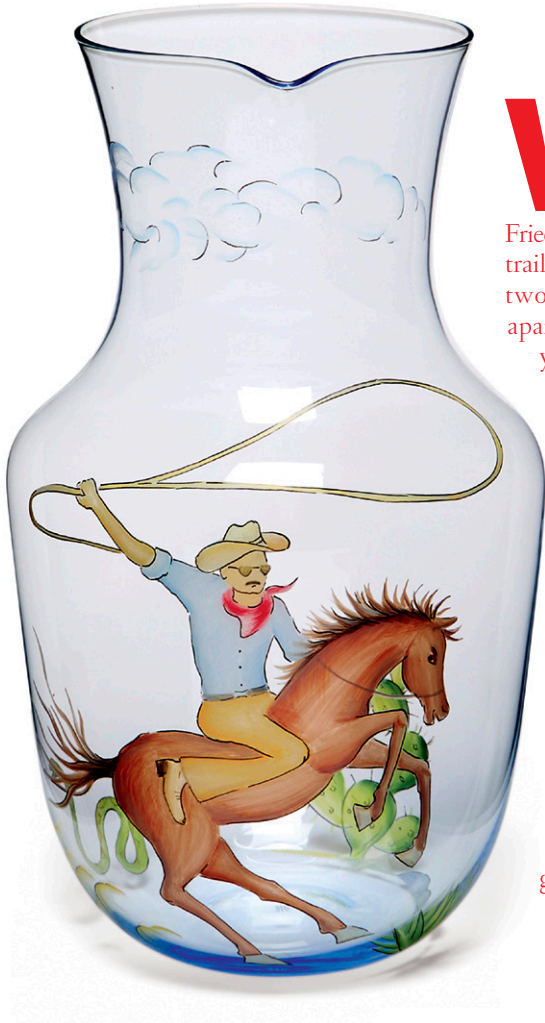


PHOTOGRAPHER DOUGLAS FRIEDMAN BRINGS A TOUCH OF HIS TEXAS HOMETOWN TO HIS **GLASSWARE COLLECTION FOR LOBMEYR.**

TEXT: VAISHNAVI NAYEL TALAWADEKAR
PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ABASK



HIGH DESERT HAND-PAINTED CRYSTAL PITCHER AND TUMBLERS AT ABASK.

What do iconic inventor Thomas Edison and photographer and tastemaker Douglas Friedman have in common? Besides being trailblazers in their respective fields, the two Americans, born over a century apart, both collaborated with the 200-year-old Austrian glassware company Lobmeyr to create unique objects.

In Edison's case, it was the world's first electric chandelier; in Friedman's, a collection of exquisite hand-painted glasses inspired by the spectacular views behind his home in Marfa, Texas.

Friedman's collection, available exclusively via London-based platform Abask, wasn't always on his bingo card. "I'd been working with Abask on curating the 'smalls' for my home-restoration project in Long Island and some of the very first objects I chose for the wet bar were Lobmeyr's sensational Series B glasses. During a design meeting, the

Abask team suggested that we reach out to Leonid and Louise Rath [the owner of Lobmeyr and his artist sister, both part of the sixth Lobmeyr generation] and propose a collaboration that celebrated my other home in Texas, a place where I find constant creative inspiration," says Friedman. As it happened, the Raths were equally inspired.

Each glass in the collection is a hand-painted work of art created by the glass company's master artisans in its Viennese workshop. Each piece expresses a unique facet of Marfa's Western spirit: One glass features a cowboy mid-rodeo, another depicts a band of cacti, while a third is emblazoned with the area's mesmerizing cloud formations. "Marfa is such a fascinating landscape, and for me and the artisans at Lobmeyr, it is an interesting and fun challenge to draw inspiration from things that aren't outside our own front door. We are excited to share our craftspeople's work with new audiences through this collaboration with Douglas," Leonid says. ▲

