

courage to let it happen. For a party last December 30, we ended up with newborns, grandparents, and an ultraconservative ex-mayor. By the end, everyone was in the pool. It's a big mistake to think your social life has to be homogenous.

**What's a foolproof cocktail?**

Lambrusco, a sparkling Italian red wine, poured over sliced oranges; it's a real no-brainer. Like sangria, but drier and more refined.

**What single thing can you not party without?**

I always have the person closest to me come early to help run interference as guests arrive. I find that people like to be deputized. That way they get to share the spotlight.

**How do you give gatherings personality?**

I've collected lots of random, one-off glasses from every period of the twentieth century. It's easier than finding a complete set. Plus, if all the glasses are different, everyone can keep track of their own drink.



Martine Goron teapot, \$368, Anthropologie, 800-309-2500, www.anthropologie.com

Exotic Truffles, \$37, Vosges Chocolat, 888-301-9866, www.vosgeschocolate.com



Reinvented vintage sofa, \$10,290, Lolli by Reincarnation, 646-207-2941



Indonesian candleholder, \$65, ABC Carpet & Home, 212-473-3000, www.abchome.com

**Collector's Items**



Paisley Starck flatware, \$235, Etro, 212-317-9096, www.etro.it

**Arty Accoutrements**



Riló Kley's *The Execution of All Things* (Saddle Creek), \$11, www.saddlecreek.com



Forsterkase, \$32 per pound, Artisanal Premium Cheese, 877-797-1200, www.artisanalcheese.com



Nine Iron Studios Gold Leaf goblet, \$325, 610-869-5926, www.nineironstudios.com



Clos du Mesnil '95 champagne, \$490, Champagne Krug, www.krug.com

**REBECCA CHAMBERLAIN**

When she's not creating meticulous, moody ballpoint-ink drawings, acting in her husband, Guy Richards Smit's, controversial art films, or performing as her alter ego, Giselle Thurst, in "art band" Maxi Geil! & PlayColt, Rebecca Chamberlain turns her energy to a totally different enterprise: throwing the perfect dinner party.

**Why do you love to entertain?**

Unlike making art, which takes so long, cooking a meal is a chance to create something from start to finish.

**What's on the menu?**

Guy and I cook lots of Indonesian food. The meals are ritualistic, spicy, colorful, and—luckily—hard for most people to judge.

**Sounds gorgeous. How do you serve it?**

We both have a lot of ornate silver serving dishes and things from our grandparents, which we use all the time. It's not the latest, hippest look, but it's very personal.

**So you're into traditional items?**

I love pieces that riff on tradition. My friend and fellow Renaissance woman Heather Dunbar makes these beautiful pillows that are covered in a needlepoint graffiti pattern.

**How do you like your flowers?**

I adore white Madonna lilies. My paintings are all about American modernist architecture, and those flowers are mentioned in a lot of '30s interior design copy.

**What's on the sound system?**

Sarah Vaughan, Chet Baker, and Juliette Gréco set the mood for conversation; the Rolling Stones for after-dinner drinks.

**What is the ideal hostess outfit?**

I'm all about tunics by Bless and Vivienne Westwood, which can be worn as a dress or over pants. They're versatile enough for a girl who loves fashion but is on a budget and buys only a few nonvintage items a year. >