

Forbes Masters

Tavia Forbes and Monet Masters are the visionaries and founders behind Forbes Masters. Named *Architectural Digest* Rising Stars in 2020, the robust entrepreneurs lead their luxe design studio full-time in the heart of Atlanta. Here, Monet and Tavia share what's inspiring their creativity right now, with examples below.

By SHIVANI VYAS

Portrait by DOUGLAS HAWK, NOBOX CREATIVE

HEIRLOOM

MM: My grandmother's wedding ring. I wear it almost every day.

Although I'm obsessed with my oval emerald engagement ring, nothing comes close to having and wearing my grandmother's wedding ring and band.

TF: An 18th-century gold-leaf, crystal-encrusted Italian pelmet gifted to me by my mentor.

ON MY NIGHTSTAND

MM: On my 32-inch-wide nightstand, you'll find some sort of charging structure that charges my watch, phone, and AirPods all at once. You'll also find

these obnoxiously large, discontinued lamps I was desperate to have, with Empire linen shades, and a Cartier cheetah jewelry tray (1).

TF: A velvet riding hat (2), a set of Arkipelago glass candleholders, and a cut crystal jar full of seashells that were gifted to me by my significant other.

BUCKET LIST

MM: I was talked into climbing Angels Landing (3), which is a five-mile hike and has an elevation of over 5,000 feet. I knew something was up when Alex [my fiance] kept asking me if I was okay with the hike.

I thought, *Sure, I work out daily.* Well, every hour, I wondered, *Are we there yet? Or, Is this safe?* But once at the top, it was absolutely priceless and so rewarding. This wasn't on my bucket list, but, as a type A person, I most cer-

tainly added it afterward in order to cross it off.

TF: To swim with the jellyfish in Palau (4).

STYLE ICON

MM & TF: Kelly Wearstler.

SCENT

TF: Montale Oud Edition Eau de Parfum (5), available at Neiman Marcus. It's very strong, so I use half a spritz and mix it with something fresh and floral.

LOCAL SHOP

MM & TF: Souk Bohemian (6) at Ponce City Market.

LOCAL ARTIST

MM: Multidisciplinary creative Antonio Darden.

TF: Tokie Rome-Taylor.

ON MY WALLS

MM: One of my most prized art pieces is an acrylic abstract painting of the heart organ by Kelly O'Neal. The artist uses pinks, burgundies, violets, and a hint of green on a black linen canvas in a walnut frame. It all pops in a way that outweighs the investment made.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE

MM: "Before reacting to day-to-day gifts from life, ask yourself, 'Am I acting in love or fear?'"

TF: "All creatures do practical things to ensure their survival, but we create art to ensure that we are worthy of our survival, that we enjoyed our time here."



Monet Masters (left) and Tavia Forbes (right)



↑ "This wasn't on my bucket list, but, as a type A person, I most certainly added it afterward in order to cross it off."