

FIRST LOOK: THE 2006 JUNIOR SYMPHONY GUILD DESIGNER SHOWHOUSE

# COLORADO HOMES & LIFESTYLES™

## 100 Hot Decorating Ideas

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- How to buy, display & more
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# art smart

LOCAL EXPERTS SHARE TIPS AND RESOURCES TO HELP YOU COLLECT, DISPLAY AND CARE FOR ARTWORK

Story by Tara N. Wilfong ■ Photography by Jason Jung ■ Curated by Walker Fine Art

**Collecting art** is a fascinating journey that brings gratification to both the novice and seasoned collector alike. However, there are many facets to owning works of art, from choosing a piece that engages you to keeping that work pristine for generations to enjoy. To help guide you through this investment process we spoke with several top experts who shared their knowledge of the subjects they hold most dear.

Bobbi Walker, owner of Walker Fine Art, recently curated a fine-art collection for a loft-style condominium at the Brownstones at Riverfront Park. The collection, which mixes glass, marble, bronze, oil paintings, metal reliefs, wax pieces and wooden sculpture, serves as the texture, as well as the jolts of color throughout the space.

Using specific tenets of art and design, Walker brought vibrancy to the space. To add sophistication to a series of drawings, she

allowed the pieces to float in simple black frames. In empty spaces Walker used sculpture in a unique manner, "If you have the proper lighting, sculpture can provide an alternative to furniture," she says.

By mixing mediums throughout the space, Walker was able to balance the elements of the room. "If you involve a gallery early in the process, you can design your room around the art, instead of choosing the art to fill the completed space," she explains.

Finally, Walker paid critical attention to color. Using tone-on-tone hues, she created a rich, inviting tapestry. "Today's trends in design are moving towards minimalist, muted shades, but collectors can add color through their art," Walker notes. "Use the works to make a statement in the room and create a point of interest."

(center) "Downhome" bronze sculpture, Jim Martin, \$7,700

(right) "Passage to Center" bronze sculpture, Jim Martin, \$7,700 ▶



# shipping



Museums, galleries and artists rely on shippers to transport their precious cargo safely and efficiently. To ensure your art is transported hassle- and damage-free, discuss the shipment in detail. It is imperative that an accurate value be placed on the item, whether from an independent appraisal or sales receipt. Also, take photos of your piece to document its exact condition. Finally, make sure your art is professionally crated. Most companies can recommend reliable craters. If it isn't properly cared for, it cannot be insured.

The best method of shipping is overnight air cargo, since it has the least amount of stops and is subjected to less potential harm. Measures can also be taken to control humidity and climate if scheduled in advance.

Use a carrier who will match the packaging materials to the item itself. Some wraps produce gases that can damage paintings, some materials don't let the art breathe, while still others can cause abrasions. The objective is to keep the work free of dust and dirt while padding and protecting it.

## Recommended Resources

**Ship/Art**, (303) 994-7899, (303) 291-3906

**Terry Dowd**, (303) 297-8686, [terrydowd.com](http://terrydowd.com)

(center) "Chai" mahogany/willow sculpture, Anne Shutan, \$9,680

# conserving | repairing

Sometimes no matter how careful you are, a piece will get bumped or jostled, causing damage that only a professional can fix. Luckily, it is easy to find a conservator who can repair torn paintings, broken sculpture and frayed textiles. "At the Chicago Conservation Center, our methodology is to use the least invasive measures and implement changes that are reversible," says Heather Becker, CEO. "It is important for a work to retain as much of its original status as possible. If not, it can impact the value of the item."

For damaged works, conservators offer an extensive examination of the piece and determine appropriate treatments. Threads are re-woven, broken shards are collected and reassembled, acid burns are carefully washed away and fissure cracks are cautiously consolidated. Items that have been damaged due to smoke, pollution, mold, water or dirt are also examined and cleaned using techniques that can often restore the piece to its original splendor.

The most important thing to remember about damaged or dirty artwork is that only a professional conservator should be entrusted with its care; never attempt to repair or clean a piece on your own. As soon as damage is discovered, hand-deliver or ship the piece to a conservation center immediately. Often, the earlier response to the damage, the easier it is to reverse.

## Recommended Resources

**Painted surfaces:** Randy Ash, (303) 455-4552

**Objects:** Gina Laurin, (303) 422-5342

(top center) "Ring Confluence, I, II, III, IV" mixed media, Quim Bove, \$1,100 ■ (center table) "Humans" bronze sculpture, Gail Folwell, \$495 each

