

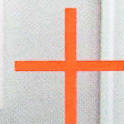
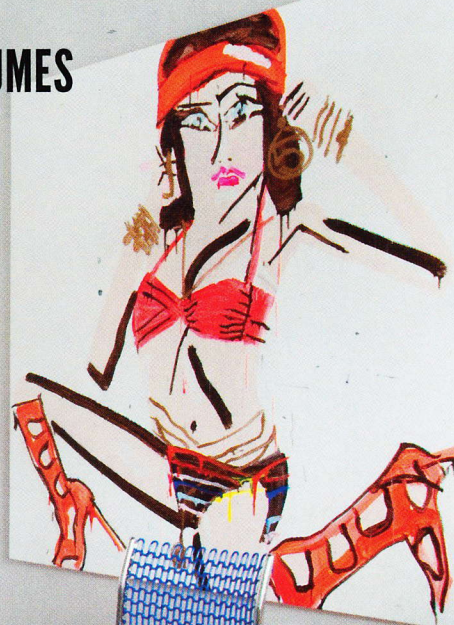
➔ 2014 READERS' SURVEY RESULTS

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CONVERSATION PIECES

TED ELMORE'S FAN HOME INSPIRES DISCUSSIONS
ON ART, CULTURE AND BEAUTY

By Jessica Ronky Haddad | Photos by Todd Wright | Styled by Courtney Crane Dauer





←
This work by internationally known conceptual artist Mel Bochner features handmade paper and vivid colors.

TED ELMORE'S FRIENDS TEASE HIM about how his house looks like an art gallery, and they're not too far off the mark. Filled to the brim with contemporary and modern art by local and internationally known artists, and furnished with an exceptional collection of vintage Midcentury Modern furniture, Elmore's Fan District home is devoid of the clutter of daily living. But unlike an art gallery, where it is OK to look, but not touch, Elmore invites visitors to linger, to converse about and to engage with his art. →

FOYER
Ted Elmore has filled his Victorian-era Fan District home with an impressive collection of contemporary art and Midcentury furniture. Period architectural elements, such as the leaded-glass front door and crystal chandeliers throughout, are foils to the clean-lined modernity of his collection.





Brooklyn-based pop artist Katherine Bernhardt paints women based on advertisements from fashion magazines.



SITTING ROOM

(left) Two vintage Barcelona chairs by Knoll provide a comfortable perch from which to admire the artwork on display in Elmore's sitting room. (above) The home's open floor plan and abundant natural light are perfectly suited to display large-scale art.

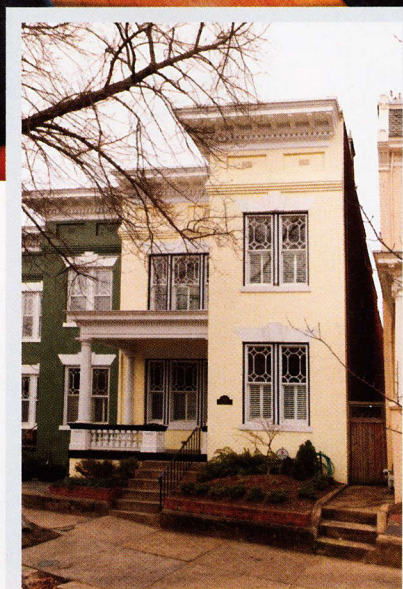
"I WANT PEOPLE TO LOOK AT IT and think about it," he explains as he gives an hour-long tour of his extensive art collection. "I want people to be thoughtful and spend time with each piece. In addition to being beautiful, art sparks a conversation and gets people engaged with important issues. I want to foment that conversation about art and beauty. It is not intended to be just for me."

Elmore loves to share his home with friends and with organizations he is passionate about. Since moving into the house in March 2013, he has opened his house to a Modern Richmond Tour and parties for Virginia Commonwealth University's Institute of Contemporary Art and the Richmond BridgePark Foundation. Elmore is currently on leave from law



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firm Hunton & Williams, where he is a partner, to serve as president of the foundation. The group is working to build a public park on a railroad bridge spanning the James River in downtown Richmond.

