# The Hovse 2015: Christmas Calling, and better than ever

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, everywhere you go! The wind in the air and the need for big coats further emphasize the fact that the holidays are indeed upon us. This means that the days are being counted down to vacations or trips to various destinations with our families.



Last year I discovered <u>The Hovse</u>, the pop-up Christmas market from Better Pop-Ups located in a vacant mansion mere minutes from my apartment in Chamberí.

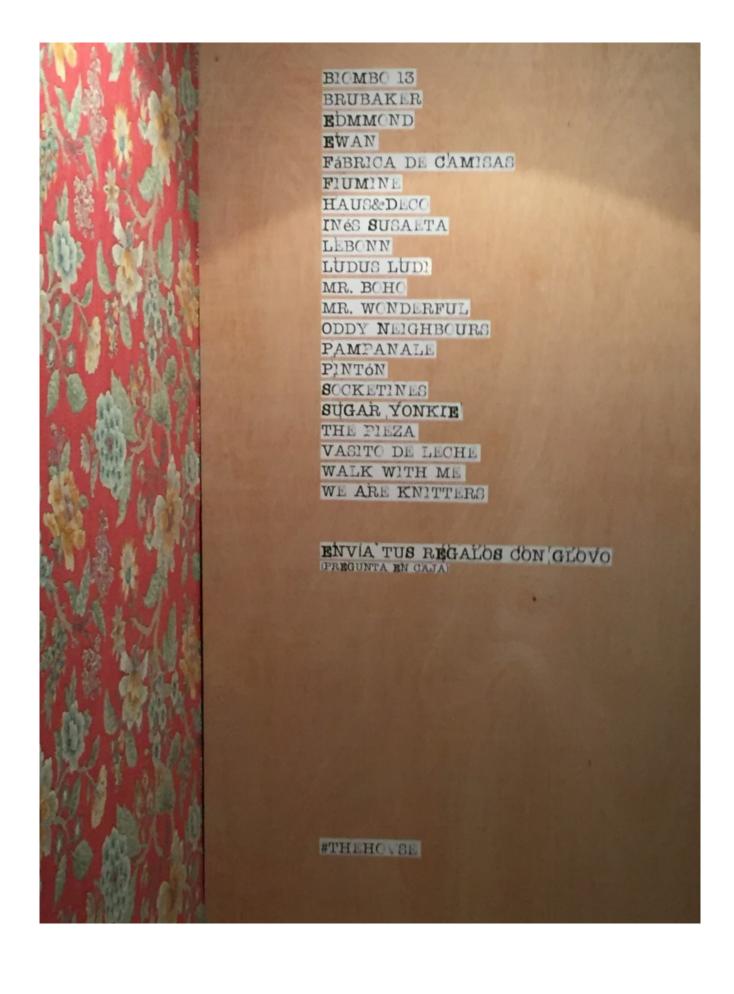


After making weekly pilgrimages to the house throughout most of the holiday season, I managed to touch down in New York with amazing original Chrismukkah presents for the family, my ride-or-dies, and for myself as well (spread out for Hanukkah, Christmas, and one to open for Reyes just so I don't feel left out while jet-lagged on January 6th). I went on my first scouting mission of many to <a href="The Hovse">The Hovse</a> of the year, and here's my report back:



In what looks just like any typical Chamberí mansion, you walk into this three-story house and are transported into a spacious holiday area with lots of different vendors, greeted by holiday lights and papers reminiscent of snow. Many of last year's vendors are back for another round (including <a href="Helena Rohner">Helena Rohner</a>, <a href="Ouibyou">Ouibyou</a>, <a href="Mr. Boho">Mr. Boho</a>, and our beloved <a href="Mr. Wonderful">Mr. Wonderful</a>), but there are lots of newbies as well.

