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Why Collect Art Glass?

By Judy Buttermann

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Ironically, I was asked this question recently. My first reaction was to wonder just how this person could be so naive. Then I realized that many people who don't collect glass may be naive when it comes to understanding the fascination that we art glass collectors share.

There are definitely many different reasons that each person collects art glass, but the one thing we all have in common is the pure appreciation of artistic perfection. Just looking at some pieces, for example from Charles Lotton, inspires awe in the sheer beauty of the work.

Another obvious reason is that beautiful art glass certainly enhances any decor. From adding additional colors to an otherwise neutral-colored room to showcasing favorite pieces, art glass can provide the finishing touches for any room in your home or office.

A very important reason to collect art glass is for investment. Quality art glass by artists who have established themselves as keystones in the industry increases in value over time (sometimes much more reliably than the stock market). I have some pieces in my personal collection that have increased thousands of dollars. In addition to collecting established artists, keep your eyes open for the up-and-coming glass artists. Initially, their prices are generally less expensive; and as they begin to establish themselves in the industry, the prices of their pieces rise accordingly.

Judy has been collecting art glass for years and has just now opened an art glass internet business, riversidecove.com.

I Love To Collect African Art

Why Collect Art Glass?

By Julee Mitchelsin

I love venturing around the world and learning about other cultures. A huge part of me comes alive when I'm in another culture. Ever since I was a little girl I have always been fascinated with the faces of people from other parts of the world and I've been intrigued by the way other people live life.

Photography seemed to be the right profession for me because it allows me to travel the world and get paid, literally, to see people and cultures and things. I love it. I also love collecting special things from other continents and nations that I visit. My latest fascination has been growing my collection of African art.

I'll admit that at first, African art seemed a little too strange for my liking. It wasn't typically in my color scheme and I couldn't see it fitting into the home I had created back in Vermont. So on many of my first journeys to Africa I came home without any African art. If you're thinking that it is strange for an artist to pass up any chance to collect art, I agree with you now, but I haven't always.

I learned to love and collect African art when I took my two daughters with me to Africa on my latest photoshoot project there. It was a busy three week trip during which we would be making our way through six different countries. I didn't expect to find much time for shopping, but my daughters kept insisting upon it and so I frequently found myself in the most quaint markets meeting stall owners and finding more shots for my photography project than I ever imagined to.

I had given each of my daughters a set amount of spending money before we ever arrived in Africa, and they had that amount gone within the first two markets we enjoyed. I learned to love African art through the eyes of my daughters. They were intrigued and captivated by the art more than I had expected they would be. Watching them pick up new items and love their look I too began to love looking at African art. I decided that I wanted to forego my need to have everything matching in my home in order that I could collect important art work from Africa, the continent that I had grown to love.

If you come into my home today you can hardly walk through a room without seeing the imprint of Africa somewhere. That's because African art adorns almost every room that I spend time in. I have had a transformation: I went from being someone who practically ignored the beauty of African art to being someone that is enthralled with its beauty.

Julee Mitchelsin is a photographer who gets to travel the world over for her work. She loves it. She also loves collecting new pieces of African art whenever she can. See

for

more details.

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