



CHARLOTTE DEMOLAY ART

Collecting Art for Real People

You love art. You love how it makes a room feel, how a certain color can change your mood, or how a painting can just speak to you. If you've ever thought, "I'd love to have more art in my life, but galleries feel intimidating (or just out of reach)," you're not alone.

The truth is, collecting art doesn't have to be expensive, exclusive, or complicated. In fact, some of the most meaningful collections start with a single piece that just makes you smile.

First Things First: The Only Rule That Matters

BUY WHAT MOVES YOU.

That's it. That's the only rule. Forget what's trendy. Forget what you think will impress people.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Does it make me smile?
- Does it remind me of a person, a place, or a feeling I love?
- Do the colors just make my brain happy?
- Am I still thinking about it a day later?

If the answer is "yes," you're on the right track. Trust your gut. It's your home, your walls, your collection!

Here are 10 simple, affordable ways to start your own art collection



1

Shop Local Art Fairs & Markets – Meet artists in your own community and discover one-of-a-kind pieces, often at prices that won't break the bank.

2

Follow Local Artists Online – Instagram, Facebook, and artist websites are great places to find new work. Many artists (myself included!) offer originals and prints directly.

3

Buy Prints or Reproductions – Love a piece but not ready for the original? Prints are a budget-friendly way to buy art. Bonus...many artists offer prints in different sizes to better fit your space.

4

The Etsy Deep Dive – Filter your search by "shop location" and type in your city or state. You'll instantly discover local artists and can find everything from original paintings to gorgeous, affordable prints.

5

Commission a Custom Piece – Don't be afraid to reach out to an artist for a custom work. Many offer small, affordable commissions.

6

Support Artists at Open Studios – Many artists open their studios to the public. This is a great way to see work in progress and buy directly.

7

Follow Local Art Groups or Co-op Galleries – They often hosts shows or exhibits of local artists. Bonus...the opening receptions are a mini-party! You can often meet the artists in person.

8

Look for Art in Unexpected Places – Coffee shops, breweries, libraries, municipal buildings and other local businesses often display art for sale. Keep your eyes open!

9

Frame Artist Postcards or Small Works – Postcards, mini-prints, and small originals can be beautifully framed for a big impact on a small budget.

10

Check Out Student or Emerging Artist Sales – Art schools and community centers often host sales where you can find unique work at great prices.

Watch for my newsletter for more tips, art stories, and special offers—plus a peek behind the scenes of my creative process and what keeps my creativity going!