



## How Do I Marry Art & Interior Design

When I moved to Cambria 14 years ago, I saw a billboard on the highway just south of town that said, “art doesn’t have to match the sofa.” The billboard was an ad for a Cambria art gallery. It gave me a chuckle; in the interior design business, this is an “in” joke, because the truth is, a home can be designed around art, or you can add the style or colors of your favorite art to a furnished room. Art is personal, and it should be like any personal collection. The trick to synchronizing the art with your home is to find a common denominator.

Many art collectors prefer white walls, because for a long time, white was the gallery look; and it was hip to have that stark look to make art the focus of the home. Visit some of the newer cutting edge galleries and discover that white walls are not the norm anymore. Gallery owners are more open to look at new backdrops for art, realizing that softer neutrals, and in some cases, darker colors, give a more dramatic canvas for many different types of art.

I like to integrate all my clients’ favorite art into the interior design scheme. Contemporary, abstract art can be combined with impressionistic art, and all of it can be hung with traditional furnishings. Likewise, traditional, realistic art can be beautifully hung with modern, contemporary furnishings. It’s all about colors, textures, framing, and placement. As a matter of fact, the contrast of one style of art with another style of furnishings creates a focus on the art.

Framing art is controversial; many artists don’t want to frame their work with anything that may detract from the subject matter and, consequently, they frame very sparingly. That doesn’t mean it’s sacrilegious to frame art with a more decorative frame, as long as there is some relationship between the art and the frame. Framing is a wonderful opportunity to unify many disparate ideas and images. It’s all about seeing the details and knowing how to harmonize the concert of art, frame and interior design.

So, go through your closets, destroy those old boring frames, and go to your frame shop with your favorite interior designer. Then you will have new accessories for your home that have special meaning to you; because it is your daughter’s first masterpiece, or your father’s favorite painting. And next time you travel and are compelled to purchase art, do it because it speaks to you. When you really love art, there will be a place for it in your home.