Elmore says he has always had an interest in art. He began collecting after getting to know local artists such as Chris Milk and Ed Trask. "I am interested in supporting friends and the community," he says. "That was what drove me in the beginning."

After moving into his home from a West Avenue rental, he finally had the space to begin acquiring a serious collection of art and furniture. The home, with its large, high-ceiling rooms that flow into each other seamlessly and its abundant natural light, "was like a blank canvas to display art," he says.

DINING ROOM

In the dining room, a traditional crystal chandelier hangs above a rare Herman Miller X-leg table by George Nelson and white fiberglass chairs by Harry Bertoia. The painting above the mantel is by the street artist known as HENSE.

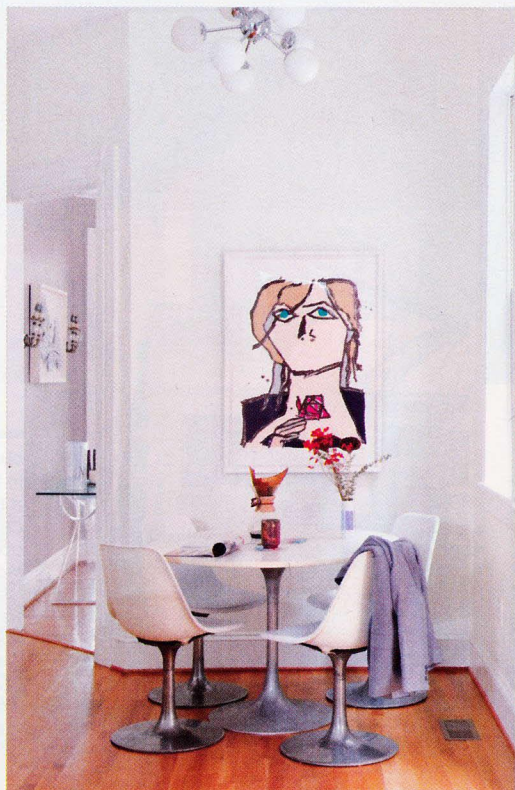


KITCHEN

Elmore added a wine refrigerator and marble backsplash to the kitchen but otherwise left it as the previous owners had remodeled it.

EATING AREA

A Katherine Bernhardt painting of Kate Moss hangs above a Krueger tulip table in the kitchen's eat-in area.



Elmore's real-estate agent Kelly Blanchard helped him choose soothing paint colors to showcase his art. The trim is painted crisp white throughout, and accents such as the black ceiling in the front sitting room add contrast and drama.

Though the home, built in 1905, is influenced by Victorian design, Elmore knew he wanted it to have a contemporary vibe. "It was a little bit of a challenge," he says. "It was great that the people who helped me recognized I wanted to have my own aesthetic." He did not work with an interior designer. Instead, he looked to Reynolds Gallery's Bev Reynolds and friend Micheal Sparks of Micheal Sparks Design to guide his art and furniture choices.

"I really wanted to do it locally," he says, "to leverage

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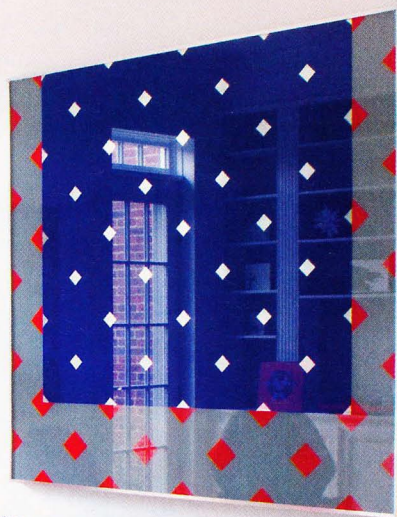
TED ELMORE



LANDING

Even the stairwell is filled with art. An ethereal sculpture by well-known artist Alyson Schotz hangs near a circular painting by Ryan McGinnis, who has an exhibition on display at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts through Oct. 19.

VCU art professor Richard Roth created this painting on glass in the 1970s.



