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PERFECT CHOICE

The Art Girls MPLS help a client find the “perfect” pieces to complement the beautiful architectural and historical details of their home.

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LIVING ART

As soon as I pulled up to the breathtaking home on storybook Colfax Street in South Minneapolis' historic Lowry Hill neighborhood, I knew this was going to be a special project. The Georgian-style home was grand, but at the same time it was incredibly inviting. Steeped in rich Minnesota history, the estate was built by Minnesota Governor John Lind in 1903. The house told its story before even opening the stately wooden front doors. The homeowners had contacted Art Girls MPLS in search of a piece of fine art that would fit into their open foyer. They had been on the lookout for that "perfect piece" for several years, but nothing seemed to feel just right.

Every art consultation brings upon unique challenges, and we knew ours as soon as we stepped into the splendid foyer of this charming historical home. We needed to curate art that would complement the grandiose nature of such an estate, but not take away from the architectural beauty and details at every turn. The wonderful part of fine art is the way it only enhances a space, but never takes away from the elements that should always remain. A second aspect we wanted to focus on was the homeowner's history with the Lowry Hill neighborhood. She had grown up in Lowry Hill and her parents still resided in the neighborhood. The homeowners had an evident deep love for Minneapolis and to bring in a local artist's work seemed only fitting.

After showing our clients several pieces there was one in particular that really resonated with them: a large piece by artist Richard Merchán, depicting a modern impressionist view of the lovely "Lake of the Isles." As soon as we carried in the 7ft. wide artwork it felt as if that 120 year-old foyer was smiling at all of us. The timeless colors and serene setting of Lake of the Isles played into the character of the home effortlessly. Not to mention, the well-known lake is only a stone's throw away from the home. Despite the 120-year age difference, this modern artwork felt like it had always been there. Such is the power of fine art.



We suggested a second artist for the adjoining sitting room to the right of the foyer. Playing on the homeowners love for antique furniture and traditional style, local artist Jillian Lee's pieces seemed like a perfect fit. Her work is considered the perfect fusion between contemporary and classical. She draws her inspiration from strong historical characters, particularly women. A floral abstract from her collection found to be a perfect fit above the stately original fireplace mantle. The bright pastel accents blended perfectly with the rich colors surrounding the room and connecting dining room. A second piece by Jillian Lee was selected for an adjacent wall. The work, appropriately named "Eternellement Jeune III," was inspired by the inevitable emotional departure of children reaching an adult age. Coincidentally, the homeowners were preparing for their youngest to graduate from high school that year; their oldest was attending college. After the artwork was installed, the homeowners expressed the greatest compliment we could hear, "You two made this so fun!"

There are not many rules to placing art. Modern impressionism works in a historical home. Traditional realism can be placed in a contemporary home. As to so many design rules today, matching genres is not essential. The critical and most important part is connecting that art piece to your emotional soul. Whether it inspires, challenges, or just simply makes you reflect on the past, the ownership of art is a wonderful thing. And most of the time you don't have to look too hard or long for it, because the art will find you.

Hollie Blanchard owns Art Girls Mpls, an art concierge service, with sister-in-law Kelly Netisben. artgirlsmpls.com



1729 Irving Ave S – \$895,000

This 4 bedroom, 4 bath Lowry Hill home get tons of natural light. The entire home is updated and has an open layout that is perfect for entertaining or casual family living.



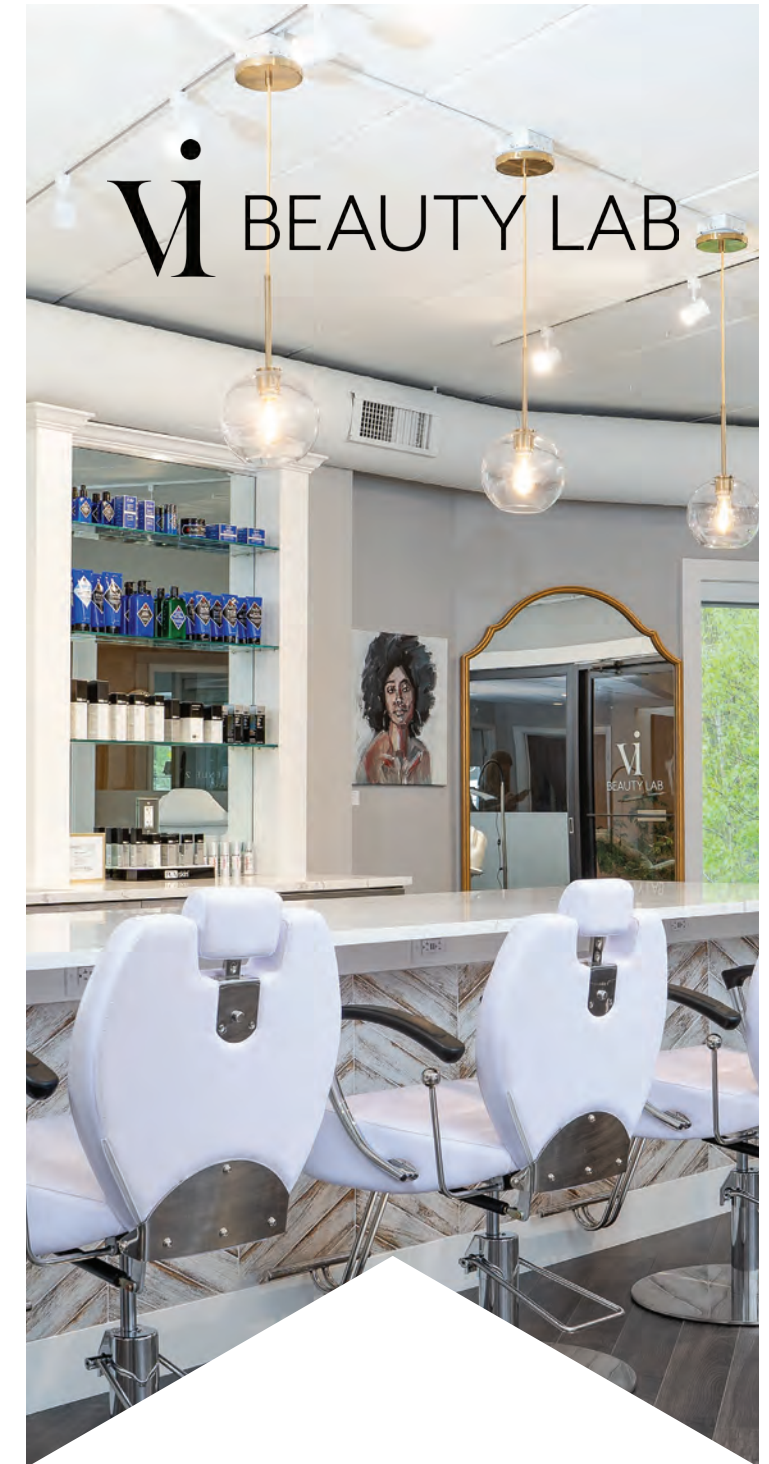
1828 Mount Curve Ave – \$1,285,000

One of the most picturesque and admired homes on Mount Curve. This French Provincial home is rich with original, European charm, has beautiful gardens, and a 3-car heated, attached garage.

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