

GARAGE SALES

Saving Vintage Art

We've all seen the stories of the person who finds a random Jackson Pollock for \$5 at a garage sale. Or an original copy of the Declaration of Independence. But we all know that's not likely.

What's much more likely is finding a vintage piece of art that's not quite antique and certainly not valuable, but still worth saving.

VINTAGE DESIGN STYLES

Some vintage design styles you may run across at yard sales include Bauhaus, art deco, the much-vaunted mid-century modern, pop art, Memphis style and grunge.

Bauhaus' roots go back to early 1900s Germany when Walter Gropius opened The Bauhaus School. It's a streamlined, minimal, modern design that gets back to basics. Look for Bauhaus-inspired posters and signs, as well as album covers and other frameable pieces.

Art deco design was everywhere in the 1920s and 1930s, and the opulent lifestyles that were chic at that time are



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reflected in the often gold-leafed designs of the era. Look for intricate geometric designs that tend toward the busy and luxe. Look for jewelry pieces as well as dresses, hats, hand-

bags and other accessories.

Mid-century modern is what we typically think of when we think of 1950s and 1960s design. Look for sleek lines, earthy tones and a futuristic,

almost spacey vibe. Garage sales can offer up artwork but also plenty of mid-mod furniture that may just need a little TLC to freshen it up.

Pop art was popularized by

Andy Warhol and Roy Liechtenstein. Popular pop art pieces look like comic strips, with dogs and heavy black lines paired with a sleek, minimal font if there is one. You might find framed art, books and album covers devoted to the period.

Memphis style is the bold look of the 1980s with plenty of pastel and neon. You can find it on vintage tees and other clothing, furniture and sculptures.

The fact that grunge is on this list of vintage art is going to hurt many a Gen X artist, but it's true. The 1990s were, in fact, 30 years ago. True to its roots, grunge design goes against the grain. It's rough, textured and, just like the generation that embraced it, maybe a little angsty. You can find examples of grunge style in clothing, album covers and wall art aplenty.

TIPS FOR DECORATING WITH VINTAGE ART

All of these design styles are beautiful, but resist the urge to mix-and-match. Pick your favorite era and stick to that. Also use a color palette common to that era. Even if they don't know the name and history, people still recognize art deco or grunge as part of a specific moment in time with its own look and feel.

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SELLER'S TIP

Have Original Art Evaluated

Before selling any artwork that is original, part of a series or that you even think may be valuable, have it evaluated by a professional to make sure you aren't the unlucky seller peddling a piece of valuable art for \$5. You can find appraisers and art experts through professional organizations such as the Appraisers Association of America, the American Society of Appraisers, the Art Dealers Association of America or the Appraisal Foundation. It will cost you some money, but it's worth it if it turns out you've got something valuable on your hands.

AD SPACE