



THESE PAGES, CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Curvaceous body-shaped decanters in the kitchen. Wendy Arnold in her studio. Wendy's favourite room is the kitchen. Tattooed Samurai Two is a rare male figure in this feminine lair; "I love having red around me," she says.

Everything in Wendy Arnold's house seems to have taken on a womanly curve. Armchairs are lush red and wide hipped, table legs curve like well-rounded thighs and kitchen condiments rest in voluptuous sculpted glass dispensers. Almost all of the pieces scattered around the home of this Sydney-based New Zealander seem to be reclining. Even Scooter, Wendy's pet chow-chow, spends most of his time horizontal, as if waiting for a peeled grape.

Since leaving Masterton for Perth with her family at the age of fifteen, Wendy has dedicated most of her life to adventure and art, developing an international following for her Japanese-inspired tattooed nudes.

"I like to have curves around me," she says from her heritage weatherboard home in the inner western Sydney suburb of Balmain. "I guess I'm a romantic person. It's not that I'm not realistic but the ability to see the romance in everything is really important. All my objects have a story; found objects and memories become pieces of art."

Walking from room to room, nothing could be more apparent. From the paintings of life-sized nudes in every room and the well-worn cowboy boots that hang on the bedroom wall, decorated with fire engine red Chinese tassels, to the 1950s coral-coloured swimming caps, antique gilded mirrors and black cast-iron bath-tub, it's clear that Wendy usually chooses the sensual over the sensible. ▶