

Wedwick, Cathleen, "How to Start Collecting Art," O, July 2009.

How to Start Collecting Art

By Cathleen Medwick

A longtime collector, advocate for the arts, and patron of young talent, Peggy Cooper Cafritz offers these tips for developing your own eye for art:

1. "Trust your gut—buy artists who really grab you."
2. Search for affordable pieces at art graduate school and high school exhibitions.
3. Look for great inexpensive photos to purchase from newspaper or magazine archives.
4. Buy an artist early. "It gives you a career to follow." One young artist topping her list is William Villalongo (WilliamVillalongo.com). "So many stories, which include mythical and military images, come out of his work," Cafritz says. Another favorite, Frohawk Two Feathers (TaylorDecordoba.com), creates watercolor and crayon portraits with historical themes. "They both have a tremendously layered aesthetic. They're students of history and archaeology. They're just amazing."

Take a Tour of Peggy Cooper Cafritz's Home

By Cathleen Medwick

O goes inside the art collector's [amazing Washington D.C. house](#).

Expect the Unexpected

A traditional seating area is sparked by visionary images: William Villalongo's *It Was a Hell of a Fight Now It's Time for a Show and Tell* (left) and Ruud van Empel's *World #6*. Guarding the stairwell, with its dramatic fall of hair—Nadine Robinson's *Me 6*—is Nick Cave's *Sound Suit*, made of fabric.

Photos: Sang An

