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GETTING THE HANG OF ART

So you've taken the plunge and finally bought that Chagall sketch you've had your eye on. Now what do you do with it? Alan Scott, the founder and owner of Fine Art Management, the Art of Art Installation in Rancho Santa Margarita, says that acquiring art should be only half of a collector's task. The other half is deciding where to place the valuable works.

"I make an art piece speak for itself. Like an interior designer for furniture, I do that for art," Scott says. "Art brings the personality to the home."

Whether you're hanging a Picasso or a family portrait, here are some of Scott's tips on making the most of your art.

- Start from scratch. Scott says many people just put up their works as they acquire them, which can lead to a scattered look. Look at the collection as a whole to see what works best.
- Hang pictures in odd numbers—three, five or seven to a wall, for example—for a relaxed style. Hang pieces in even numbers for drama: Two pieces at the end of a hall create a more dramatic presence than three, he says.
- Hang art high so it commands a room. Putting a portrait above a fireplace, for instance, gives the work a larger presence.
- Hang landscape paintings lower. It makes the room look more intimate.
- Make sure you stand back and look at the art from afar, and in perspective to the wall. Take the scale of the room into account. Don't be afraid to "reorganize and re-shift" if needed, Scott says.
- Place a "dedicated light" on a specific artwork you want to focus the most attention on. It allows the piece to stand out and shine. —Mahsa Khalilifar

