

CHOOSING ARTWORK

office@spaceorganising.com

At one time the term 'art' or 'work of art' meant something serious, only for the well-educated and was nearly always expensive

Now art has become 'artwork' – a straight forward piece of hand made or manufactured imagery that we can buy from Ikea, purchase over the internet or make ourselves. It all counts and most of it works

As with all art it only matters whether you like it, not anyone else

Unless you are selling your house in which case everyone has to like it!

If you prefer to choose a ready made artwork then follow my simple common sense tips to help you to make a quick decision



Artwork by Becky Brock

Choosing a piece of artwork

It makes sense to choose a piece of artwork to suit a particular room. Fluorescent novelty jokes, weird psychedelic photography and picture of dogs in sunglasses are fine for catching your eye at the end of a corridor or on a side wall but you could find them distracting and can easily get bored with them if you give them centre stage!

Where? Decide which wall needs a piece of artwork. Do you want to create a focal point over the fireplace? Do you want to draw attention to a quality piece of furniture or place the artwork next to a lamp or piece of sculpture?

What size? Decide how big it needs to be. No use coming home with a 5' x 6' canvas when your chimney breast is only 4' wide. Piece sheets of newspaper together to find the optimum size

Top Tips

Take a swatch of the paint, a cushion cover or colourful accessory with you when you go to choose a picture

Select a coloured frame to pick up the colours of nearby furnishings and fabrics for a harmonious effect

CHOOSING ARTWORK

What style? What kind of mood would you like to evoke?

Stick to a theme for each room or area of your home; images of fresh food and flowers in the kitchen, restful landscapes in the sitting room, soft fragrant flowers in the bedroom, for example

These themes might give you some ideas:

Floral paintings, botanical prints, garden paintings

Sharp graphic images of machinery, cars, speed and light

Portraits as drawings, etchings, watercolours or photography

Dance depicted by colour and shape and paintings capturing 'movement'

Sports images shown as energy and strength, with bold forms

The sea, landscapes of colour, texture and the power of nature

Tranquility seen in restful landscapes, natural objects, calm waters, abstracts with cool restful colours and shapes



a soft muted seascape for a room painted in blue-greens



a group of airy photographic landscapes bring a breath of fresh air to a quiet guest room

How many? Sometimes a group of images work better than a huge one-off

Cut out the sizes and shapes of the frames in newspaper and Blu-tak them to the wall to find the best arrangement

Repeating a single image gives the impression of individual style and personality where resources are limited

CHOOSING ARTWORK

office@spaceorganising.com



What type? Do you want an unframed canvas, a framed photograph, a glass covered piece of textile art or an abstract oil acrylic painting or print?

A large, impressive artwork may need no frame

A piece of art may also be a ceramic plaque, a piece of woven textile, a mask, a wood carving or metal sculpture
Pieces of embroidery, a stamp collection, handmade cards or vintage tiles also make unusual and interesting viewing

How much? How much do you want to spend? The sky's the limit!
When you are on the move: do you want it to stay with the house? Buy a cheap print, simply framed and appealing to all tastes
Do you want to take it with you? Invest in a quality artwork that you love

Where to buy?

Ikea has a great selection of prints and photographs, frames and canvasses but they are very popular and instantly recognisable. If you want something less obvious search department stores, garden centres and on the internet

Smaller galleries and art exhibitions may have just what you are looking for.
If you like the work of a particular artist ask the gallery owner if they have any more work by the same artist. Look through the unframed prints, usually kept in an upright stand to one side of the main display



'Land Plotting' Pam Bradshaw

If you want to support an artist you can offer a commission. They should be able to give you an idea of cost and how long it would take

Art colleges have end-of-year exhibitions (Between May and July) where original art is for sale at very reasonable prices. Contact the individual colleges and art schools

CHOOSING ARTWORK

Create your own artwork

Collage

Cut out pictures, coloured shapes or textures from magazines and build into a multi-coloured, multi-layered collage. Use PVA glue which dries clear

Photo-montage

Utilise your own photos (e.g. of landscapes and nature) to create an original artwork. Use spray glue and press photos down flat. Leave overnight, under a board with weights on (piles of books or magazines) to get a more professional finish



Blow-Up. Have your own photos blown up onto canvas or made into a large print. Select flowers, gardens, seascapes, landscapes, black and white portraits or architecture for the best results
www.canvasrus.co.uk
or at Boots stores

If you have been inspired by the artwork of Becky Brock or Pam Bradshaw shown on these pages, contact me for further details:
office@spaceorganising.com

I hope you now feel motivated to choose your own artwork, something that is special to you and will enhance your every day life whenever you look at it. Get started by looking at simple, popular artwork in department stores or in magazines to build your confidence and very soon you will feel quite strongly about what you *do* and *don't* like

One step at a time, you will **make space for life**

Angie

If you are feeling overwhelmed and would like some help to organise your home, your business or your life contact us at - office@spaceorganising.com or visit the website to find out how we can help over the phone or by email

Reprint permission

You may use part or all of this document providing this credit appears in full:

"Reprinted with permission from Angie Griffin at Space Organising.

Subscribe to the FREE Newsletter and receive FREE Clutter Clearing and Organising Tips by visiting www.spaceorganising.com"