

Your Handbook to Collecting Art  
*An Excerpt*



## Endorsements

I would like to congratulate FOFA for conceptualizing, designing, publishing, and distributing this first-of-a-kind handbook on art appreciation and collecting. The practical tips contained herein on the various aspects of collecting such as selecting, buying, hanging, restoring, and cataloguing will hopefully remove the mysteries of art appreciation and collecting for would-be and relatively new collectors. This will help expand the community of art collectors in Singapore and contribute to strengthening our art ecosystem.

Again, warm congratulations!

**Mr Lito Camacho**  
**Art Collector and former board member of**  
**National Heritage Board and National Gallery Singapore**

I am delighted that this book serves as a guide to the fundamentals of art collecting in an accessible and inclusive form. Art collecting is not only about accumulating our cultural heritage but it also promotes Singapore's appreciation of the arts which in itself plays an important role in our evolution into a cultured nation. I always believe that art is central in our daily lives as it can influence our emotions as well as provide a reason for reflection, solace and joy. In today's complex world, especially as we stand on the brink of advancement in AI, the desire for human autonomy in decision making particularly in the realm of collecting becomes even more significant.

**Ms Rachel Teo**  
**Co-founder of The Private Museum**

Art Galleries Association Singapore (AGAS) strives to amplify the voices of commercial art galleries in Singapore. We advocate for the vital role commercial art businesses play in nurturing artists and fostering a thriving art ecosystem through art business, art collecting and thus artist's sustainability. Galleries act as crucial intermediaries, supporting emerging and established talents while guiding collectors to invest in local artists. We welcome FOFA's initiative and believe it will significantly enhance public awareness and interest in the visual arts. By promoting greater engagement with the arts, we can continue to cultivate an enriching cultural landscape in Singapore.

**Ms Audrey Yeo**  
**Yeo Workshop**  
**President, Art Galleries Association Singapore**

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The dictionary defines 'art' as an expression of human creative skill and imagination in a visual form, to be appreciated primarily for its beauty or emotional power.

Art might not have practical value like a car, a laptop or a pair of shoes, but it can be described as 'food for your soul'. Art can educate, inform, inspire, and nourish our minds. It can make our homes and personal spaces beautiful and colourful, or offer us calm and respite after a busy day at work. Art can even affect our moods by making us feel happy, or invoke a sense of wonder.

Contrary to popular belief, art is not confined to paintings on a wall. You'll be surprised to discover that art includes some very accessible (and affordable) objects.

If you have bought one (or more) of the items listed on the opposite page because it looked attractive, or that it resonated with you emotionally or intellectually, then you've purchased a work of art and may well be on your way to becoming a collector.

After all, buying art should not be for investment alone. The experience of buying art and collectibles should be akin to buying beautiful jewellery or an amazing piece of furniture. It should be something you enjoy and look forward to, something you want to live with for a long time. It should be something you like, or even love.

## Here are some examples of what can be collected as art:

**Paintings**  
*oil, acrylic on canvas*

**Sculpture**  
*marble, stone, bronze, ceramic, paper mâché*

**Works on paper**  
*drawings, watercolour, screenprints, lithographs, collages*

**Photography**

**Digital**  
*video art, digital art*

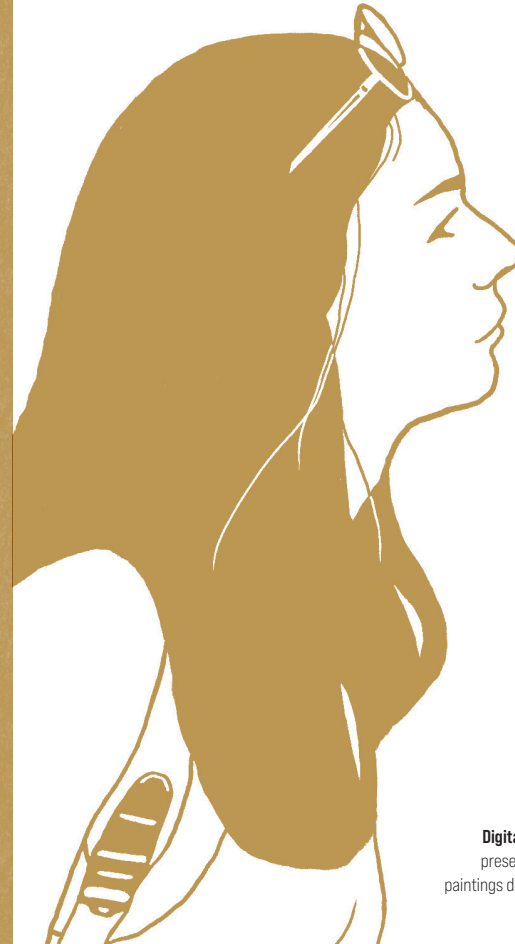
**Illustrations**  
*sketches, risograph*

