

Goethe said, "A person should see ... a fine picture every day in order that worldly cares may not obliterate the sense of the beautiful which God has implanted in the human soul."

This sentiment expressed so articulately has been a stimulus in our building a collection of paintings, drawings, sculptures, glass and clay, which we feel enriching our lives daily.

From the teen years onward, fostered by visits to museums and galleries here and abroad, the foundation was prepared for the eventual formation of a collection, each piece with a story associated.

We have been guided along the way by artists, gallery owners, museum directors, curators, and volumes of books and monographs – each adding a different perspective on our appreciation of things collected.

Our interests are protean but our collection over the past twenty-five years has tended to fall into three categories: North Carolina art, Bay Area work principally from the '40's to the '60's, and the Color Field movement. We have been fortunate enough to meet many of the artists in our collection, which adds a great dimension.

We have come to love many of the pieces in our collection – they almost seem like family members rather than inanimate objects. Having lived with them day to day, we always like the idea of sharing them with others and welcome any opportunity to make them available for enjoyment and education.

Our first major art purchase was of a 1930's landscape and figurative work by eastern North Carolina native, Francis Speight, who taught for many years at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and who started the studio art department at UNC-Chapel Hill. He frequently served as a juror with Thomas Hart Benton. We next collected a small Benton oil painting, which pushed us to a whole different level and widened our scope. From there, it has been a very enjoyable and educational experience to assimilate our pieces.

We particularly like the five pieces we are loaning for this exhibition. We never grow tired of gazing at the impressive, elegant, colorful abstraction *Denominator* by Helen Frankenthaler. It is one of the largest pieces in our collection and the focal piece of our Tall Room at home. The smaller, whimsical *Jump Rope*, signed "Independently Yours," and created around a July 4th holiday, is lyrical and energetic. The Noland, *Mark*, is magnificently precise and textural – a variation of his seminal '60's works. The Caro is very powerful for a table piece and the assemblage of cast bronzes is harmonious and balanced. The Anderson piece, one of our favorites, is sleek, sensual, and magical – exciting from any viewing angle. The impeccably smooth surface is perfect.

Collecting works created from the imagination, creativity, and genius of various artists has been a great part of our lives and has continued with our grown children as well. It is very gratifying to realize that they are building their own collections in their early adulthood having valued growing up surrounded by original works of art.

Ken Chance Aug 7, 2007