

Finished Work



This was a formal military portrait with diagonal lighting... In this case emphasized by the solid gold frame.



A landscape portrait with Machu Picchu providing a colourful backdrop.

Is Art A Good Investment?

With the recent downturn in the commodities market, many investors are looking to not only keep their assets safe, but to keep them growing. So what are the things to look for when adding art to your portfolio? Finance writer Stephanie Eldred offers these tips for the art investor:

- Since you're investing in the artist as much as the piece, look for one who is at least five years out of art school, as less than 5% of grads continue to produce meaningfully after this point. Your investment goal is to select an artist who displays commitment, originality and longevity -- all are key factors contributing to the career of a successful artist.
- Buy from artists you've never heard of and sell when you start to see their names in print. If an artist is already being hyped and is mentioned everywhere, you've likely already missed the boat.
- Keep in mind the cardinal rule: You have to love the piece. The two reasons for this are simple: 1. Art investments are long-term; you have to expect to hold on to something for at least 10 years. 2. If you don't like it, chances are no one else will either, and your chances of getting a great price will be significantly lower.
- Quality is more important than quantity. Large pieces are often more difficult to maintain in perfect condition and can be more difficult to resell.
- [Art Investing Versus the Stock Market](#)

What's on my easel at the moment?



This is a corporate commission for Birkenhead Shopping Centre in Sydney. I'm really excited by the possibilities here with the different shapes and angles. Check back in the next issue and hopefully you will see how it turned out!

Special points of interest:

- Got some spare cash? Here's a list of [The World's Most Expensive Paintings](#).
- Painter Lucien Freud is the world's most expensive living artist. His portrait "Big Sue" sold at Christie's last year for US\$33.6m.
- Salvador Dali signed thousands of pieces of blank print paper which were used by corrupt publishers to produce fake prints worth \$12m a year in earnings.

These are my favourite 3 paint-brushes—I've painted over 20 paintings with them!



Choosing the right oil painting for your space

1. **Define your space.** What is the function of the room and what mood would you like to evoke?
2. **Choose the right colour.** A painting which contrasts with the wall colour is usually most effective.
3. **Match your current interior's style.** A classical oil on canvas portrait may not suit a minimalist Japanese style living room.
4. **Create a theme.** Think like a gallery owner. Tell a story.
5. **Choose the right size.** Remember: an oil painting needs enough space around it to be appreciated.

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