Here are the lists of the first-floor and second-floor vendors:



A CASA BIANCA ARCHANGELA BELEN DOMECQ BOBO CHOSES BOHEMIKANS BRUMALIS CALMA CHECHU CUCUDUCHO COCKPLAY CCRTANA EL MERCADO DE LA VIDA FA CRITO STUDIO FIT FOOD HELENA ROHNER IALA DIEZ JIMMY LION JOSEFINA KATLE LEAMON KRECL DESIGN LAS GENIAS LA CASITA DE MARGAUX LAMANTIKA LORD WILMORE MARENGO GREY OUIBYCU PENA JEWELS 8CFTHLADS VAJILLAS DE ULTRAMAR

GCURMET
BARBA RCJA
CAN BENCH
FRINSA
HERCINA VIRGEN EXTRA
MYKES GCURMET
SANTA GADEA
8'A ALLET

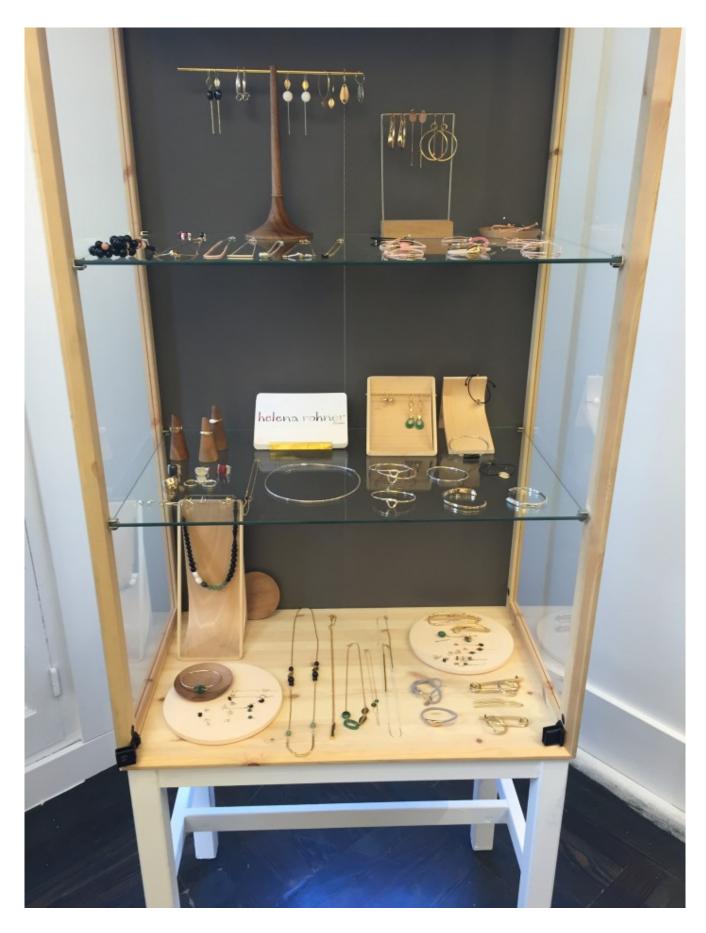
OLIVIA TE CUIDA

(GRACIAS)
GUELL-LAMADRID
JESSICA BATAILLE
SIETE FORMAS
PA.IMENTOS DECOART
FUNDACIÓN CARMEN PARDO

#THEHOUSE

#### But there's more...

You'll also find <u>Mercado de Motores</u>' mainstays La Mantika in case you need to get a blanket for your apartment to deal with the cold, <u>Katie Leamon</u> stationery, and lots of leather goods in case you want a perfect <u>Made in Spain leather bag</u>, <u>pouch</u>, <u>or wallet</u>. And below is a photo of handmade jewellery by <u>Helena Rohner</u>, a Madrid-based jeweller whose store in La Latina I wrote about in a <u>previous post</u>.



