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BAKER UNVEILS NEW COLLECTION BY BARBARA BARRY AT HIGH POINT MARKET

HICKORY, N.C. (April 22, 2017) – Baker, a leading manufacturer of fine home furnishings today unveils a new collection by world-renowned designer, Barbara Barry. This collaboration began 20 years ago as part of Baker’s acclaimed Guest Designer Series where Baker has brought to market Barry’s top-selling iconic designs for years. This new 70-piece collection includes case goods, upholstery and lighting and represents a departure from Barry’s past collections with a more relaxed “warm modern” stance that continues to contribute to a sensibility that is uniquely Baker.

Based in Southern California, Barry is recognized for her singular point of view, her adherence to exquisite fabrics and textures, and her consistently elegant forms. Her vision reflects a mood of “casual elegance” where formality is removed and easy living is key, capturing the spirit of how we live today.

“We are especially excited to again partner with such a highly talented designer who has been a part of Baker’s history and helped shape our identity for over twenty years,” says Russell Towner, president of Baker. “Barbara has taken a decidedly modern approach, with her furniture collection this market while maintaining the relaxed sophistication that is her signature. The range is a curated mix of open-grained wood finishes, touches of bronze, textural fabrics and polished lighting which we at Baker feel taps into a global movement where relaxed and formal, couture and street fashion are mixed.”

Barry’s impressive body of work is based on her commissions for her private clients as well as her global travel. Her current projects include an ocean front villa in Kona, Hawaii, a home designed by her office from the ground up on a spectacular ocean lot in Corona Del Mar, California, as well as an urban townhouse in San Francisco. For each of these projects the location is expressed gracefully.

The new pieces with more relaxed wood finishes are neither precious nor formal, reflecting the influences of her own life as well as her clients. There is an emphasis on utility, modern upholstery and easy-to-live with textural fabrics.

The genesis of the collection began with the designer’s explorations of form and color putting pencil and brush to paper to bring her ideas alive. From a process of layering soft washes of color, sketching silhouettes, and meticulously building the palette there emerged a mood that expresses the magic of the Southern California light, that is distinct and constant, illuminating the subtlest differences in textures and tones. Always with her curved silhouettes the new Baker collection achieves the balance and scale that makes it complement contemporary, vintage or antique furnishings.

Baker's unparalleled craftsmanship is expressed in the finishes that play a key role in the collection. Barry uses a visual vocabulary of pared down simple forms, crafted from honest materials of oak, walnut, and mahogany finished in five new tones.

Barry's refined sensibility is apparent throughout the upholstery covered in chenille, boucle, velvet and crisp linen, which is tonal and textural and soft to the touch. The color palette is soft and easy with colors inspired by nature: Cinder, Pink Salt, Bleached Sand and Awash reflecting her watercolor washes intended to serve as a quiet backdrop for living.

Amid the textural serenity Barry introduces glimmers of luminous handmade Murano glass lighting in pale jewel-tones that is made by a small family-run artisanal shop using centuries-old techniques.

"What I love most about the collection is that it is not fashion but a wardrobe of quiet pieces that can be paired with more overtly modern pieces, or more traditional ones because of each piece's simplicity"

Utility and luxury go hand-in-hand in the collection. The drawers of the pieces are lined thoughtfully with leather pads and brass detailing, elevating every piece of the collection. The assortment overall offers a casual counterpoint to some of Barry's more classic pieces, such as the Oval X-Back Dining Chair. The collection will increase the breadth and depth of her collection, extending Barbara's legacy for years to come.

About Barbara Barry:

Award-winning designer Barbara Barry is internationally known for her streamlined interiors and elegant home furnishings. Her look speaks to quiet luxury, comfort and ease – supporting her design philosophy that living simply, and with quality, is the highest form of luxury.

At her Los Angeles-based studio her talented staff help bring her vision of gracious living to life centering on bespoke interiors both residential and commercial. Barry's celebrated vision of home products finds expression through partnerships with internationally renowned companies such as Baker Furniture, Kallista Bath, Kravet Fabrics, Tufenkian Carpets and Visual Comfort Lighting. Her collections are sold in fine stores and design centers throughout the world.

Barry's first book, *Around Beauty* (Rizzoli New York), was published October 2012.

About Baker:

Since its founding in 1890, Baker has been the hallmark of design excellence and uncompromising quality. It is distributed worldwide through a network of interior design trade showrooms and luxury home furnishings retailers. The company is a division of Baker Interiors Group, a wholly owned subsidiary of Samson Investment Holding Co. Baker Interiors Group is comprised of Baker, Milling Road and McGuire Furniture Company.

For further information, please visit www.bakerfurniture.com

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