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DESIGN | TRENDS

A Decor Identity Crisis: Maximal Minimalism Is Trending

The chicest hybrid yet.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY JESSICA ANTOLA

Combining trends is a tricky business, but when the trends in question are not only different but in direct odds with one another, the whole experience becomes exponentially more challenging. Such is the case with minimalism and maximalism. Two of design's most **easy-to-characterize styles**, they are, by definition, polar opposites. But the fact is that most people don't fall into one camp or the other. Our tastes are capricious and rarely fit neatly into one box. Which is why this latest design trend is one we can really get behind. **Maximal minimalism** is all about marrying the two aesthetics in perfect unity, and it's possibly the most inclusive trend out there.

Simply put, maximal minimalism blends the vibrant colors and **abstract shapes** of bolder maximalist styles with the clean lines and sleek silhouettes of minimalism. It's loud but never

unmanageable. A maximal-minimalist piece can frequently act as the centerpiece for a room, set against a monochrome or even totally neutral backdrop. Look to artists like Josef Albers or Ellsworth Kelly for visual examples. In fashion, brands like Tibi and [Mansur Gavriel](#) have made maximal minimalism their signature. Straddling the line between two distinct styles, the trend is a commitment-phobe decorator's dream.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY CODY GUILFOYLE

Creative online marketplace [Society6](#) is getting behind the maximal minimalism trend, even naming it as a [trend to watch](#) for the season. According to the site's editorial director, Stephanie Dixon, there's a reason the style is so pervasive right now, and it has everything to do with the climate.

"Minimalism has great appeal as an island of peace in our increasingly chaotic world, however, we're finding that living in the land of beige isn't quite cutting it for the generation that has fallen in love with self-expression," explains Dixon. "Maximal minimalism is a happy medium that allows you to showcase your bold personality without getting lost in the visual clutter of more detail-oriented work."



PHOTOGRAPHY BY AARON BENGOCHEA

Chances are that you've noticed this a lot recently even if you haven't had the language to define it. Copenhagen-based brand **Raawii** saw its saturated ceramic vessels go somewhat viral this year, and that's possibly because there's something so visually pleasing about seeing a simple yet striking color take on an abstract form. It's Instagram bait. Or how about **Block Shop**, whose bold shapes have found a spot in a **deluge of homes** we've featured? Maximal-minimalist pieces are primed for virality, and there are tons of ways to make this fun style work with your own.

Dixon is a fan of going all-out: "The bigger the better," she says. "You know that energetic feeling you get when you step in front of a huge piece of abstract art a la Mark Rothko? Re-create that glow by choosing a large print or wall mural to be a statement piece in any room."

Alternatively, keep your minimalist side anxiety-free and opt for smaller ways to mix in the vivid trend against a neutral backdrop. "Throw pillows will add a kick to any couch or chair," offers Dixon.

Whether you're looking to go big or small, here are 11 maximal-minimalist pieces sure to breathe life into your home.

The Renter's Solution to Boring Walls



BOULDER print, \$98.99+

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Given that the trend is largely inspired by iconic artwork, it only makes sense that the best way to try it out is via some color-blocked prints. We're loving the tonal reds in this piece by Matthew Korbel-Bowers.

To view the entire story, visit: <https://www.domino.com/content/maximalist-decor-2019/>