

Here are a few things that inspire her:

THE JAR WALL ▾

Traveling to Maine once, she stumbled upon a hardware store that displayed nuts and bolts in glass jars. Magsamen thought it was beautiful. She has about 400 jars filled with everything from glitter to rhinestones to ribbons that she's picked up at garage sales and junk shops. "It's so pretty. I love the diversity of it," she says. When she is designing and creating something new, she'll pull things out of the jars to experiment.



◀ "LIKE A TREEHOUSE"

Magsamen enjoys taking a break in her husband, Mark's, art studio, which is just above hers. They'll sit in the tethered rocking chairs, sip coffee and look out the windows. "It's like a treehouse. We look and see what's going on. There are tons of deer in the woods," she says. After being married for 25 years, Mark knows her needs, she says. "He keeps me absolutely grounded. He makes sure there is fun in our lives. I definitely have the propensity to constantly be at it."



◀ THE INSPIRATION WALL

The simple wires and clothespins of Magsamen's "inspiration wall" are topped with sparkly gold letters that spell out "DREAM." Here she clips on layers upon layers of letters and images that inspire her. Among the items: self-portraits done by first-graders, a silver heart made with ribbon, and a picture of her playing the ukulele to her 99-year-old grandmother, who is covering her ears (although she is deaf) — it makes her laugh whenever she sees it.

RED MEMORY BOX ▶

On a table in her living room is a red leather box given to her by a company she worked with that named her "Artist of the Year." She cried when she opened it and realized it was filled with 100 notes from every person in the company thanking her for being in their lives. Someone even knitted her a scarf. "They wanted to give me a message from their hearts because it touched their hearts."

