

L'Élégance, by Lawrence Mynott. An exhibition of 25 Mynott illustrations will be at NYC's Stubbs Books & Prints through December 6.



the present moment

"Bazaar" asked women of style to share gift-giving tips, their favorite sources, and their personal wish lists for this holiday season.

By Brooke Stoddard

Fashion designer Isabel Toledo shops at art-supply and hardware stores for unique finds for friends. She has fun wrapping things, especially *Style Dictionary* (Abbeville), the newly published book of drawings by her husband, Ruben Toledo. Interior designer Barbara Barry usually goes directly to her friend Mary Nittner's store, the Golden Goose, in Mendocino, CA, to uncover the best presents. For her own home this season, she hopes to get a silver serving tray and Irish linen napkins. Interior designer Sheila Bridges believes that "it is always about the presentation"; she often spends more time searching for the right box, ribbon, and wrapping paper than looking for the gift. She prefers to shop when she travels, especially when it comes to scouring the Paris flea markets for one-of-a-kind treasures. She also likes to give the Michael Graves-designed Alessi teakettle with the bird-shaped whistle. Interior designer Kitty Hawks' current wish list includes *The Best of Fair* (HarperCollins) and a year's stay at the Katsura imperial villa, in Kyoto, Japan. The presents that Jane Stubbs, owner of Stubbs Books & Prints, was happiest giving were beds of irises that she planted in her friends' names in the gardens at the American Academy in Rome. "I have gotten so much pleasure in thinking of them all happily blooming away on a sunny hill in Rome," she says. Stubbs also likes to give the out-of-print *Little Me* (E.P. Dutton), by Patrick Dennis, which "seems to

amuse almost everyone," she says. Jewelry designer Francesca Scarsini loves to wrap presents herself—she is very good at it—and believes that it's an important part of the gift-giving process. Interior designer Courtney Sloane dreams of getting a horse this year, but she'll settle for a five-foot-tall hourglass. Her most memorable gift was the '76 Chevy Nova that her uncle gave her for her high school graduation. Given that architect Allison Spear's favorite present was a Louis Comfort Tiffany hanging lamp, it comes as no surprise that she shops at Christie's and Sotheby's. Anna Morrow Lindbergh's *Gift from the Sea* (Random House) tops her list of best books to give or receive. Floral designer Isabelle Bosquet often buys presents in pairs, one for a friend and one for herself. Her favorite book to give is Mary Trasko's *Heavenly Soles* (Abbeville). Bosquet would love a stylish four-wheel-drive Mercedes but says she would be just as happy with a pair of Roger Vivier shoes. Designer Clodagh's family has the custom of "giving themselves to each other" (their situation is "geographically undesirable," she says, laughing), so her travel agent is her greatest shopping source. She believes in giving "life-enhancing gifts," like a lifetime supply of favorite scented candles, or an experience. Clodagh recently gave her two young grandchildren computers, and soon they will all be on-line with one another. It's the modern-day gift that will truly keep on giving. ■