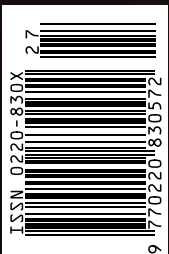


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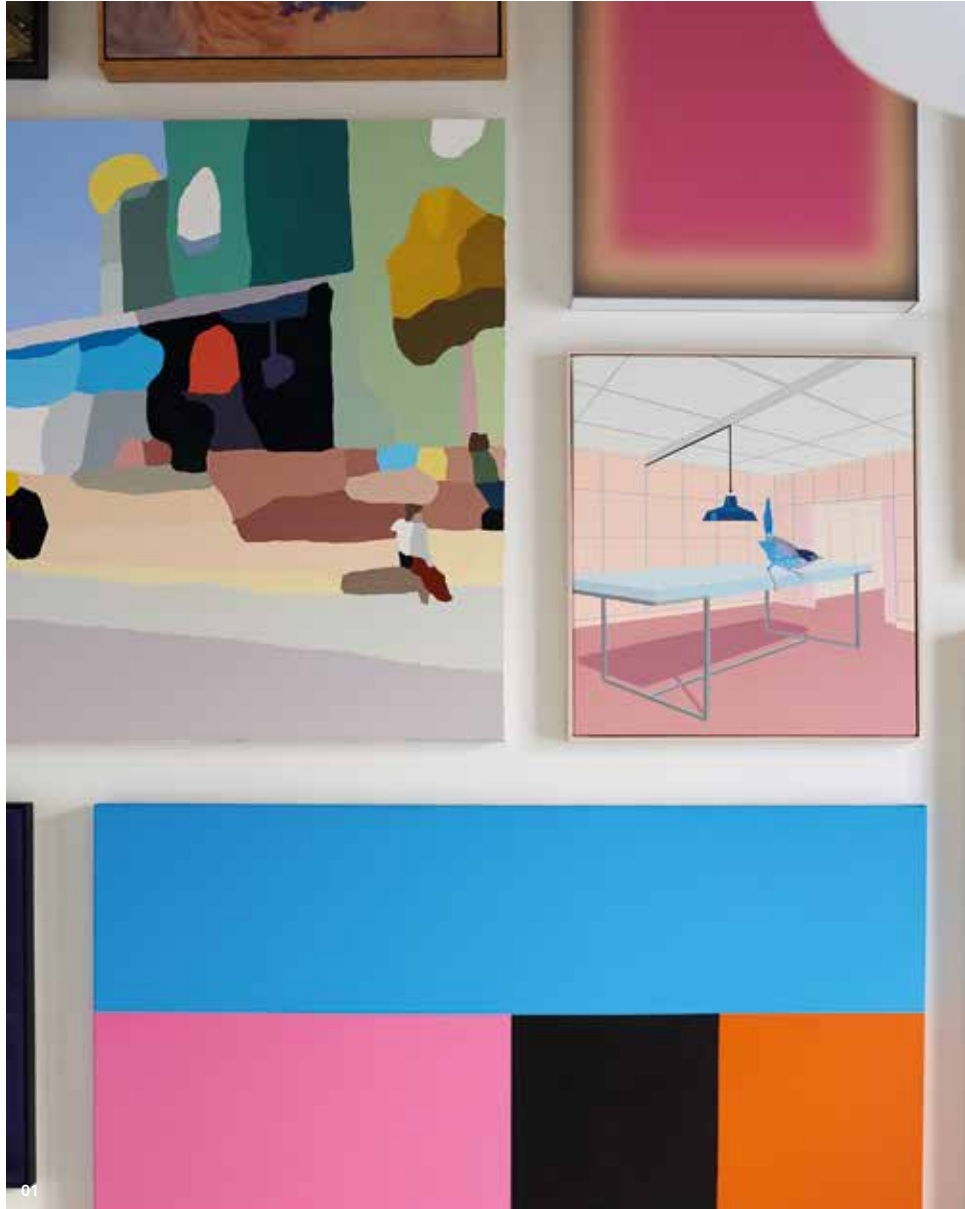
Shareen Joel

VAULT spoke to designer Shareen Joel about how collecting art is intrinsically tied to her family and her instinct for interiors.

