

## DALLAS WELCOMES A SOPHISTICATED SHOP FROM DESIGNER EMILY SUMMERS

Text by Hannah Martin | Photography courtesy of Emily Summers | October 16, 2014



Inside Emily Summers's new shop, a KGBL bench, foreground, is upholstered with woven peacock feathers; to the right, Carol Egan stools are both sculptural and functional.

Hearing "Studio 54," it's hard not to conjure images of glitter, disco, and Grace Jones in face paint. But for Texas-based design fans, this may soon change.

Tomorrow, AD100 decorator Emily Summers will open a sleek new retail shop bearing the legendary nightclub's name. Showcasing a mix of her favorite furnishings—some vintage, some contemporary—the boutique is located in Dallas's upscale Highland Park Village in, you guessed it, suite number 54. And while the aesthetic is decidedly more refined than the '70s disco destination, it feels equally of the moment.

"The client here is a sophisticated shopper, but there's no place in the Village to buy anything like this," Summers says of the mall that houses mostly fashion boutiques like Chanel, Hermès, and Harry Winston.

For the store, Summers focused on curating an all-star cast of designers, most of whom don't have representation in the Dallas area. She started with New York dealer and designer Liz O'Brien ("a great scholar and friend with a beautiful line"). Next she looked to a new favorite, KGBL, a rising talent known for clean and sophisticated forms. From there she moved to another go-to New York showroom, Maison Gerard, choosing artful creations by Carol Egan ("she takes concept into such a beautiful reality"), and then to old friend F. J. Hakimian, to cover the floors in his brilliant contemporary rugs. Furniture is accented with more artisanal accessories, like ceramics by Brian Molanphy, a professor at nearby Southern Methodist University. The curated items mix with Summers's own collection of custom furniture—mostly re-creations of vintage pieces, including an unusual gondola sofa she found in Palm Springs and furnishings she purchased from fashion designer Geoffrey Beene's estate.

"It's a very edited, clean, fresh look," Summers says. "These pieces need space. Here, each piece has room to be enjoyed."

*Studio 54, Highland Park Village, suite #54, Dallas; [emilysummers.com](http://emilysummers.com)*