LIVING ROOM

A vintage patchwork rug from Nomadic Trading Co. provides an earthy foundation for a fabulous collection of Midcentury pieces in the living room, including a Saarinen tulip coffee table and gray sofa and a chair by Adrian Pearsall.

the talent and resources I could find around here. Bev Reynolds was instrumental in helping with the art. She has helped me to identify artists that fit my eye." Sparks, along with Metro Modern and Bart Schultz of Killer Junk Studios, helped him furnish the house with vintage wares by a *Who's Who* of Midcentury designers.

Milo Baughman, George Nelson, Eero Saarinen, Adrian Pearsall and Eames are all well represented. The few pieces of furniture that are not vintage are Midcentury reproductions or artist-created pieces, such as a table made from reclaimed pecan wood and railroad spikes by local sculptor Christina Stratman.

"Like the art, I set out to obtain furniture that not only fits my style but that is genuine, significant, meaningful to design history, and highly collectible,"



BATHROOM

Elmore's sleek, light-filled bathroom was remodeled by the home's previous owners. An artwork by HENSE is one of Elmore's favorite works in his collection.

This print is by well-known street artist Shepard Fairey and was purchased at a 1708 Gallery art auction.



DESK

A signed Michael Aram skeleton chair and a chrome-and-rosewood table by Milo Baughman provide a work area in the upstairs sitting room.

STUDY

Elmore relaxes on a leather sofa by Ilum Wikkelsø. The large artwork is by South African artist Siemon Allen, who is currently a visiting professor in the Department of Sculpture + Extended Media at VCU.



"I HAVE NEVER BOUGHT A PIECE JUST TO FILL A WALL."

TED ELMORE

he says. "Michael especially helped find things that were unique to my style — we worked together a lot."

Likewise, Elmore's art collection comprises works by well-known artists such as Andy Warhol, Tom Wesselmann and Sally Mann alongside those from a large contingent of current and past VCU art professors such as Richard Carlyon, Richard Roth, Matt King and Ron Johnson. He also collects art by well-known street artists like Shepard Fairey, HENSE, Mickael Broth, Gaia and Hamilton Glass.

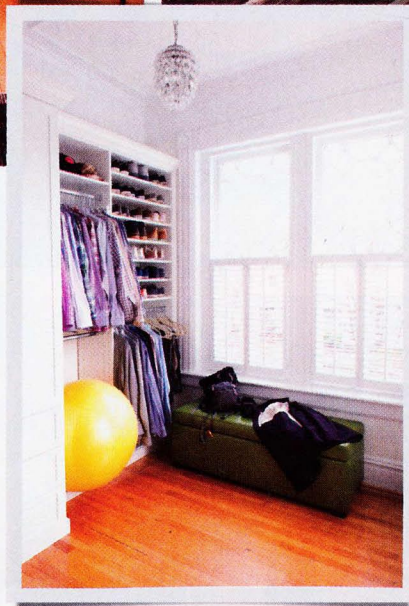
"I have never bought a piece just to fill a wall," he says, "and I have actually ended up filling more walls than I intended to. They are all pieces I have fallen in love with that have said something important to me

GALLERY WALL

A collection of small works and photos from a trip to Africa hang in Elmore's office above two seafoam green Eames fiberglass shell chairs and a rare table by Lewis Butler.

OFFICE

Elmore works on proposed plans for Richmond Bridge Park, which backers say will be similar to the High Line in Manhattan. A Sally Mann landscape photo hangs above the fireplace.



CLOSET

Elmore has come to hate clutter after living in a house filled with clean-lined furniture and modern art. His solution is to keep his personal items hidden in perfectly organized closets.

about culture, art and beauty.”

One common household item that is notably absent from Elmore's home is a television. Instead, he had the entire house wired with a state-of-the-art sound system installed by Productive AV.

Bang & Olufsen's sculptural A9 speakers make both an artistic and aural statement. "Music just fills the whole house," he says. "To have that as an element of my surroundings is important to me and part of the beauty I try to embrace here."

Rather than veg out in front of a TV (which Elmore admits he does miss during the Masters golf tournament and important football games), he instead revels in his surroundings, looking to his art for inspiration. "It is fun to come home at night and engage with different pieces on different days," he says. "With a lot of what I am doing right now in the community, I need that inspiration and creative push." ❖