

# MAKE IT PERSONAL

*Letting art speak for you*

**A**RT IS MANY THINGS TO MANY PEOPLE. One way I like to think about art is as experience and memory. Images captured as photographs, curios from travels and our own artistic expressions—these things tell stories of who we are, where we’ve been and what we’ve done. With the right treatment, pieces within your reach can become original art for your home.

And this approach to art — as experience and memory — doesn’t have to be expensive. With photography everywhere, artifacts from travels abundant and our personal creative output at all time highs, what is important is careful editing. You cannot display everything. So choose the most evocative items and give these their due when it comes to display and placement.

## PHONES TO ADVANCED CAMERAS

Everyone’s taking pictures. Find something you really like — yours or someone else’s — then use an online resource to make an enlargement. When framing, ready-made to custom, choose a frame that complements the piece. Match the matting to an accent color or for a museum look stay with white. Be mindful of where you plan to hang it — lighting is important — and select non-glare glass with UV protection.

## MADURAI TO MANHATTAN

Art is everywhere when you travel. You can find it in the colorful markets of India or the narrow gallery-lined streets of Santa Fe. What appeals to you? Are you a collector? Painting, sculpture, pottery, woven baskets, textiles. The iconic, the bizarre. Every piece tells a story. What resonates with your design sense and how will the piece figure in what you already have? Keep a clear vision.

## HANDS ON

Do you paint, throw clay, work with glass? Does your “hobby” produce art, something you’re proud enough to put on display? Give your work the same careful attention you would that of

another artist. Spend extra on framing or a pedestal for display. Create a niche with lighting to house a particular piece and size it for just that treasure.

## LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION

When you use the art of experience and memory as the focal point of a room you bring attention to subjects not only

beautiful but personal, maybe even close to your heart. All walls are not created equal. Some are meant for lingering, others for passing. Make sure the piece and the space where it’s hung or displayed are sized for each other with adequate distance for appreciative viewing.

As the curator of your home’s art, you have sole responsibility for the acquisition and care of the objects you

surround yourself with. Remember, it’s more about choosing the right pieces and striking a balance than filling up the walls. When art is experience and memory — live only with the pieces you love and the ones that say the most about you.

*Cheryl Chenault is owner of Cheryl Chenault Interiors and can be reached at [cherylchenault@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cherylchenault@sbcglobal.net) ■*



## HEADER HEADER

As evere int expe volore experiae porrum am estotatum latusdam ime adi dis maximag nimende volorum lacest, ut sequatem re estior rem neque quontis pellabo runtiunt qui.