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# THE CURATOR

*Corlie de Kock, curator at Knysna Fine Art gallery and The Turbine hotel told us why she loves what she does and how to buy, style and care for your art at home*

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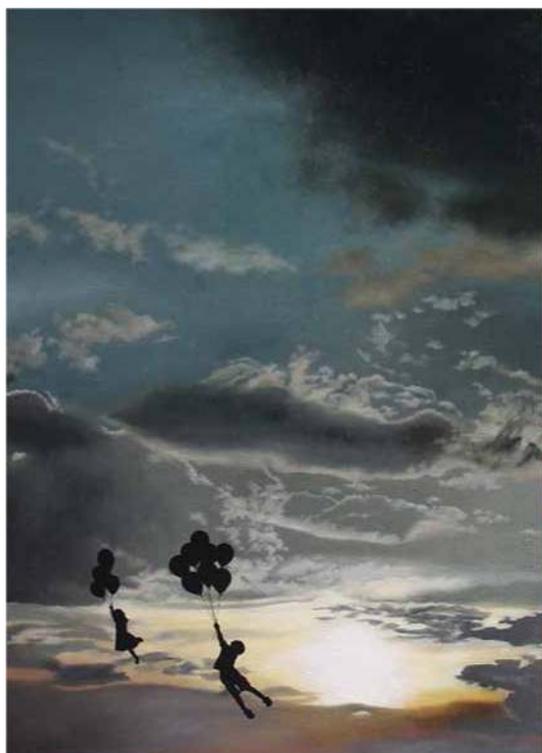
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## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CURATING A GALLERY, GIVEN IT'S AN EMPTY WHITE SPACE?

Every space has a unique atmosphere and character. The ambience of a space

is determined by design, environment and style, as well as certain contextual factors such as its surroundings and its age. A curator must stay true to the character of the exhibition space. Wall- and floor space determines the placement of

artworks. A curator communicates with the audience, so placement is just as important as selection. Filling an empty gallery is almost like directing a play – every exhibition is totally distinct.



### WHAT TIPS DO YOU HAVE FOR CURATING ART OR ARTY DECOR FOR THE HOME?

Choose works that you like in your personal space, but buy from a professional and knowledgeable curator or established gallery. You must stay true to your own personality, style and character. It is important to enjoy one's personal space, and artworks form an integral part of the character or atmosphere of a home. Rather invest by buying a work with long-term value than buying something that is fashionable at the time but will lose value after a few years. Established galleries

will advise on technical aspects as well as preservation, and can advise on works that could also be a financial investment.

### WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR WHEN CHOOSING NEW ARTISTS TO FEATURE?

We're looking for fresh, young talent. A good curator sees potential in young artists and is willing to invest energy to establish a long-term relationship with them. Galleries and artists build their reputation over time. We're looking for hard-working artists who strive for perfection and give thought to content.

### HOW LONG UNTIL YOU MOVE AROUND OR REPLACE A PIECE?

Some works sell fast, and others may take longer to find the right audience. Artworks also change meaning in relation to other artworks and the collection must work and not simply focus on individual works. Sometimes works must be moved to a more appropriate audience. Certain artworks are commercially more successful, whereas other pieces are important from a technical, historical or conceptual point of view. When we remove artworks, we rehang the gallery to keep the exhibition exciting and fresh. Works could also be moved within the same space to find the most suitable position.

### HOW DO YOU PRICE AN ARTWORK?

Artworks are valued according to the artist's career, education and important collectors who have invested in these artists. Some media, like bronze, have material value as well. Established galleries and auction houses can determine accurate pricing.

### WHERE ARE THE BEST PLACES TO HANG ART IN YOUR HOME, AVOIDING THINGS LIKE WATER OR SUN DAMAGE?

Works must be hung in dry areas to avoid mould damage; try not to store art in damp places. Works on paper that may be at risk of fading over time by being in direct sunlight can be protected by using UV-filter glass. Sunlight is very bad for art, particularly works on paper, but most importantly, do the piece justice by hanging it where viewers can enjoy it.

### HOW DID YOU GET INTO CURATING?

I studied art and philosophy at Stellenbosch University and then furthered my studies in Hamburg, Germany. I believe visual art is the oldest form of communication. Curating is creating conversation by placing works in a chosen context. To me this is an extension of my subject.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

I love art and finding beautiful and exciting new artworks is a privilege.