

Philadelphia

(THE ART ISSUE)

# Home

## Get Inspired!

101 Easy Ways to Decorate Your House With Art: Local Experts Show You How



Plus

Design Finds From Bucks County to the Main Line

Makeover Double Feature: Kitchen and Bath Redos

A Chestnut Hill Architect's Dream Project



## editor's note

After spending a few years exploring lovely homes in this job, I've come up with a short list of favorite decor do's and don'ts. The first rule: Same as in fashion, less is more. The second: If everybody else has it, don't get it. (Next year, it'll be so last year.) Third: Art is essential.

I can't tell you how many marvelous spaces I've scouted—historic addresses, pristine architecture, note-perfect furnishings—where everything is in place ... except on the walls. Paintings, it seems, are always the last to arrive.

I understand homeowners' hesitation. I get it. (Really, I do. See page 28.) Just the prospect of building an art collection seems esoteric and expensive. Having to display that collection? Downright daunting.

After all, the art you love reveals who you are, who you imagine yourself to be. To show art in your home is to bare your soul to the world—or at least to your houseguests. Sure, furniture, accessories, finishes and architecture make statements about their owners, too. But, somehow, a casual sketch hanging above the breakfast table, a surrealist photograph over the mantle, even a traditional oil in a library will always make more of a statement than the table or the fireplace or the library itself.

Which is why I have so much respect for the homes and homeowners in our issue. These clever folks, from up-and-coming Bella Vista illustrators Gina Triplett and Matt Curtius (page 62) to lifelong Melrose Park collectors Mae and Herbert Kurtz (page 54), from a chic and talented Main Line family (page 46) to a landscape designer and a folk-art aficionado in Bucks County (page 36),

have managed to *infuse* artwork into their homes. Far from afterthoughts or mere adornments, their collections fit right into their surroundings, neither overwhelming nor receding, not quite blending—more like enhancing.

To find out how they do this, read on.

Oh, and here's one more rule: Everything really looks better after an absinthe martini. Just ask Eileen Tognini, who throws the best art salon in town (see page 70).

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At Eileen's salons, works of art become catalysts for conversation. Here, her daughter Isabella (right) and Dawn Episcopo chat in front of *Allogarny*, a ceramic installation by Philadelphia artist Brooke Hine.



photography by trevor dixon

artists

styling by barbara botting

in

residence

Curator Eileen Tognini transforms her townhouse for a salon gathering of art, artists and aficionados, "In situ: 628"

