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CHALLENGING ART - THE APPEAL OF THE ANTI-AESTHETIC

THE GREAT AI INTERIOR DESIGN SHAKE-UP REPORT

CURATING SPACES TO STIR AN EMOTIONAL RESPONSE

DOs AND DON'Ts - THE ETIQUETTE OF THE ARTIST STUDIO VISIT



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## EVOKING FEELING

By incorporating pieces that specifically stir an emotional response in their clients, these interior design professionals achieved strong and cohesive interior aesthetics that will resonate with their owners perhaps for years to come...or until they no longer do. **Rebecca Gross** writes

Sydney-based interior designers **Katrina Mackintosh** and **Justine Hugh-Jones** worked with clients on the decoration of a San Francisco home, helping the owners enhance the atmosphere of each room by pulling together artworks which spoke specifically to their youthful, curious personalities.

The clients wanted to create a relaxed feeling in the living room and were drawn to pieces that Mackintosh describes as an "eclectic mix of classic with a whimsical twist." Sculptor **Bradley Sabin's** sweeping floral installation above the fireplace was the starting point for the art curation, followed by **Andres Torres Balaguer's** *Allure*, **Deborah Oropallo's** *Fire Chief* (above **Chris Wolston's** playfully animated Nalgona Chair) and **Kyungmi Shin's** *Le Déjeuner*, 2022. The clients were so moved by seeing Shin's artwork in a gallery in Paris that they sent Mackintosh a late-night text to confirm its dimensions for the living room.







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Interior designer **Brett Mickan** and his husband, **Nick English**, have an extensive and varied art collection, but every piece has a story about how it was acquired, with that memory adding more sentiment to each artwork. "Every piece has a story, whether it's discovering it in a vintage store, gifted from a friend or meeting the artist and hearing their inspiration and intent. It adds a whole layer of feeling to the piece and its story within your home," says Mickan. "A room with one small original artwork that has meaning offers far more impact than a room full of mass-produced, store-bought works."

Add these layers together, and the artworks are not

only an expression of the artists, but the collection and curation are an expression of its owners. This is showcased on Mickan and English's living room wall where a large gold-framed landscape painting by **W. H. Lennon**, gifted to Mickan's grandparents, takes centre stage in a display that feels "accidentally fabulous," the designer describes. The oil painting anchors the other artworks around it, which include landscapes by **Joan Ross**, **Joanna Cole** and **Lyndon Keene**, with Cole and Keene's acquired at Sydney's The Other Art Fair. "I do have a penchant for colour and love landscapes, as they offer a window into the artist's vision," Mickan says.

Many clients of London-based architecture studio

B-VDS have a deep interest in art, collecting pieces they feel a special connection with. "These collections provide unique insight into our clients' personalities and tastes and are an avenue for us to explore a design that is as personal to them as their collection," says **George Bradley**, director and architect at B-VDS.

Their clients **Gautham** and **Sreeja** have a vibrant collection of artworks, acquired over two decades, that reflect their time in Bombay and travels to Southern India, Seychelles and Brazil. Many pieces have vivid and uplifting colours that remind them of places and festivals they've visited, such as the two portraits by **Vasantha Yoganathan** in the living room. "They



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transport us to a particular festival in Bombay. That's what a lot of our art does; it transports us to other places," says Sreeja.

The couple wanted their London home to do the same, evoking the warm climate and rich culture of India. B-VDS brought the evocativeness of the artworks into the architecture, using blues, greens, reds and earthy tones drawn from paintings by **Michael Adams**, **Murali Nagapuzha** and **Thota Vaikuntam**. With the strong colour carried into the interiors, Gautham and Sreeja have a variety of options for where they hang each piece of their collection, and they regularly move their art around, changing and personalising their home even more.



**1 /** Above the fireplace in this Hugh-Jones Mackintosh San Francisco home project hangs a Lino Lago artwork and at the window is Brendan Murphy's spaceman sculpture.

PHOTO: PRUE RUSCOE.  
COURTESY: HUGH-JONES MACKINTOSH

**2 /** Above the console hangs Kyungmi Shin's *Le Déjeuner*, while above Chris Wolston's chair hangs Deborah Oropallo's *Fire Chief* in the Hugh-Jones Mackintosh San Francisco home project. On the opposite side of the wall is an Andres Torres Balaguer artwork and above the fireplace a Bradley Sabin commissioned piece.

PHOTO: PRUE RUSCOE.  
COURTESY: HUGH-JONES MACKINTOSH

**3 /** Left to right in Brett Mickan Interior Design's project: *Clown's Face* by Franco, *A Vision Splendid* by Joanna Cole, White ceramic sculpture by Milly Dent, *Pichi Richi Pass* by W. H. Lennon, a 1963 *City Scape* by an unknown artist, *Summer 2* by Lyndon Keene, *BBQ This Sunday (Brave New World)* by Joan Ross.

PHOTO: PABLO VEIGO.  
COURTESY: BRETT MICKAN INTERIOR DESIGN

**4 /** Two artworks by Thota Vaikuntam hang above the cabinet in this B-VDS project

PHOTO: JIM STEPHENSON.  
COURTESY: B-VDS

**5 /** A pair of portraits by Vasantha Yoganathan in another interior space in the B-VDS project.

PHOTO: JIM STEPHENSON.  
COURTESY: B-VDS