

CURATING IS QUITE AN ART

I love telling a client's story through their collection



Curating collections for clients is what I particularly enjoy. It allows me, as a designer, to dive deep and explore new areas of art and culture. Being someone who has always loved to travel, collecting became almost second nature. In creating a home for clients there is need for the home to tell a story and have a personality.

Over the years, we have built numerous types of collections for clients, which have been everything from china to art objects. We have a client with an antique exclusive china pattern for Hermes, for example, and have searched the world over to increase her collection.

One of the things that is difficult yet can be exhilarating is when you can find an entire or majority of a collection. I recently hit the jackpot while in London, at Nick Jones Antiques, finding an entire Wedgwood collection of fine pottery.

Working with clients on their collections is a very personal endeavour and takes time and patience. I start by evaluating their collection, then determine if they have enough to fill the home, and take it from there.

Art to me is very personal and I see to it that clients are extremely involved in the purchasing of the art and the coordination of their art collection. Most of our clients have more than one home and my theory is that we will always find a place for every piece of art.

I am currently working with Joseph Guay, an amazing artist based in Atlanta. I have recommended his art to clients and even added a piece to my personal collection. The bold pieces made of (gun)shells,



You never know what is around the corner

metal and dark photography set off the interior and are real conversation starters. Joseph is known around the world.

Many artists, like Picasso, who we've collected for clients, are so prolific and work in different mediums. In addition to paintings, Picasso produced amazing pottery. Personally, I have always coveted many designs by Richard Ginori, one of Italy's greatest designers of fine china. I have 60-piece place settings of Palermo Black as well as Palmette. But I am always looking to add more to my collection.

When starting to curate a collection one of the first things I do is turn to online resources, such as auction houses like Live Auctioneers. Online auctions represent many dealers across the country, and can therefore widen your approach. Not only is this a good place to shop but it is also inspirational.

As we shop both internationally in cities like London and Paris, and domestically, we really like to take the time and map out a plan prior to any buying trip process. Our team compiles an extended list based on our client's needs. We try to make sure we have all the dimensions needed for each item we are shopping for. I never leave home without full sets of fabric schemes because I feel certain the one time I do, I will find something that will not be a fit for the scheme. I then put on my favourite kicks and start walking!

One of my favourite cities is London as there is so much to see. Ramsay Fine Art always has exclusive pieces and I worked with them to build a collection of Joan Miro. I'm also a huge fan of Les Trois Garçons. And one place not to be missed is Portuondo, for some of the finest furniture and accessories in the UK.

Being based in one of the southern States, I often shop in Atlanta. I recently found a collection of black and white shell candlesticks at Interiors Markets. I also have really good luck at Foxgloves Antiques, with rock crystal bowls and fragments.

It's one thing to search and purchase a collection, but it's another ballgame to curate and display it. When it comes to objects and items, we like groupings of three, most importantly odd numbers. It is like a city skyline with highs and lows. People always ask what makes up a collection. My rule of thumb is more than 10. Eight, you are getting close, 12, you are really moving.

My advice is to always be on the lookout, you never know what you might find around the corner.

About Jonathan Savage

Jonathan Savage, of Savage Interior Design, continues to spread his wings with exciting projects and industry recognition. Jonathan is an established designer in Nashville, but you can also find his designs in Brooklyn, Kiawah, Maine, Napa, New York and London.

Savage Interior Design had the honour of designing several showhouses including Kips Bay Decorator Showhouse, his alma mater the O'More College of Design, the Southern Style Now and Rooms With A View.

Jonathan is a native of Tennessee, raised by a family prominent in real estate development, and a mother with a love for the fine arts. His southern heritage and upbringing is a complement to his love of design.