

# The Rothko or the Knoll?

BLENDING HARMONIOUS INTERIORS WITH CHERISHED ARTWORKS REMAINS ONE OF DECOR'S MOST DELICATE BALANCING ACTS. HERE, THREE NAPLES DESIGNERS REVEAL THEIR RESPECTIVE APPROACHES

TEXT LUIS R. RIGUAL



## JUDITH LIEGEOIS

“AN ORIGINAL, WELL-CURATED ART COLLECTION IS THE ULTIMATE GIFT TO A DESIGN PROJECT.”



FAR LEFT INSET: Designer Judith Liegeois FAR LEFT: A Liegeois-designed foyer proffers an artful setting without any traditional art per se, but rather exquisite furnishings.

LEFT: “Here is an example of creating a space that works with an existing art collection,” says Liegeois of this North Naples residence featuring art by Richard Merchán. “The owner is a working artist and a collector. We blended her collection into the studio, and also gave her space for her own creativity.”

**What’s the first thing you think when you know an upcoming design commission involves an art collection?** I think, ‘Oh, yes!’ An original, well-curated art collection is the ultimate gift to a design project.

**What’s the most important aspect to consider when dealing with art in a design job?** Balance. It’s about connecting the art with the intimacy of the space, and, more importantly, the art relating to the client.

**In terms of new builds, have you helped many clients start an art collection as part of your design process?** Some. In those instances, art incorporation is the last step of the project. That doesn’t mean we haven’t found pieces along the way, but we wait until the end to reflect back on what pieces are needed to complete the collection.

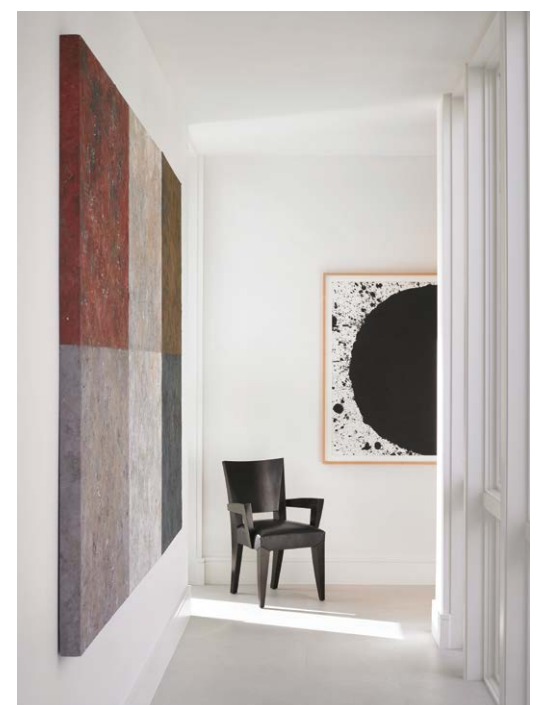
**Your portfolio features numerous commissions in which you’ve incorporated very artistic furnishings and accessories. Would you say**

**that’s just as involved as working with a more traditional art collection?** Absolutely, 100 percent. In approaching a design project, furnishings and lighting are an added dimensional element to the space. It comes down to form and function.

**Do you find a particular genre of art more difficult to work with than others?** I wouldn’t say I find any one genre challenging. My job is to rise to the challenge of incorporating the client’s art into the designed space.

**What do you focus on when the art isn’t your cup of tea?** I focus on a wonderful dinner and drinks with friends.

**What about art in your own home? What do you surround yourself with?** I respond to color, the artist, the artist’s story, and what story each piece tells. I have a collection of inherited pieces and it’s all mixed up in terms of mediums, but each piece means something special to me.  
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ABOVE: Museum-white walls provide an ideal backdrop for two abstract artworks.