text by lauren mccutcheon

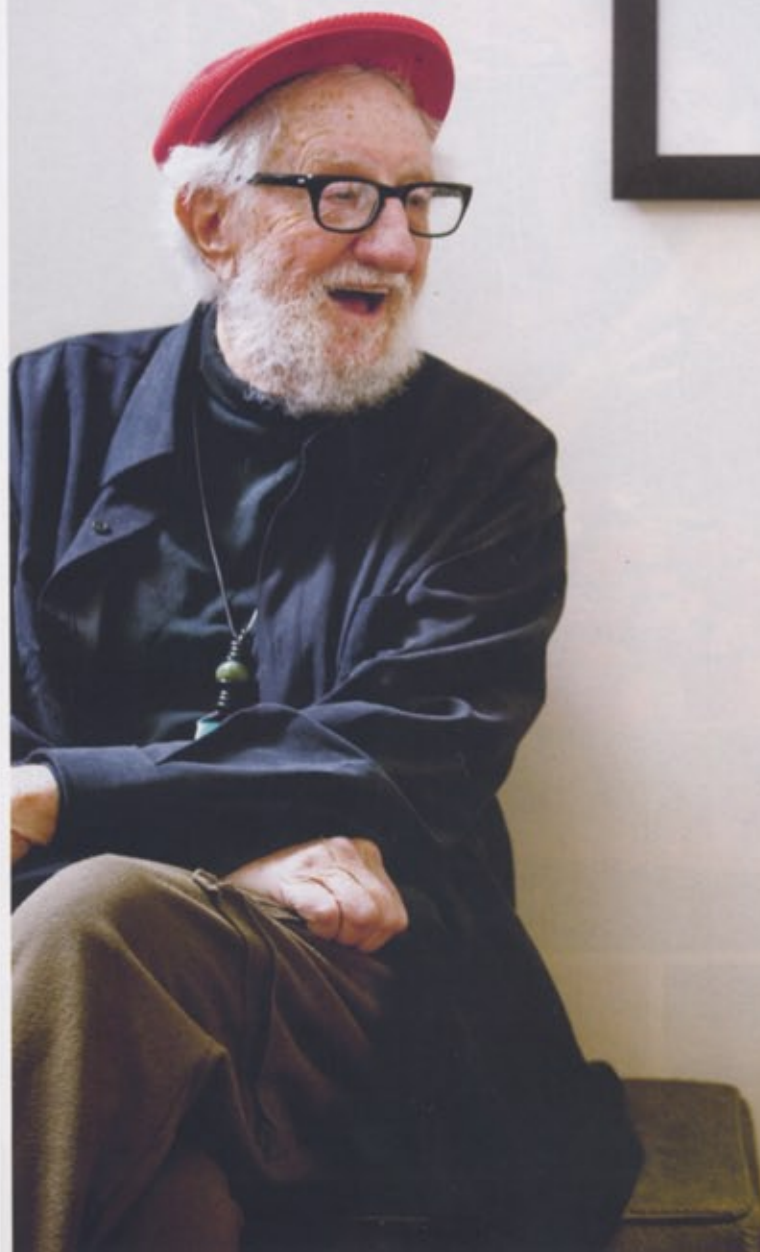
recipes by global dish caterers



When Eileen Tognini has a party, she does more than host: She curates. Ten years ago, Eileen started inviting emerging and recognized artists from Philadelphia and beyond to show at her family's bucolic country house on Hawk Mountain. She called the indoor-outdoor exhibit "Gallery in the Garden." For artists and collectors, the salon was the toast of the summer. More recently, Eileen has been hosting—curating—her art parties on the first floor of her home, a historic townhouse she shares with her husband Tony and daughter Isabella. Against walls painted for the occasion, site-specific installations and commissions set the mood. "Having the event in my home gives the work a context," says Eileen. "I'm curating a moment, an experience: the food, the people, the visual surroundings. The art creates a backdrop for relationships. It becomes a common bond among strangers who are no longer strangers when they leave." **From October 30th to November 27th, Eileen will present "The Titan and the Fireflies," an exhibit of balloon sculpture by Jason Hackenwerth, at the just-opened Skybox at 2424 Studios. For more information, see page 88.**

Above: *The Price of Doing Business: Yard Sale* resin wall relief by Jedediah Morfit. Opposite: Art dealer, furniture expert, author and sailor Reese Palley beneath Hiroshi Watanabe's *Marina Ema* and Kazusa Ito.

Opposite, from top: Letterpress invitation by Bridget Bullen, Bookbinder, with enclosure of limited edition of 50 prints by Eric McDade. Michael Aram's polished aluminum Skeleton Chair. Eric McDade on a couch upholstered by Michael's Decorators; pillow by Behind Closed Doors. Emil Alzamora's *King* ceramic sculpture in front of Alice Oh's acrylic on canvas, *Biota, Phases of Conception 45.07*. Eileen Tognini wears a resin necklace by Douglas Buccì.



"I try to create art out of the whole entertaining experience," says Eileen. Below: Global Dish's hors d'oeuvres on vintage silver platters mix with organic-feeling tabletop art: ceramic Twig candlesticks and vessel by Joanie Turbek, A Day on the Farm cornhusk and rooster feather shoe by Lenny Wilson, and Ring Them Bells and Majestic, taxidermy by Beth Beverly. Below, from left: Joanie Turbek's Cabbage cup holds vintage shell-handle flatware. Marilyn Arnold Palley and Reese Palley. "Death Car" martinis, with olives on adorned toothpicks by Rebecca Pulver. Smokey Blue Cheese from Rogue Creamery in

Central Point, Oregon. Phil Clark of the Training Station in front of a montage that includes (left) *Knife-Hand*, a chromogenic print by Jenny Lynn, and (right) Paul Cava's *Skin Ferris Letter*, a collage, pigment print and 19th-century letter. Artist C. Pazia Mannella and Eileen; behind Eileen, Julia Stratton's *Hostias*, a bronze sculpture. Vintage shell-handle flatware. Photographer Dominic Episcopo. Hors d'oeuvres by Jen and Mitch Prenskey of Supper Restaurant and Global Dish Caterers. For recipes, see page 78.





In every space, a conversation piece. Above left: Eric McDade created his untitled paper-and-marker mural to fit an entry wall. Above right: For the powder room, C. Pazia Manella built Take-A-Number - 2,955, delicate paper garlands made from hundreds of take-a-number tickets and silk thread. Opposite main: Chocolates from The Painted Truffle. Opposite, from top: Catherine Milloti in a "totem" necklace by Marilyn Arnold Palley; in the background, the Alice Oh painting. Warren Muller made this sculptural chandelier out of vintage trumpets. C. Pazia Manella and Eric McDade in front of an untitled Heiko Blankenstein. Dexter Tognini, a work of art unto himself.

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY DAWN EPISCOPO