

YOUR GUIDE TO HOME AND LIFE IMPROVEMENT

HOME *digest*

A person's hands, with gold glitter nail polish, are holding a large bouquet of yellow tulips and daffodils. The background is a solid, bright yellow. The person is wearing a yellow long-sleeved shirt. The bouquet is the central focus, with green stems and leaves visible. The overall mood is bright and cheerful, representing spring.

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PEN POINT
DETERMINATION
& ENDURANCE
ARE KEYS TO
SUCCESS

RECIPE
GET UP & GO
SMOOTHIE

decor
USE COLOR
FOR GREAT
VISUAL
APPEAL

AN EYE FOR ART



Have you ever looked at a painting and been mesmerized, without really knowing why? Artwork is highly subjective. What one person loves, another loathes. This can become an issue when choosing art for shared living spaces, such as a living room, dining room or a kitchen.

The problem of personal preferences is not unique, nor is it difficult to overcome. As an interior stylist, I have some tried

and true methods that will satisfy a range of different tastes, all under the same roof.

First and foremost, size up your space. Stand back and gauge your surroundings. Oversized art will overwhelm, while undersized works will look strangely disproportionate and insignificant.

In you're working in a large space with high ceilings, you have two options – choose one huge painting or photo, or create a collection of smaller works. If creating a gallery wall, ensure that all



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your pieces have something in common, such as a theme, matching frames, or the repetition of an accent colour.

TIP: Symmetrical gallery walls bring balanced and greater visual appeal than asymmetrical groupings.

Beyond the scale of the wall and art itself, think about what will share the space. When mounting a canvas over the fireplace, choose one that matches the size of the firebox. If the art will hang over a piece of furniture, such as a sofa or console table, your canvas should be about 75 per cent of the width of the furniture. This ensures the furniture and art relate to each other in their scale, bringing balance to the overall look.

Once you've settled on size of either a single piece or a collection, consider your subject matter. Here's a word to the wise: keep your art neutral. This is particularly important if you share a home with diverging tastes, or if you're styling your home for sale. What do I mean? No nudes. No religious or politically themed pieces. No family photos.

As a designer I believe colour is one of the best ways to make a impact and grand statement in your home. Colour repetition is a powerful way to create cohesion with the rest of your space. Choose a piece that you love, and let its colours inspire your paint, upholstery, pillows, rugs, and other decor elements. You're not looking for an exact match, but choose something that is in the same family and temperature (i.e. warm versus cool colours). This will send the message that the artwork belongs to the room.

Whether you're letting your art inspire your space or vice versa, ensure your selections complement the overall aesthetic. A home that is full of antiques, for example, would look great with antique-style frames – even if the paintings themselves are more modern.

Last but not least, practice restraint. Don't fill every wall. Negative space gives the eye a place to rest, calms the eye and makes the art more impactful.

Art has a way of increasing anticipation, inspiring interest, and bringing you back for more. Choose carefully and follow these tips, and you can't go wrong. 🌿