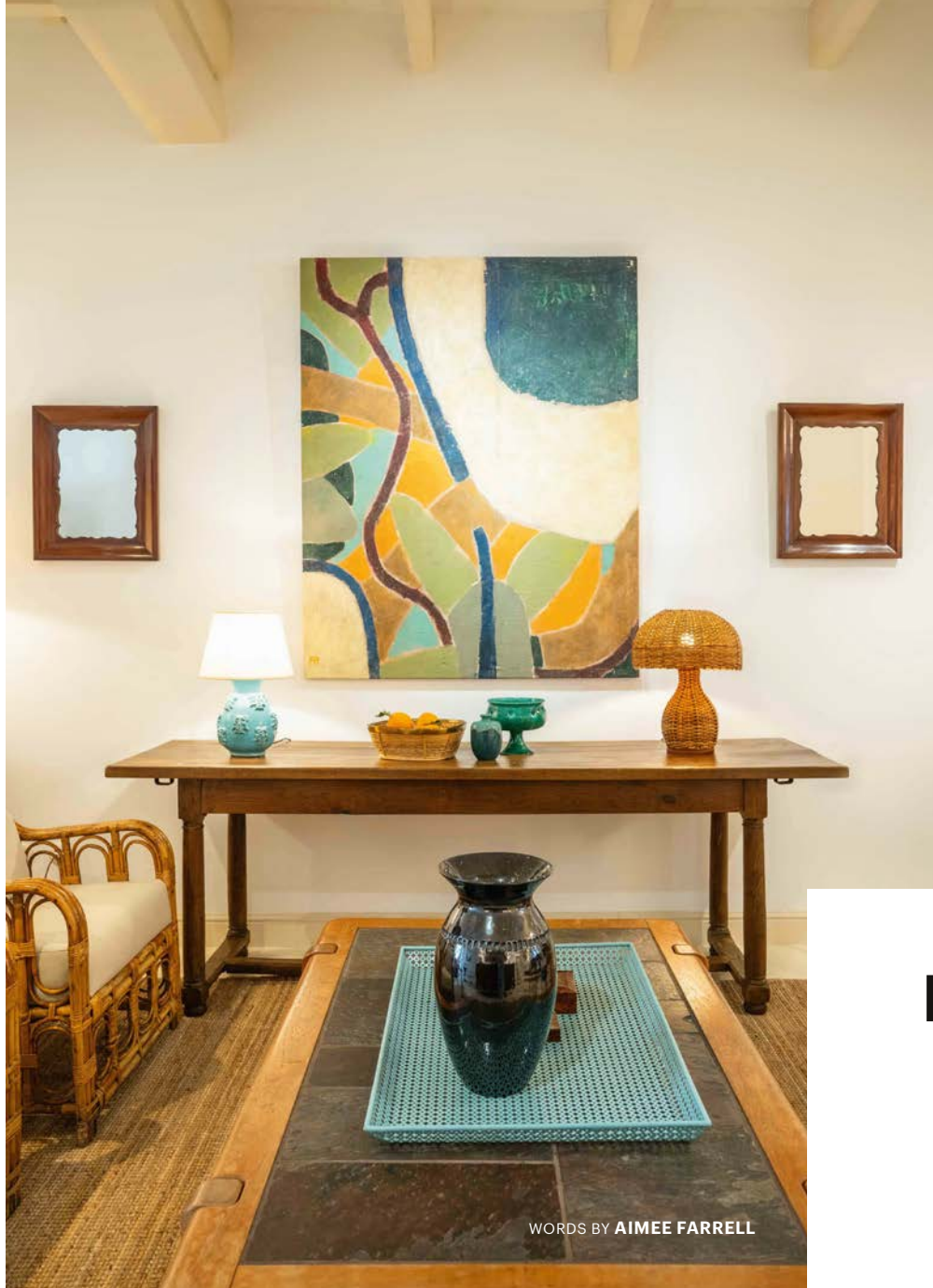




Left: a mid-20th-century abstract acrylic painting, €2,650, a late-19th-century French walnut console table, €3,500, and a c1960 French enamelled ceramic vase, €580, among other items. Right: Menorca's capital Mahón

EARLY-20TH-CENTURY FRENCH BRASS CANDLESTICK, €350 FOR PAIR



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gallery's recent stock is a rattan two-seater French bench from 1900 (€1,900).

