

# State of the Art

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While art used to be a room's finishing touch, today a standout painting or sculpture is often its starting point. Whether you're scoring your next great piece at an auction, a gallery (online or otherwise) or through an event like the Affordable Art Fair, here's a look at what styles are taking off and how to display your new finds.



## WILD THINGS

**THE TREND:** A contemporary take on iconic Canadian creatures.  
**IN THIS PIECE:** Photographer Maureen O'Connor's series of wild animals in vacated houses puts a modern spin on Canadian art's preoccupation with the natural world. Here, an eagle owl dominates the airy, light-filled space to beautiful, if somewhat arresting, effect.  
**Photograph,** *The Visitation* (2014) by Maureen O'Connor, 29" sq., Alison Milne Gallery, Art Interiors and the Art Gallery of Ontario.



*"With this series, I'm trying to explore how the natural and domestic worlds meet, and how this informs our identity in a country defined by both its wild landscape and its orderly cities"* — MAUREEN O'CONNOR, ARTIST

Photography courtesy of A + B Kasha (top left)/Simon Upton, The Interior Archive (top right)/Lisa Rose (portrait)



*"I like my photos to be ambiguous and to highlight the question of reality and illusion"*

— VALÉRIE BELIN, ARTIST



### < FACE VALUE

**THE TREND:** Oversized portraiture. **IN THIS ROOM:** Large-scale photos with a pared-back composition feel at once personal and graphic. This photo also has a distinctly futuristic vibe. The subject is a lifelike mannequin, not a real person. **Room design,** Jean-Louis Deniot; **score,** Georges Jouve; **photograph,** Untitled (2003) by Valérie Belin, 61" x 49", Edwynn Houk Gallery.

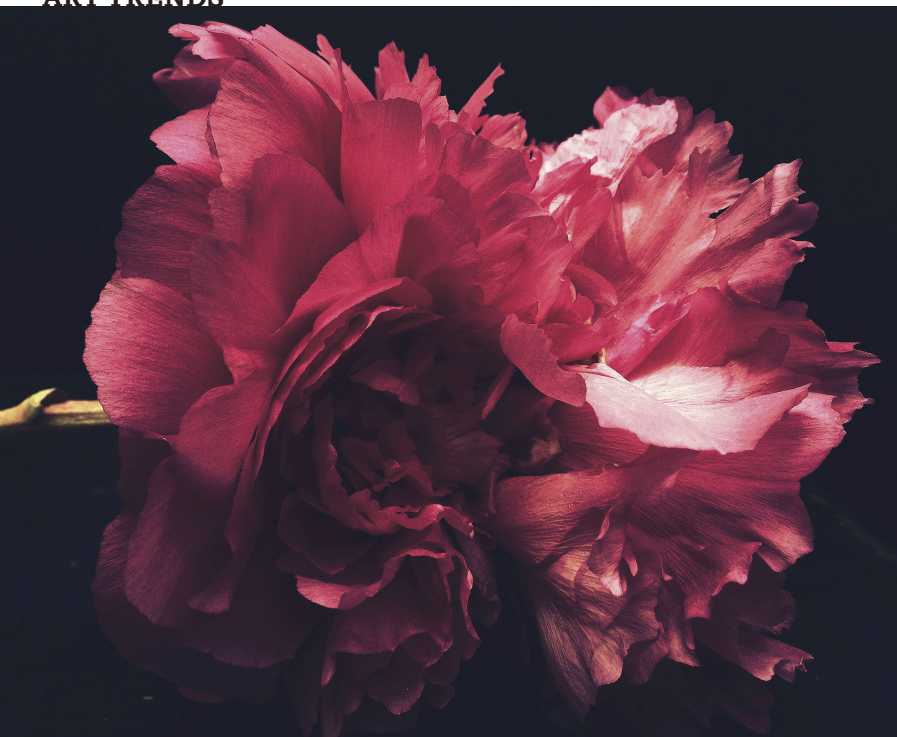
### ^ GRAPHIC CONTENT

**THE TREND:** Textured abstract paintings. **IN THIS ROOM:** With abstract art increasingly incorporating computer-generation, an oversized, blue-on-blue painting feels fresh. In this otherwise restrained Parisian dining room, the combination of hue and texture creates a sense of serenity and calm. **Room design,** A + B Kasha; **artwork,** Blue Mood (1996) by Alon and Betsy Kasha, 47" sq., private collection.

### > VIEW FROM ABOVE

**THE TREND:** Aerial photography. **IN THIS PIECE:** This style is having something of a moment — thanks in part to the increased accessibility of drones — and it makes for a surprisingly layered image. This shot of brightly coloured boats by photographer Gray Malin feels almost abstract in its take on colour and pattern. **Photograph,** Lake Michigan Sailboats (2013), 24" x 36", Gray Malin.





*"I was always drawn to the drama of the Dutch masters while studying art history. The black backdrops for my flowers stir emotion"*

— ASHLEY WOODSON BAILEY, ARTIST

#### < THE DARK SIDE

**THE TREND:** Floral still lifes in moody hues.

**IN THIS PIECE:** Texas-based artist Ashley Woodson Bailey's photographs have a painterly, almost baroque feel that lends weight and substance to a subject that's usually more pretty than profound. They recall classic still life paintings, but with an intensity of focus and scale. **Photograph**, Pink (2014) by Ashley Woodson Bailey, 40" x 60", Citizen Atelier.

## HANG TIME: Two fresh ways to display feature art.

### 1. Low Profile

Framed photographs hover low on the wall in this masculine living room; this trick creates an intimate experience with the art. Hanging art over mouldings and wallpaper is another contemporary move. **Room design**, Robert Stilin.



### 2. Left of Centre

We'll always have a soft spot for grid-like gallery walls, but an asymmetrical approach feels very now. In this New York apartment, one large piece dominates, accented by smaller pieces grouped to either side. A similar palette and matching frames keep the look cohesive. **Room design**, Daniel Romualdez; **chairs**, Poul Kjærholm; **sculptures** (on coffee table), Pae White.

