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Kaori Maki



Kaori Maki was photographed exclusively for *Christie's International Real Estate* magazine at the Wyvern Bindery in Clerkenwell, in the heart of London's traditional bookbinding and printing district.

BESPOKE LIVING

PAGE TURNER

In 2001, **Kaori Maki** took time out for a vacation and flew from her home in Tokyo to London, where, by chance, she met bookbinder Midori Kunikata-Cockram and enrolled on a course with her. She was hooked. A second course with Mark Winstanley was life-changing. “Midori introduced me to traditional English designer bookbinding. I loved it, but I thought it would have to be just a hobby,” says Maki. “Then Mark taught me about trade bookbinding: a world where I can earn a living.”

Maki stayed in the British capital and, with a means to fund her passion in the trade world, began indulging her love of designer bookbinding, winning several awards along the way. In 2008 she was elected a Licentiate of the Designer Bookbinders society.

Maki is renowned for her intricate leather onlay work and hand-printed end papers. The “tactile element,” she says, is one of the most appealing aspects of her craft.

Commissions can take from three months to a year and start at around £1,400 (\$2,100). Whenever possible, Maki visits the library or home where the book will live so she can invest something of the owner's personality into the finished work. www.kaorimaki.info



WORDS: STEPHANIE JONES. PORTRAIT: JULIAN ANDERSON