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Selma Csic, shopkeeper and collector of beautiful things.



right here,
right now

EXPLORE ADESSO, A COLLECTOR'S SHOP IN OLD TOWN PASADENA.



DETAILS Adesso Eclectic Imports is located at 38 East Holly Street in Pasadena's Old Town (take 210 Freeway to Fair Oaks exit south and continue to Holly Street). Call 626/683-3511 or visit adessoimports.com.

While living in seven countries over the years with her husband and two sons, architect Selma Csic developed a passion for rare 18th- and 19th-century furnishings, amassing a collection of antiques and modern classics for her home in Buenos Aires. But when the family moved to Pasadena, California, some of those prized possessions were shipped to a sunlit warehouse-cum-storefront in the heart of Old Town. "We didn't have room for everything, so we decided to open a shop right away," says Selma. Adesso ("right now" in Italian), an import shop humming with fresh shipments arriving every few months, was born.

Spontaneity continues to inform Selma's choices at Adesso. Next to a Miro-esque squiggle she hand-painted on the wall opening night, a 30-foot-long 1920s kayak hangs beside a gleaming Murano chandelier. A pair of 18th-century, hand-carved colonial mirrors from Peru are displayed above a Chesterfield sofa. "The pieces have to speak to me and have some form of beauty that stands out," Selma says.

What also stands out are the fetching prices of an inventory that's snatched up by well-known decorators and collectors alike—causing Selma to plan yet another buying trip, right now. —Darra Baker