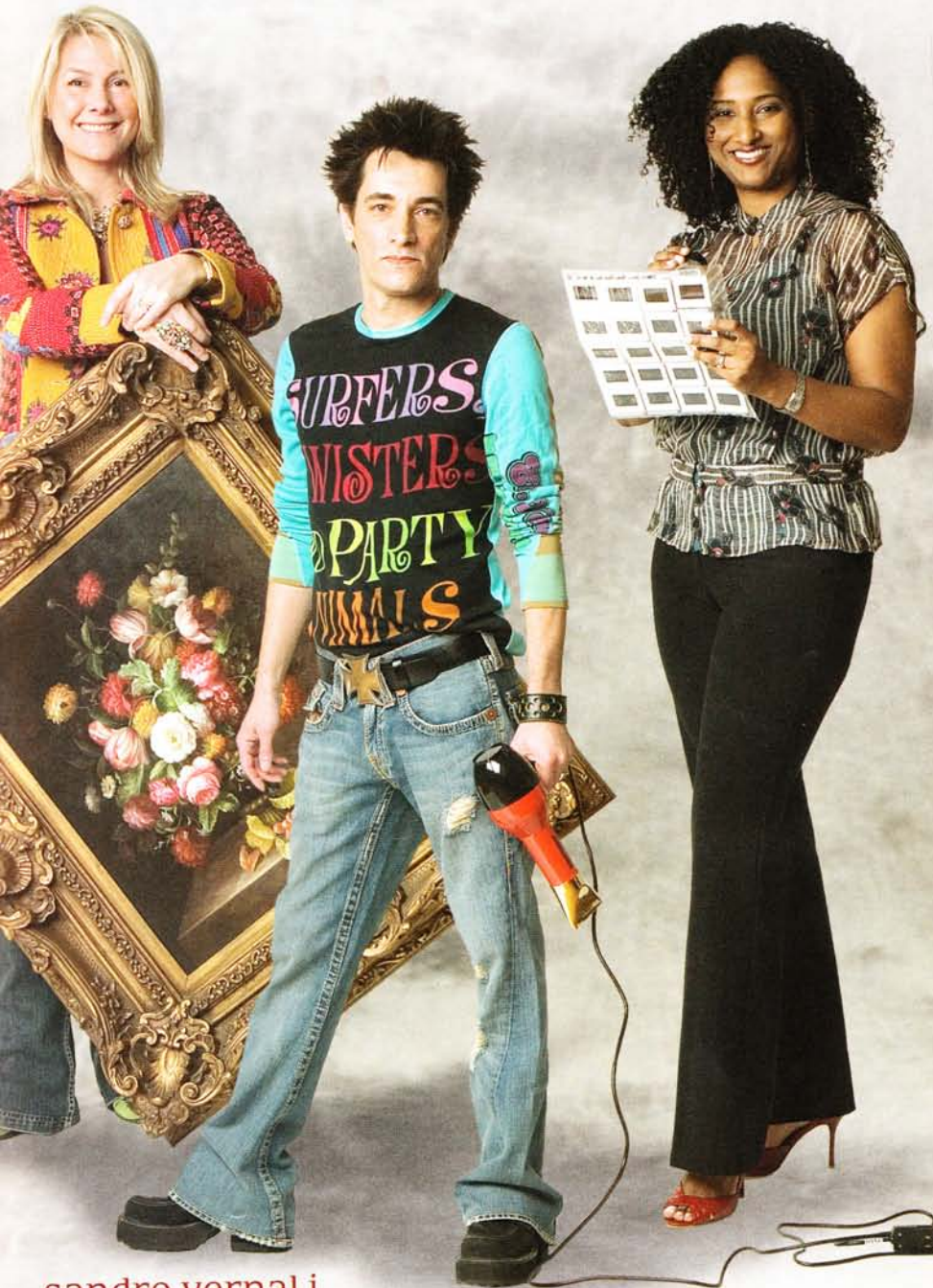


kellie burke

Owner, Kellie Burke Designs
Winner: Best Interior Decorator

When Kellie Burke takes on a design project, she makes it a top priority to get to know her clients. "I ask a million questions—how they entertain, hobbies, the textures and fabrics they like," she says. She'll ask clients to tear photos out of design magazines, and will use that to piece together their style. She's also inspired by her annual trips to Europe. "I pop into every bistro and café, take lots of notes and pictures and chat with the locals," she says. Burke primarily designs residential projects, but is also the creative force behind the recent re-design of Restaurant Bricco. She also recently became a mother to her first child, Finley Burke Zeytoonjian, who she says is so cute she "could eat him up."



kristina newman-scott

Visual Arts Manager, Real Art Ways
Winner: Best Art Gallery

When Kristina Newman-Scott moved from Jamaica—where she had her own TV and radio show—to Hartford, she was determined to be around creative people like herself. She found a home at R.A.W. Coming from a painting background, she easily identified with the mission of the art gallery—to highlight fresh, emerging artists. "We catch the artists at a unique time in their lives," she says. Newman-Scott brings in the artists and coordinates the shows with guest curators. At R.A.W, there is no pretentious attitude. "If you don't get the art, it's a good thing. We can talk about it," says Newman-Scott. "The number one thing is the art and the artists." Here, she says, it's not about acquiring or selling the art, but about the art itself.

Left to right:
Stephen DiMarco,
Ann Howard, Stan Simpson,
Kellie Burke, Sandro Vernali,
Kristina Newman-Scott

sandro vernali

Co-owner, Salon Medusa
Winner: Best Hair Salon

A bright, fun atmosphere, colorful walls, the latest gossip, good company. "It's like a party," says Sandro Vernali about Salon Medusa in West Hartford Center, which he's co-owned with Steven Adelstein for the past seven years. "It's not just about the West Hartford blonde bob." The salon prides itself on being laid back and funky with a lot of new, creative and innovative ideas. Vernali and Adelstein love to travel. They get a lot of inspiration from wherever they go, and incorporate that into what they do. Vernali says that there is no intimidating stigma at Salon Medusa. They get a wide range of clients from all walks of life, and every stylist knows nearly every client, creating a "very fun environment."