

SAVVY SHOPPER



Wall of fame

Why stop at paint? There's so much more you can do to dress up a wall.

STYLING  
HAYLEY BELL  
PICTURES  
MIKE BAKER

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Rust Port Hole Wall, \$350, from Entanglements. Bride & Wolfe "Birds & Animals" from Garden of Eden Nursery. Recycled saucer butterflies from The Works. Hot pink African headdress from Bisque Interiors. Simply Nude III artwork from Original Custom Art Work. Safari chair and hot pink plain velvet Kitty Blake cushion, \$99, from Bisque Interiors. Shadow puppet decals (from top) duck, giraffe and dog, \$55 each, from Lola and Bailey. Carmen Paint supplied by Porters Paints.

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The only thing worse than a naked wall is the feeling of emptiness when staring at it. Even if it's just had a decent lick of paint — that age-old trick of instant transformation — it somehow still begs for more. We may never return to the grand old days of true Baroque or Rococo, when every spare square inch was frescoed to the hilt. But we could possibly lie in bed and think of Michelangelo. True, the Renaissance man would never have resorted to today's quick-fix solutions but, for busy lives, modern wall art is affordable, convenient and offers a variety of choices. Artworks are always popular as personal expression — “does this say I'm retro or minimalist?” — but shadow puppet decals add wit and whimsy. Want something easy? Hook up intricate pieces such as a Bride & Wolfe silhouette, or beautiful recycled ceramic butterflies. Add drama with a flouncy tribal headdress. For a more imposing effect, Entanglements' Rust Port Hole Wall brings a touch of nature indoors without the need to attach anything to the wall. Best of all, you don't have to wait for the paint to dry.

Miranda Tay



Bride & Wolfe  
“Birds & Animals”,  
small \$119, from  
Garden of Eden  
Nursery



Safari chair  
from Bisque  
Interiors, \$740

LUXE  
FOR  
LESS



Recycled saucer  
butterflies, \$57  
each, from The  
Works



Simply Nude  
III, 121cm  
x 91cm,  
\$445, from  
Original  
Custom Art  
Work

Olunda  
picture, \$69,  
from Ikea

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## TECHKNOW

Tested by James Smith



### HAND VACS

#### DYSON DC 31

Cost \$349

There's a scene in daft World War II spoof *Top Secret!* in which Val Kilmer's character gives his manager a “tool” to help rekindle romance with his wife. I wonder if James Dyson has seen the film as his latest hand vac — the uber-powerful DC 31 — bears a remarkable similarity, adjustable nozzles and all. What's more, the look of glee on the manager's face when he opens the box is mirrored by mine — surely vacuum cleaners aren't supposed to look this insanely cool. It's insanely mighty too. Dyson claims it contains the world's fastest motor (yes, faster than a jet engine) and, watching it devour muck like a half-starved whale in a cloud of plankton while in “Boost” mode, who am I to argue?

#### HOOVER JOVIS WET AND DRY

Cost \$129

Back on more familiar territory is the Jovis, Hoover's most powerful hand vac. Unlikely to turn heads like the Dyson, it instead concentrates on functionality. Like Matthew Hayden, it's something of a flat track bully — great on flat surfaces, less so when things get a little tricky. But its 18 minutes of battery life mean it lasts two to three times longer than the Dyson per charge and it earns the “Wet and Dry” sobriquet through an ability to mop up spills once a rubber nozzle is attached, suggesting it could give that whale a run for the money when it comes to plankton.

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### VERDICT

And the winner is: If pragmatism and prudence are your priority, the Jovis will do just fine. For those with bulging wallets and a belief that your choice of vacuum can make you look cool, the Dyson is the Usain Bolt of its class.

### CHECK THIS OUT

Nothing ruins a perfect coffee like letting it run cold. Thanks to two German scientists who felt the same about mulled wine, it need never happen again. The Fraunhofer Institute hopes to release, later this year, mugs capable of maintaining temperatures for 30 minutes.

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