



Main picture: Cheriey lounges in her boudoir. 1: Mariana Tishoff gift painting, \$985. 2: Steven Bonnet, from newtooldart.com. 3: The Next Dance by an artist, \$150. 4: Amy Brinkley, from newtooldart.com. 5: Dan Frayser painting, \$990. 6: Emma Cole, from newtooldart.com. 7: Black Nova light pendant, £13, from M&C. 8: Tobacco & powder rug, \$480. 9: John Jurek. 10: Mirror, \$250. 11: From the Little Company. 2: Ingres, \$200. 3: Ingres, \$300. 4: Ingres, \$300. 5: Ingres, \$300. 6: Ingres, \$300. 7: Ingres, \$300. 8: Ingres, \$300. 9: Ingres, \$300. 10: Ingres, \$300. 11: Ingres, \$300.

# Realm of the senses

A BOUTIQUE OWNER WHO LIKES TO DRINK GIN FROM TRACUPS WEARING ONLY KNICKERS IS AN IDEAL ADVOCATE FOR BOUDOIR CHIC, SAYS LAURA CLAYTON

**F**ull-on and fabulous, Kenya Clayton's ethos is all about knowing its niche. Her Boudoir, Apartment C, looks like someone's home – it pairs black Arca Jacobsen Egg chairs with pink velvet chaise longue, and features a library of sexy vintage paperbacks and a self-stocked 1930s drinks cabinet, all guaranteed to tempture pique. The new lifestyle and lingerie store is a boudoir for the modern woman, and, according to Clayton, the kind of decadence means drinking gin from tracups wearing only your knickers. A former ballet dancer, TV presenter and international model, she gave up the catwalk and relocated to London from New York 30 years ago to start as a mature student studying design at Central Saint Martins. She has spent the past three years developing the concept for the store on Marlborough High Street, W1, a space that takes its inspiration from cool girls' apartments and the best bits of Biba, with a pinch of the surreal showbiz in for good measure.

"My feeling is that we are missing something in our day-to-day lives," says Clayton. "But I want to celebrate it, and Apartment C sums up that feeling." Here she shares her tips on how to create the ultimate lounging vibe at home.

**KENYA'S DIY BOUDOIR TIPS**

**ADORN THE WALLS**  
Put an on-eye wall! I think that's the first step to creating a sensual environment. I don't have a problem with white walls, but you should put something on them. I wish people would stop having flat prints, because that way everybody's house looks exactly the same. When your individuality comes out, that's sensual and sexy. If you think you can't afford art, consider young artists. There are so many excellent art schools in the UK and it's easy to find great pieces of work at affordable prices. If you can't stretch to the real thing, buy a great print and put it in a frame – that's a great source of vintage posters that don't cost the earth. Frame them and get them up.

**KEEP IT SUEDE**  
I don't subscribe to that typical French boudoir thing. I prefer something a little more eclectic. When you're talking about sensuality, your own personality needs to come through, and it doesn't need to be obviously and overtly sexy. I mean I'm not one of those who would have a leather hot wrapped around a fireplace. With Apartment C, I chose black walls with gold

accents. I wanted it to feel a little bit like the opposite of an art gallery. Pieces still stand out against black, but it feels the space a more decadent atmosphere.

**MIX AND MATCH**  
It's always a good idea to mix vintage, historical objects with modern things. My favourite place to hunt for furniture and trinkets is Atlas Antique Market (020 7723 0866, atlasantique.com). I like it when something's a bit tacky, because it's my own choice, it's okay. Never be afraid to embrace and celebrate your own taste.

**BUNT DOWN BODICE VALENT**  
I go to a lot of design shows. I like to see what everyone's doing, because you never know what you might find. I discovered the designer Alex Ratoff of Jerobo Hand at 100%. Design and we became friends. She made the trademark pigeon light I have in the shop. I love their marble quality and the tension between something that's really ugly but also beautiful and soft.

**BECOME A BOOKWORM**  
Buy books. Choose older editions with great artwork and display them. Get your toes to read the juicy bits out of a novel to you while you are in the bath – there's nothing sexier.

**BEY TOUCHY-FEELY**  
In terms of material and fabric, always buy the best you can afford, but if you are on a budget, the golden rule is to work with natural fibres. Choose good cotton and mix up the textures.

**CREATE MOOD LIGHTING**  
Knickers, you should have lace-trimmed switches, but a great candle gives a soft, flattering glow. Reject old-fashioned gramophones in favour of something deeper and more complex, such as an ER. St. Co candles (from the shop), which outperformed rather than scented. In Madras Akshay range includes two candles that are really sophisticated. Ember is a mix of balsam strips, pine pitch and cedar scents, and Essi caribbean ambrette seed and Cardoia leaves.

**TREAT YOURSELF**  
I'm not suggesting people should wear around in layers of silk all day. We all have busy lives, but a part of us in his forgotten how to enjoy beautiful, sensual moments in our home. Treat yourself to great perfume, sexy lingerie, some bath salts – it's good for the soul.

Apartment C, Marlborough High Street, W1 020 7937 1454, apartmentc.com