WRITTEN *by* WILL COX



Seated: Shareen Joel
Behind: Guy Maestri, *Wollumbin No. 5*, 2018
Photo: Daniel Aulsebrook



Shareen Joel is an interior architect and industrial designer known for her clean lines and natural textures. With her firm Shareen Joel Design, she's worked with brands like Seafolly, Country Road and Witchery, as well as designing interiors for homes. She also runs design website Sharedesign.com. Joel's collection is personal and ever-expanding. Art is everywhere in her Melbourne family home – where she lives with her husband and two children – and the family's Sorrento beach house. An eclectic list of names builds over the course of our chat, including Guy Maestri, Gemma Smith, Robert Owen, Nicholas Harding, Laura Jones and Colin Pennock. When we speak, she's awaiting delivery of her latest purchase, a Tomislav Nikolic in transit from Berlin.



Can you tell me a bit about your ethos as a collector?

Well, I don't call myself a collector at all. I don't do it as an investment. I certainly hope that what I buy isn't worth nothing tomorrow, but I don't do it for that. I just buy what I love, what complements the rest of my home, and my clients' homes.

How did you start out buying art?

It was my 18th birthday. My girlfriends bought me a Mike Green from Realities Gallery. My parents bought me a matching one. That was the first piece I ever owned, that I chose. I've been collecting ever since.

What do you look for in a new piece?

Something that sings to me. Something that has movement and texture. I go towards texture, like impasto painting. It's predominantly abstract. I tend to go for smaller works that I can put together as a little story. I have quite a few like that, alongside a handful of larger works.

You've said, "Art should be forever moving, and never be static." How do you keep things moving?

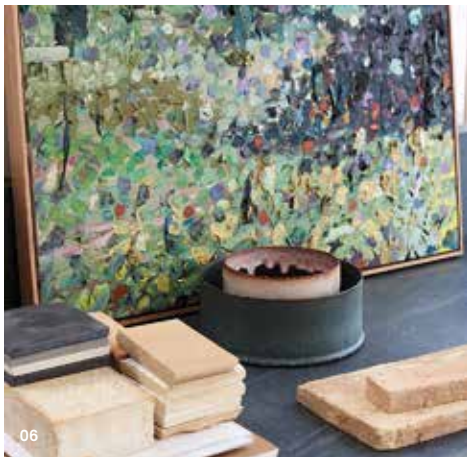
I'm constantly moving furniture and paintings around. People see my work and think I'm a minimalist but they'd be surprised to see my house. I have a lot of stuff, and a lot of classic pieces. It's quite eclectic. For the last 18 years we've lived in an unrenovated house and I've just collected loads of art.

I have one wall that's full of paintings, probably about 20. Across the rest of the house, the walls are nearly bare. In Sorrento, I don't have much on the wall except the Mark Howson. The other pieces I tend to just put them on ledges or on the floor, and move them around all the time, keeping things out of the sun in summer and keeping the room bright in winter. I'm not fussed about having a spot for every piece. If it has to go on the floor, it goes on the floor.

My kids have got paintings in their rooms, too. My daughter, who is 19, is now studying Fine Art at RMIT. She collects – is obsessed with – Mirka Mora. I love that she's done that, developed her own collector's passion. I said to my 18-year-old son, "I'm putting this Clara



05



06



07

- 01 Michael Muir, *Weird Fish*, 2012
Jonny Niesche, *Cosmetic calculator*
(*Picture this pink*), 2016
Claudia Damichi, *Dont look back*, 2008
Robert Owen, *Origami #3*
 - 02 Alesandro Ljubicic, *Tranquilly*
Mist 1, 2017
 - 03 Judith Wills, *Still Life with*
Jug and Lobster
Martine Emdur, *Dash*, 2018
Jane Guthleben, *Blossom*
and Parrot, 2018
 - 04 Dane Lovett, *Untitled 15*, 2017
 - 05 Martine Emdur, *Untitled*, 2017
 - 06 Guy Maestri, *Wollumbin*
No. 5, 2018
 - 07 Tomislav Nikolic, *Your*
Unique Desire, 2018-19
- Photos: Daniel Aulsebrook

Adolphs in your bedroom. Are you okay with that?”
He was fine with it, surprisingly. Now he loves it.

Do you consult on buying art for clients?

Buying art is mostly a personal thing, but on occasion I’ve helped a few clients who have asked me to. In one instance, I was asked to renovate someone’s home, and I just said, “Stop, the house is fine. It doesn’t need another renovation.” You can’t take the house with you. What you need is some art on the walls. I prefer to say, invest your money in something you can have forever. It’s against the grain of every other designer, I think: spend less on your house, and just buy beautiful art.

That’s the thing about art for me. I think about the longevity of it. It’s something handed down from generation to generation. I would never get rid of anything. **V**

shareenjoel.com