There are even some really cool aprons (I think I may have just given a spoiler alert about somebody's present, but sorry not sorry)



## This year, the biggest innovations come in two forms:

#### Innovation #1: The Food

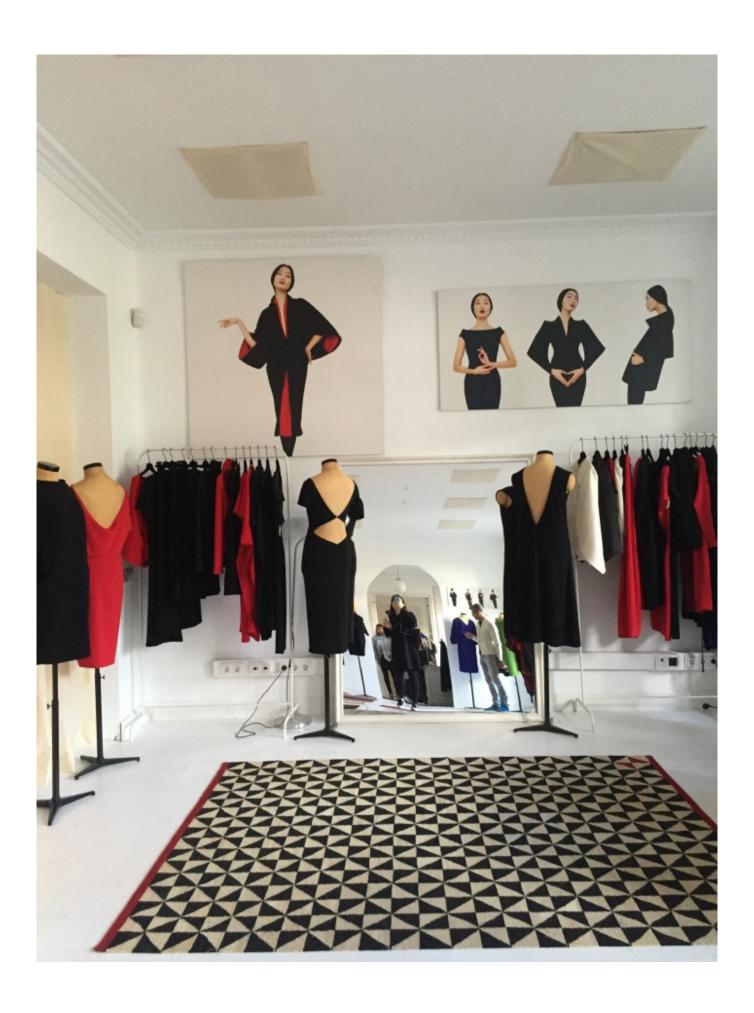
As always, **The Hovse** has dining spaces where hip eateries set up shop and you get the benefit of trying eats from these places without having to fight with all of Madrid to grab a table. Two of this year's players are in **Salesas**, aka the area behind Calle de Génova and the Plaza de Santa Bárbara in between Alonso Martínez and Chueca that's becoming Madrid's Soho: Olivia Te Cuida, known for it's healthy offerings (as the restaurant's name implies), and MEAT, acclaimed and written about all over town for its burgers (MEAT's space is up on the terrace).



If juicing or health food is more your style, you'll also find a temporary outpost of <a href="Fit Food">Fit Food</a> — where you can try a big selection of the juices on offer (and perhaps tempt you to try a Detox treatment in January so you can fit into clothes you

#### Innovation #2: Sybilla Atelier

This year's *Premio Nacional de Moda* winner, **Sybilla**, has taken over the entire top floor of The Hovse with a temporary atelier. You're transported deep inside her world, with samples of all of her different cuts with colors. The clothes look absolutely dreamy, as well as the collaboration with a French accessories label.



#### And the best part?

The team at the Atelier will take your measurements and you can get something custom-made. Talk about something TRULY made just for you!

So run over to <u>The Hovse</u> and get the coolest <u>Madrid holiday</u> <u>gifts</u> for everyone on your list —from family, friends, ride-or-dies, and anyone else who you may find special.

#### Info

• Web: The Hovse by Better

- Address: Calle General Arrando 40

• Metro: Alonso Martínez, Rubén Darío, Iglesia

• **Hours**: open every day from 11 AM to 9 PM until December 24th (Christmas Eve)

### For more on holiday shopping in Madrid, check out:

- Best Gifts from Madrid
- Casa Mira, Best Turrón in Madrid
- El Riojano, Madrid's best pastry shop