

A DAY IN THE ARTS

Making art accessible to all

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STARTING AN ART COLLECTION ON A BUDGET

Where to Look for Authentic Art Pieces Without the Christie's Price

by Veronica Franklin

Anyone can start a quality art collection and avoid buying generic so-called art from corporate retailers without breaking the bank at a high priced art gallery.

Are you an art lover but have little real art in your house? Maybe you're an artist yourself and are interested in building a collection of your own. Fresh art from new artists can be just as enjoyable as established, popular artists, and quite less expensive. If you can't afford the work for sale in fine galleries and want something more substantial than the assembly-line "hand crafted" artwork sold at Wal-Mart, look over the following ideas for the first steps in an art treasure hunt.

ART SCHOOLS

Art students are on the edge of the professional art world and are bursting with the information of traditional master artist styles and exploratory, contemporary artists. These artists are mostly still finding themselves, but that doesn't diminish the quality of their work. Graduating art students usually display their work publicly in nearby galleries, or often a gallery on campus. Put your name on the

gallery's mailing list, or emailing list and watch for the student thesis shows, or juried student shows. Quick and easy online access to para-professional and student art is also offered through Ugallery.com and Saatchi gallery's StuArt (short for student art) web sites.

ALTERNATIVE ART SOURCES

Street art fairs are fun and will sometimes yield a surprising art find. Consider the Affordable Art Fair which is an international tour of not quite so expensive, yet high quality samples of artwork. Trust your instincts and look for work that has the potential to continue being intriguing to yourself and people visiting your home or work place, where ever you'll be displaying it. Keep an eye out for auctions, too! Museum mailing lists for members will announce auctions. Estate auctions and sales also



Photos by Veronica Franklin, Student Art Show at University of Colorado at Denver, 2008

release artwork for less than its actual value. Another funky alternative art source is Slop Art , a collective of ready made art with a sense of humor. It's worth a look and it's original!

If you are a business owner in search of unique art that meets your corporate standards, Art Consulting firms such as Denver's McGrath & Braun streamline the process. They allow the purchaser to describe what subject matter, style,



or colors are being sought in the artwork and how much is willing to be spent, then the consultants do the searching and offer a stratified sample of work to choose from. Installation and lighting can also be included.

ARTIST TRADES

What about making your own artwork? Try taking some art classes, or winging it yourself. Available art classes can be found at recreation centers, art centers and artist seminar / residency programs. Seasoned artists might consider a class in a new medium. Trading pieces between yourself and other artists can also vitalize your collection of art and create bonds between friends. Artist Trading

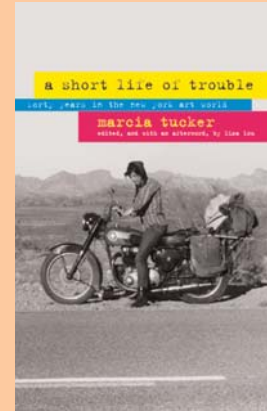
Cards (ATC's) are a popular method of collecting art with a limited budget. ATC's are miniature works of art about the size of baseball cards that are traded between people in person. An online search will reveal where local ATC groups congregate to swap pieces.

When searching for new work, have an open

mind and take your time. Most importantly, pay attention to art and artists who you find an emotional response to. If you are unsure how you feel about the work, some artists and galleries are opening up to the idea of renting out a piece per a contract. Also, consider commissioning an artist. Many artists are open to the proposition of commissions but do not advertise it so take the initiative and make the request. This allows the potential investor to try the artwork out in its destined environment. If available, read the artist's statement in an attempt to speak the language of the piece you are interested in. After all, art isn't just for looking at but also talking about with others. 📧

Book Review

MARCIA TUCKER A SHORT LIFE OF TROUBLE Forty Years in the New York Art World



This memoir brings to vivid life the behind-the-scenes struggles of Marcia Tucker, the first woman to be hired as a curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art and the founder of the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York City. Tucker came of age in the 1960s, and this spirited account of her life draws the reader directly into the burgeoning feminist movement and the excitement of the New York art world during that time. Her own new ways of thinking led her to take

principled stands that have changed the way art museums consider contemporary art. As curator of painting and sculpture at the Whitney, she organized major exhibitions of the work of many modern artists. As founder of the New Museum of Contemporary Art, she organized and curated groundbreaking exhibitions of the art and artists she loved.

If you don't particularly enjoy modern art, this book is enlightening. Throughout it, Tucker talks about the various artists and their work and what she appreciated about it and why it is, to her and many others, "art". It's an interesting introduction into this segment of art. Tucker's story offers a compelling look, though not always flattering, into the inner workings of major museums and the art world in general, including those who create it and those who support it. 📧

**Marcia Tucker - A Short Life of Trouble
Forty Years in the New York Art World**

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AMAZON STORE



ART NEWS



"The Indian and the Lily", 1887, George de Forest Brush

GEORGE DE FOREST BRUSH AT SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

Through May 25, 2009, the **Seattle Art Museum** will also present *George de Forest Brush: The Indian Paintings*, which is co-organized by the National Gallery of Art and the Seattle Art Museum. Running concurrently with *Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness*, this exhibition introduces the work of an important but little-known 19th-century American painter.