**Ceramics**  
*vessels, tea ware*

**Posters**  
*vintage, movie*

**Craft**  
*embroidery, fabric art*

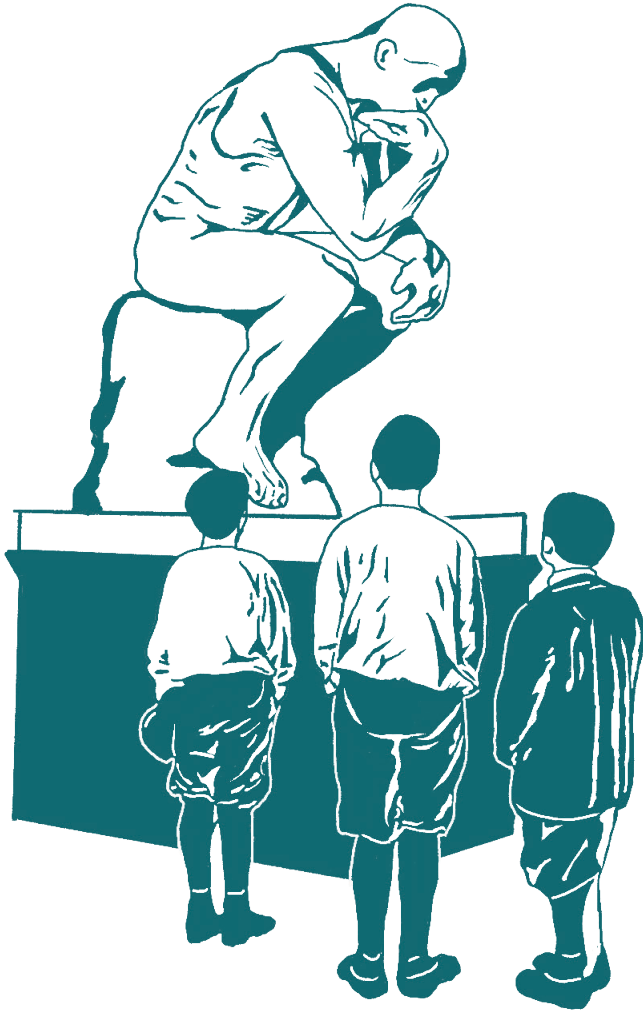
**Objects**  
*mixed media, installation, animation cels, toys*



**Digital art** — Term used to describe art produced or presented utilising digital technology. These include paintings done digitally, AI art, as well as motion graphics.



## To sum it up: Beauty in the Eyes of the Beholder



The price or value of an artwork is inherently influenced by numerous factors — this is why it's so important that you acquire an artwork because it resonates with you. This way it would not matter whether its market value has risen or fallen, because the value is prescribed by you.



# Curate Your Collection

Now let's go through how you could start to integrate art into your daily life.

You don't need to be a curator to buy and display art. You just need to have confidence in your own taste. Don't forget that the artworks you've collected are going to come together because there already is a theme: *What you like*.

Once you've bought a few artworks, over time you'll be surprised to find a theme emerging.

In this section, we'll share a few methods for you to put up your artworks that will transform your space.

Deciding where and how to present the artwork is something to consider carefully. Here are some considerations to make your artworks really stand out in your space.



**1. Determine the key spaces** in your home and consider spending more of your budget there. This may be the living room, the dining room, the study or the bedrooms.

**2. Decide on the mood** for that specific room, as this will influence selecting the style of art you would like to have. Do you want the space to feel elegant and sophisticated, relaxed and soothing, dramatic and energetic, or warm and cosy?

**3. Consider the colour palette** of the room. The artwork can either complement the space or make a statement with contrasting colours.

**4. Mix and match** to achieve harmony and balance. If you plan to have more than one work in the same room, space or wall, this means choosing one or two big works, then complementing it with smaller pieces.

**5. Make an impact** by having a large painting above the sofa or on the largest wall in the dining room. You can be more playful in other parts of the house, like the kitchen, corridors, main entrance, or powder rooms.

**Family Office For Art (FOFA)****PUBLISHED BY**

Family Office For Art Private Limited

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**SPECIAL THANKS**We would like to extend our deepest gratitude and  
appreciation to all our contributors and supporters:

Lito Camacho, Paul and Lena Ng, William Ng,

Melvin Poh, James Quan and Winnie Chan,

The Private Museum (Rachel Teo) and

Art Galleries Association Singapore (Audrey Yeo).

**BUY WHAT YOU LOVE: YOUR HANDBOOK TO COLLECTING ART**

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Published in Singapore

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**About FOFA**

Based in Singapore, Family Office For Art is a boutique art advisory offering bespoke services for art collection management, estate planning, brand and legacy building work. Besides our core offerings for private and corporate art collections, FOFA can also provide strategic advice and creative direction in terms of exhibition-making, research, scholarship and publications, supporting collectors and creatives, project management, marketing and PR, legacy building and philanthropy.

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