

STORY **MERRILYN PATTERSON** | PHOTOGRAPHY **NESO BASARA**

# BOHEMIAN *Rhapsody*



Renate Karger

**THE PLACE:** Step through the doors of this beautifully renovated building in Elora and experience the **Karger Gallery** lifestyle – a curated selection of fine furniture and one-of-a-kind items for your home. “It’s all from within,” says Renate Karger, the visionary and owner. “We feel good when the history behind the making of something is good. You can feel the hygge in a home set up this way – a warm and cosy space. An oasis to call your own.” The store is filled with worldly originals, mid-century

modern furniture and metal sculptures reminiscent of the 70s. There’s a definite “Scandi-boho” vibe, reflecting Renate’s Bohemian roots and global influences.

**HOW IT STARTED:** In 1993, Karger Gallery began as an art studio for Renate. She rented wall space to other local artists to help pay the rent. “Elora was my soul place and I wanted to be there every day,” Renate recounts. With a strong business

background and passion for art, Renate’s business flourished. Canadian artists were shown in various mediums, merging well with the African and fairly traded global designs.

**PRODUCTS:** All hand-selected by Renate, you’ll find a vast array of natural and harmonious accents for your home, including teak-root coffee tables, tall mangrove spirals, modern Moroccan lights, luxurious bedding made of natural fibers, soft mohair throws and colourful cushions. Artful giftware and fabulous clothing and jewelry made by Canadian artists, and oversize, fairly traded African baskets and other unique treasures await.



**GET THERE:**

14 East Mill St., Elora  
10 Carden St., Guelph  
519.846.2921  
kargergallery.com



**WHAT’S NEW:** “I am loving oval shapes right now,” Renate exclaims. “It is space-savvy with no sharp corners. Perfect for a modern home.” Karger has introduced an oval walnut dining table with various sculptural steel bases. There’s Karger Gallery private label products. Renate has been working with small family businesses in India to create “Moroccan Mod” lighting as well as luxurious velvet bedding – all made by hand in support of small-batch manufacturing. Karger recently opened a two-storey location on Carden Street in Guelph. **OH**