George de Forest Brush (1855–1941) is considered one of the great American "little masters" of the late-19th century. Brush began painting Indians out of his experience living among the Crow, Shoshone and Arapahoe in the West from 1881-82. His paintings of Native Americans poignantly illustrate the common bonds among all humankind and our love of the natural world, while documenting a vanishing way of life. In collaboration with the National Gallery of Art, *George de Forest Brush: The Indian Paintings* explores 21 rare paintings created between 1882-90 that depict indigenous people of the American plains and ancient Mesoamericans. The paintings, culled from private and museum collections, have never been shown together before.

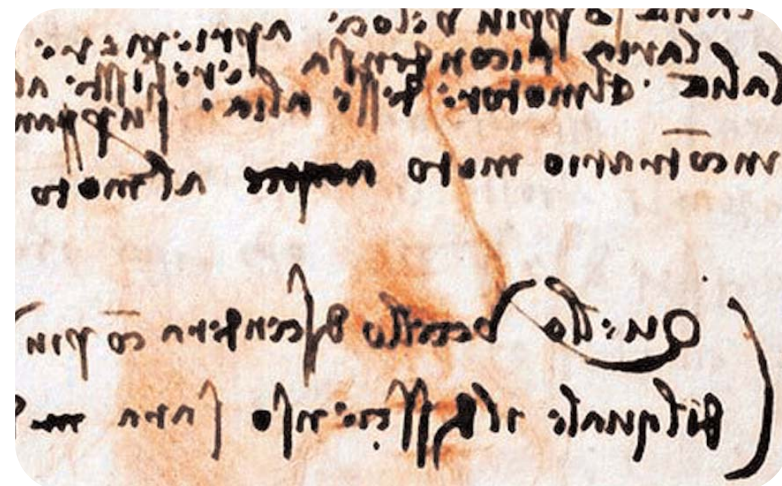
SAM FUN

Speaking of the Seattle Art Museum, they have a fun activity on their site right now. It takes you into the painting on the back of the \$2 bill. Take a look: <http://tinyurl.com/dhusfb>



LEONARDO DA VINCI SELF PORTRAIT DISCOVERED IN MANUSCRIPT

A self portrait of Leonardo Da Vinci as a young man has been found in the pages of the "Codex on the Flight of Birds", written between 1490 and 1505. The Italian scientific journalist



studying the work noticed a faint nose behind the writing. It struck him as being similar in shape and drawing style to a later self-portrait of Leonardo. Apparently Da Vinci drew the portrait in the 1480 and then decided to reuse the page for the Codex.

According to the Telegraph, "The journalist, Piero Angela, enlisted the help of art historians, Carabinieri police forensic experts and graphic artists to tease out more detail from the ghostly image. Over months of micro-pixel work, graphic designers gradually "removed" the text by making it white instead of black, revealing the drawing beneath. " Experts believe this to be one of the most important works by the artist to be found.

WALTER SICKERT EXHIBITION

According to the **Dulwich Picture Gallery**, everything that was new in British art a hundred years ago came from Walter Sickert and he is known as the father of modern British art. Sickert was one of the most important British



Walter Sickert's 'St Mark's, Venice [detail] Photo: Estate of Walter R Sickert/British Council, Tate London

artists of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A pupil of Whistler, friend of Degas and acquaintance of Manet, he introduced Impressionism and Post-Impressionism to a younger generation of British painters.

This is the first ever exhibition devoted to Sickert's pictures of Venice, where he found his identity as an artist. He made repeated visits starting in 1895 and Venice inspired some of his most ravishing impressionist work. He painted - among many other Venetian scenes - St Mark's Basilica under different lighting conditions, and later moved indoors, experimenting with figures in interiors - the subject matter

that would become his trademark.

U.S. FOUNDATION GIVES \$1.3 MILLION TO LOUVRE

The Louvre is accepting a grant of \$1.3 million) from the Philadelphia-based **Annenberg Foundation** to add kid-friendly multimedia displays to some of its exhibits and to create DVDs, online features and art lessons that can circulate in the schools. The grant is being channeled through **American Friends of the Louvre**, a nonprofit that fosters ties between the venerable museum and the U.S. public. "The Louvre," says a press

announcement of the grant, "is the first museum in France to implement educational programs of this kind."

SOCORRO ART GALLERY ENLARGES

While other galleries are struggling, even closing, due to economic conditions, the **Fullingim-Isenhour and Leard Galleries** in New Mexico is doubling in size. The extra room allows for the display of 200 pieces of original art. <http://tinyurl.com/b67sr3>

"At the age of six I wanted to be a cook. At seven I wanted to be Napoleon. And my ambition has been growing steadily ever since."
-- Salvador Dali

WORD OF THE DAY

TRANSFER PAPER

A paper that is coated with a preparation for transferring a design to another surface.

ART AEROBICS

Practice you drawing skills

Use oil pastels or crayons to sketch a pair of scissors. Seven minutes.