

Want to see me cry? Just take away my *decorative painter.*

Sure, designers rely on artisans from all corners of the trade, but many admit a particular devotion to those who deftly wield a paintbrush, particularly muralists. “It wasn’t until we found the right resources that we started to become open to doing such things like murals,” says Timothy Corrigan, “which look horrible if not done by true artists.” Mary McDonald agrees. “Murals can be so, so cheesy, like a *Jungle Book* Disney ride. Good ones are complicated and nuanced, so if you don’t have confidence in this area or the right artist, I recommend staying away from it. Order hand-painted papers so you know what you will get in advance.”

Adds Jamie Drake: “In less skilled hands, a beautiful concept can turn into a sloppy mess. The greatest decorative painters apply the finish with finesse, where the hand of the artisan is apparent, but with subtlety.”

Here, five painters our designers can’t live without: 1. Atelier de Ricou, Paris;