

midwest home & GARDEN

design directions



art ambassador

Local and regional artists have another emissary to the buying public. Artful Belongings, a St. Paul shop that sells artwork and craftwork, opened quietly in October. Linda Salonek, who quit her job at Northwest Airlines four years ago to produce her own soy-based candles, owns and manages the shop with help from her sister, Cheryl Cochran. Salonek says she started the shop to create another venue for local artists to share their work, and to help educate Minnesotans about the value of buying locally. "Personally, I want the things I own to have a human connection and a story. And if I'm seeking that human connection in the things I buy, it might as well be from a local artist," Salonek says. The shop features mosaics from highly regarded artist Mercedes, porcelain from Dyann Myers, Momento pillows by designer Robin Taple (pictured above), and ironwork by Melanie Van Houten. Salonek also sells her White Pine Candles at the shop. In addition to well-known local artists, Artful Belongings spotlights some undiscovered talent, including Robert Meyer, a frequent traveler who takes "extremely emotional" black and white photographs on his journeys. Artful Belongings is located at 42 Oxford St. S., St. Paul, 651-225-1422, www.artfulbelongings.com. ■

—Alyssa Ford

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MOMENTO