



ArtWord Publications

Hanging With Art

**Six Ideas
For
Making Every Room
Extraordinary With Art**

www.janhcroteau.com

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**Art gives every home and office space its soul.
Here are six easy rules to follow to make every room in
your home extraordinary.**



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Make Art The Focal Point Of Your Room

When we built our new kitchen I was concerned that there wouldn't be enough room for our art collection, but then we got the idea to build a hood over our kitchen stove to accommodate a large painting. It became the focal point of the kitchen and makes a big statement the moment you enter.



Go Big

I always wanted to live on a lake, but alas, it's brutally cold in the winter months here in New Hampshire. When I hung this art work I felt like I got my lake-view without the bone-chilling north winds.

Make a statement with big art work. And if possible, give your painting a light all its own. Lights turn a wonderful painting into a fabulous work of art.



Use Shelf Space For Art Work

I have open shelves in my kitchen and the top shelf makes a perfect place for kitchen art. The paintings add a bit of magic to an otherwise utilitarian area. The kitchen is an especially good place to hang still life paintings of food.



I know the paintings at the top of the shelves are above eye level, (which is a big no-no) but they are bright in color and simple enough in composition that they stand out even though they are placed up high.

Hang Large Work On A Small Wall

When you hang a large painting on a small wall it can give the art work greater impact. This painting offers a beautiful example of what I'm talking about. The canvas is 30 x 30 on a wall that is 45 inches across. It looks great above the little tavern table my husband built for us years ago. Very eye catching when you walk into the room.



Hang Art In Every Room

Don't forget your bathrooms. Art looks great over the toilet or near the sink. Just make sure it can take getting a little steamed up. This watercolor painting is scaled just right for the wall.



Hang Art In Groupings

Hanging paintings that go together in an unusual space makes a practical area of your home into a special place to work. These paintings are part of my laundry room and make even folding clothes feel like an art.



A Few more Tips for Hanging Art

Use picture hooks that you get at the hardware store to hang your paintings. Hooks can take more weight than just a single nail. If you have a larger canvas or heavy framed artwork with glass you may need to use two hooks evenly spaced for each artwork. Also, while you're at the hardware store, pick up a little tub of spackle to fill in any holes you leave in the wall when you change your mind. Sheet rock is easy to make it look like new again. Also, keep a little can of paint of the color you have on your walls under your bathroom sink and

then use it to touch up any areas that need it after you change your artwork around.

Remember, when hanging your paintings, a good height is 60 inches from the floor to the middle of the painting. Of course if it's a huge painting then bring it down a little more. A common mistake is hanging art too high on the wall. Art is to be looked at, so keep the paintings down at eye level. Hanging art too high annoys us on a subtle level... we can't quite relax in a room where the art is just out of comfortable viewing range.

When hanging paintings, I use a measuring tape and a pencil with an eraser to get artwork at just the right area on the wall. I also use a small level as it's the best way to get things nice and straight. My level is only 6 inches long and fits nicely in my kitchen drawer.

If you're making a gallery wall, (a wall with a collection of different sized paintings) a good way to plan the work placement is to arrange the paintings on the floor first, make sure you do not leave too much space between paintings. Mess around with the placement until you get it just right. I also start with the bigger art work for a gallery wall and then move out from there.

Peruse Pinterest for ideas. It's fun to see how others hang their art work. Inspiration is everywhere. Remember, it's your space so give it a go, start collecting artwork you love and hang it in every room.

Jan H Croteau has a BA from Norwich University with a concentration in Fine Art. She works with interior designers to bring her own beautiful art into homes and offices in New Hampshire. Her art-work has been exhibited in galleries throughout New England. She runs an art gallery with five other women selling art to collectors in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire. She also runs ArtWord Publications as well as an online art gallery of her own work.

Her work can be purchased at her online gallery at www.janhcroteau.com

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