

HOW TO HANG ART THE BEST WAY AND MAKE YOUR HOME SING!

8 INSIDER TIPS FROM ARTIST AND STYLIST THIERRY B.

You'd like new art, but you don't know where to start. How to choose it? How to hang it? Or how to arrange your space?

My first piece of advice is to relax. Choosing art should be a pleasure not a stress. All too often, people tell me they have blank walls because they find the process of choosing and hanging art daunting. It doesn't have to be that way.

The art you choose is a powerful expression of your identity and can make a profound impact on how your home looks and feels. A wall without art is a dead end. But a wall dressed in art is like an orchestra playing in tune.

Follow these steps to transform your home into a welcoming and uplifting place to be.



1.

Celebrate your own 'artitude'

Your home is your castle. It's your space to experiment and have fun. Give your place character by selecting works you love and that inspire you. There's nothing more exciting than finding the right pieces to bring personality to your surroundings! Don't be intimidated by stuffy gallery owners or anyone who tries to dictate the rules. Follow your heart.

2. Let the art be the spark

When you're planning a space, start with the art. It might sound arrogant, but it's true. The art you choose should set the tone and the colour scheme for your room.

Cushions and other accessories often cost less than art, so it's more affordable to choose them after you decide on your artwork.

Another reason to start with the art is that it can completely change your mind about how you want the space to look and feel.



3. Consider the space

Think about how your artwork will fit in to the area you're planning to fill. Ask yourself whether a landscape or a portrait image is likely to work better?

Don't be discouraged if your home is small or you have other limitations to work with. Most homes are far from perfect. But, with the right artwork, you can turn an average home into a standout stunner.

A gorgeously framed print can draw the eye away from an ugly heater or air conditioning unit. A group of small prints can turn an awkward space into a glorious ensemble.





4. Create a symphony

When there's a whole wall to fill, consider clustering art together in what I call a salon wall. The first step is to select the largest image and then decide what will work in harmony with it. Arrange the artworks on the floor to get a sense of the composition that will work best.

A bare hallway can be converted into a gallery wall. Create a unified sense of space by using consistent picture frames. You should be able to stand far enough back to take in the whole image. If the hallway is narrow, choose smaller works.



5. Hang art at eye level

Art is best viewed at eye level. If you have paintings around a room, don't line them up by the top or bottom of the paintings, but rather by the eye line. The average rule for eye lines is 145cm (57 inches) and your eye line should line up with the middle or focal point of the artwork.

When you're hanging art above a sofa or side table, a rough rule is to leave one hand's width above the sofa. For groups of paintings, position the largest piece first, then the others around it.



7. Hang your works like a maestro

If you want your walls to look superb, engage a professional to hang your art. Professional hanging techniques use two small hooks at either end of a frame, not the hook and wire that's used in the average home. This makes all the difference! A picture that's hung well will hold firm, unlike a string that will need to be straightened up every time someone brushes past it.

6. A frame sets the tone

When you buy original art or a limited edition print, it's worth investing in professional framing to show it off. A simple print can look sensational with the right picture frame and mount. The style of frame, traditional or modern, should be guided by your home and personal style.

8. Don't wait!

Without beauty, a space will decay. When your home is delightfully decorated, cherish and protect it. Don't waste time waiting until you live somewhere bigger, or the kids are older. Start now! It's your home, my darling, make it sing!



ABOUT THIERRY B

Specialising in large contemporary abstract painting, Thierry B. understands how to create spaces which invite, engage and wow. His paintings are also available as limited-edition prints. Thierry B. Fine Art is based in boutique South Yarra in Melbourne, Australia.

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