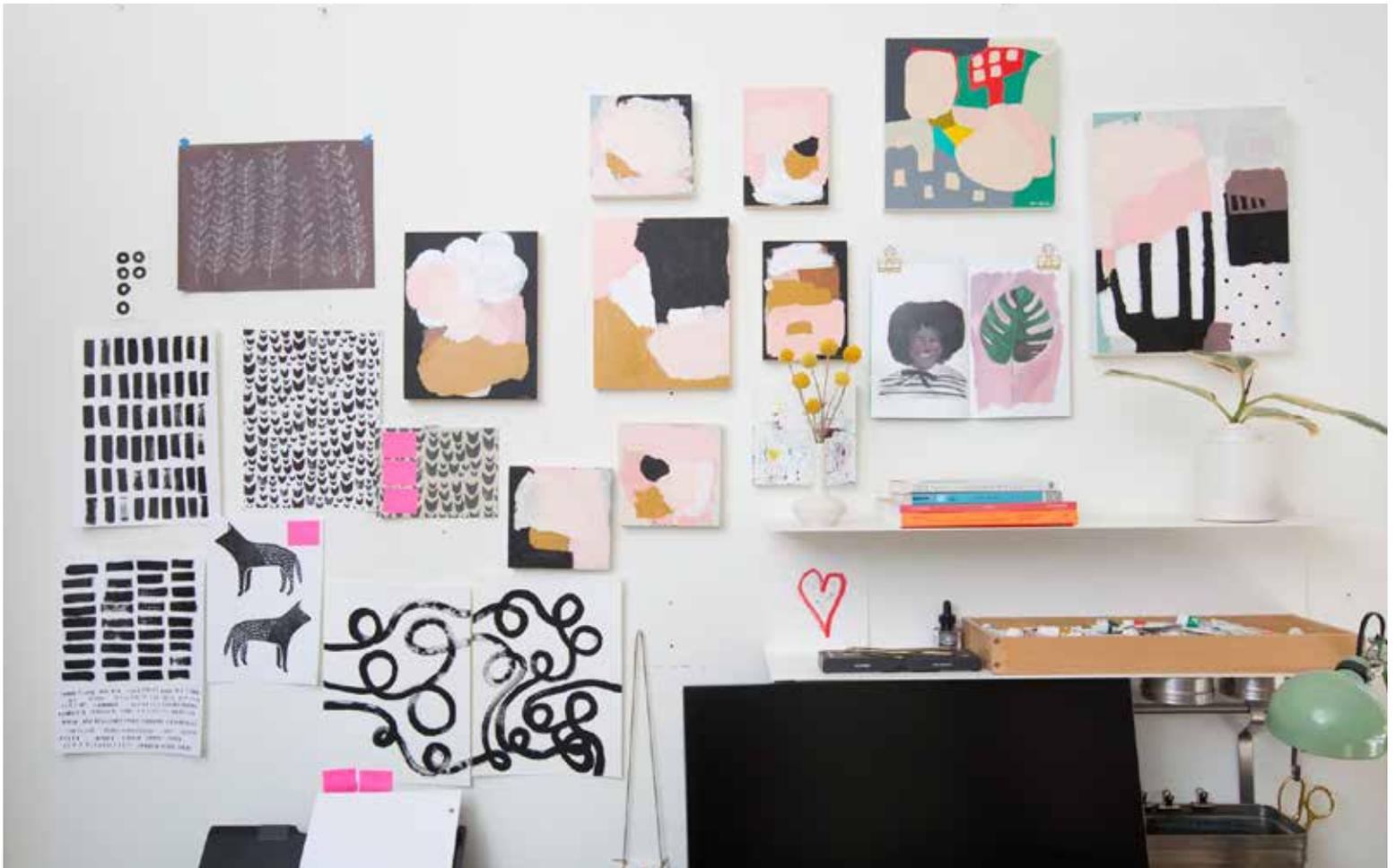
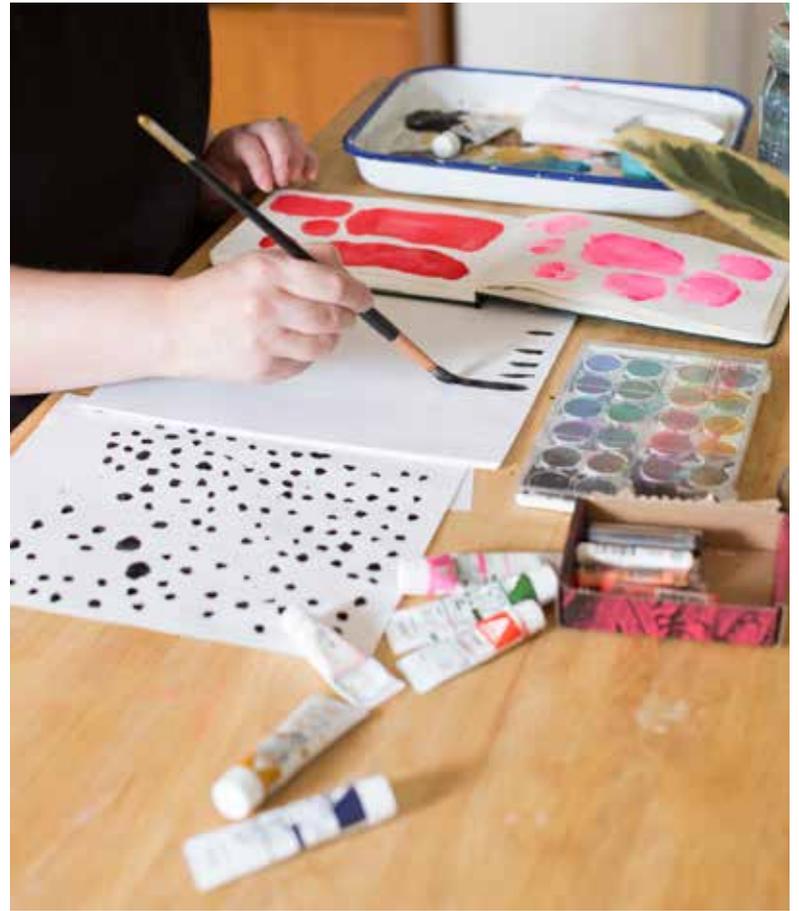
Looking back, there was little question that Golden would make a home environment that was conducive to a creative lifestyle. “My husband and I are both musicians. That’s how we met,” says the self-taught artist. “We’ve always had a creative life together. That’s just part of how we live. It’s who we are.” 🏠

Artist Sarah Golden in her living room, where she often hangs works in progress. The chair is covered with one of her designs for Andover Fabrics.



Quilting and sewing offer a creative release for Golden, who prefers to take weekends off from painting. She enjoys the freedom of working on a project—maybe a quilt for her daughters or a smock for herself—that's not bound for a customer.







*'We've always had
a creative life together.
It's who we are.'*

Sarah Golden



Golden says that painting and designing fabrics “satisfy two different parts of my brain.” Although she didn’t attend art school, she didn’t let that stop her from believing that she could make a living from her art. “That’s what so exciting about creative careers. If you want to be an artist, you can.”