

# Chic Decor



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## The Artful Dodger

Selecting the right art for your space can be an intimidating journey for some – what style? What size? Should the pieces match? How many do I get, and where do I put them?

If that sounds like you I have a few tips to consider during the decision process.

### Assess the Room

Evaluate the size of the room and the placement of furniture against the walls. Typically art is placed over sofas, chairs, and mantels to anchor the art above them. However do consider creating a gallery of art pieces on a bare wall with no furniture below. In this case several pieces of art would start high on the wall and end quite low (approximately 2 feet from the floor). You may have 3 (or more) rows of artwork but this application can be quite dramatic and effective. When creating a gallery wall place no more than 1 or 2 other pieces of art on adjacent walls. The effectiveness of the gallery wall will be diminished if there is too much art surrounding it and the overall look will be distracting.

### Scale

When placing art over furniture consider the scale of the art in relation to the furniture underneath. The art piece should be between  $\frac{2}{3}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$ 's of the width of the furniture it will reside over, any larger and the art will appear to dwarf the furniture below. The total area occupied can be comprised of either one large or 2-3 smaller pieces. Also keep in mind the overall height occupied by the art over the furniture, there shouldn't be a disproportionate amount of wall space above the art. If that's the case you may need another row of art above that one or find some taller pieces to place there instead.

### Colour

One of the questions I get asked most about selecting art is whether the colours need to match the interior décor colours in the room. No they do not need to match but they absolutely should coordinate with the colours in the room. You should definitely purchase art that speaks to you and that you are drawn to but you should also consider whether the colours in the art are going to clash with your décor, otherwise something will always seem wrong in the space and the

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problem is that both elements (décor colour and art colour) will be competing and instead of creating a harmonious space you will have created a chaotic one. If in doubt bring the piece home and look at it in the context of the space, if it doesn't feel right it could be that the colours are just not working.

## Style

Here is where you should definitely choose art based on what you are attracted to whether abstract or traditional (but bearing in mind the above points). A traditional room can look quite dynamic with modern art, for instance. But do be careful of mixing too many styles in the same room unless the overall décor is very neutral and serene and the art is to take centre stage. Otherwise sticking to one or 2 styles and selecting subject matter that appeals to you will create the most effective and cohesive look.

## Article by:

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