One of the joys of life in Menorca, which welcomed an outpost of the Zurich-founded gallery Hauser & Wirth in 2021, is that anyone – from the artist Rashid Johnson to a professional ballet dancer or the director of the nearby gallery – might walk through the door. The OOO atmosphere is not dissimilar to the tiny enclave where Caffot de Fawes grew up, in the Basque fishing

village of Guéthary (favoured by Michael Fassbender and Madonna). Business here often happens in people's homes, over supper.

By dessert, Caffot de Fawes might have been commissioned to furnish an interior from top to bottom. "It's the life I've always wanted," he says. ■HTSI

"BUSINESS HERE OFTEN HAPPENS IN PEOPLE'S HOMES, OVER SUPPER"

early career spent in the furniture department at Sotheby's and then as a Chelsea dealer. The main space gives way to a bijoux second room and terrace, each decorated to resemble different domestic areas. There are Swedish cherry wood and sisal armchairs (€2,500) and square art deco tables (€1,250), offset by Aubusson tapestries (€1,500), wrought-iron lamps (€1,450) and brightly coloured 1970s ceramics (from €420).

"I don't do period rooms," Caffot de Fawes says. "We always create a symphony of beautiful things from across the decades." His mantra is simple: "Would I want this at home?" Though he does admit a weak spot for the sinuous silhouettes and high-pedigree materials of pieces dating to the early 1900s (he currently has a pair of Glastonbury oak armchairs for €2,900). "Antiques bring individuality," he says. "It sounds whimsical, but you can't beat the energy of something that has survived a century or more."

In both London and Menorca he sells to interior designers and private collectors. He has learnt that the island's local architecture allows for a more textured, rustic array of objects: among the

Left: a pair of early-20th-century Glastonbury oak armchairs, €2,900. Below: the gallery is in an 18th-century townhouse in Mahón. Right: owner Dorian Caffot de Fawes, with a 1930s abstract oil painting, €5,500, and 1950s French glazed ceramics, €2,400, on an art deco French mahogany sideboard, €5,800



It was while holidaying with his husband that Dorian Caffot de Fawes fell under the spell of Menorca's wild beauty and burgeoning arts scene. "The first thing we do when we're away is look in estate agents' windows," says the Paris-born antiques dealer, who founded his namesake shop, now in Marylebone, in 2015 and swiftly became known for his homely curation of 20th-century lighting, objects and furniture. "This time it actually happened. Six months later we had the keys."

Before they'd even finished renovations on their new Menorcan home, Caffot de Fawes had decided to open a business there, too. "The energy is so extraordinary," he says with characteristic flair. "I wanted to be part of it." He started searching for a showroom in the capital, Mahón, and soon found an 18th-century building with green shuttered windows and a sandstone façade punctuated by a series of graceful archways. It had been a bakery, then a pharmacy and then the Lord Byron pub, but had lain empty since the 1990s. Restoration involved stripping out two suspended ceilings to reveal lofty proportions, and installing a locally made encaustic-tile floor.

Today, Caffot de Fawes spends much of the year at the Menorca gallery, which he runs with his sister, Ysolde Gaignault; she handles day-to-day operations and often joins him on sourcing trips around Europe. The long rectangular interior is decorated in a bourgeois-style that reflects the influence of their "terribly chic" Parisian grandmother, as well as Caffot de Fawes's



A c1940 FRENCH ART DECO SIDE TABLE, €1,250

