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IN THE DETAIL

## A fine art

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Superyachts are works of art in their own right, but the perfect piece of artwork can be the crucial finishing touch to a yacht's interior. It would be unusual to find a yacht without at least one piece of art on board and many carry entire collections, some worth millions of dollars. Working with owners to select and place art on board their yacht can be a key part of the design process, with the choice of art often influenced by the heart.

**THIS PAGE** Bespoke nautically-inspired abstract paintings on board the 30m (98'5) Moonen *Bijoux* **NEXT PAGE** The art on board the 50m (164') *Resilience* complements her contemporary interior

Not every owner will invest time in personally selecting artwork for their yacht, instead trusting the decisions on artwork to their design team. But when art is to be an important part of the yacht's overall design, owners or their designers will often turn to art experts to help them manage the process and choose the perfect piece(s) of art. The path the art selection process takes will usually vary from case to case. Some owners will come in to the process with a piece that they want to drive the whole style of the interior, whereas at other times the challenge is finding a piece of art, whether a commission or an existing piece, that both appeals to the owner and complements the décor.

“When selecting a work of art one should always allow the collector's heart to command, then, if possible, you help the collector to acquire the best example of the selected artist's work,” says Carla Holgate of Gladwell & Paterson Fine Art gallery, which specialises in placing art on yachts. “There are clients whose collections can also be curated based on an overarching strategy that will maximise the value, quality, coherence and significance of the art – as well as the enjoyment of the client. Whether the motivation is passion, investment, or both, the most important thing is to understand the client's taste and passions so a great job can be done with no fear of failing their expectations.”

Having a range of options to present to an owner can often mean the best end result. “An owner might have something specific in mind that they want for the space, but even if that is the case we usually view the space and also suggest other pieces we feel might work,” says David Allott, Director at Peter Hill Fine Art, which supplies and undertakes commissions by British fine artist Peter Hill for a wide range of clients including yacht owners. “As well as allowing the artist to get a feel for the space and the sizing constraints of any pieces, this approach has a double benefit in that our suggestion might be perfect for the space or help the client decide what they might want from a custom commission.”

A recent commission for Peter Hill Fine Art was for the owner of 30m Moonen *Bijoux*, with Hill creating two bespoke nautically-inspired abstract pieces for the yacht. As was the case for *Bijoux*, arranging something extremely personal to the owner and yacht is always the goal for the Peter Hill team. “Often when we do commissions, people are quite moved by the whole experience of creating something especially for them,” says Allott. Peter Hill is very approachable and he loves the challenge of creating something special to suit a space; everything is done with the client in mind.”

Experts also play a role in helping to guide owners on what might suit the yacht from the perspective of practicality – some pieces simply aren't suitable for being placed on a yacht. While well suited to carrying art on board, yachts can often present more of a challenge than a traditional location such as a private residence or gallery. “It might seem like you have an open brief when selecting pieces for a yacht, but actually you haven't because your choice has got to fit in with everything else on the yacht,” says Allott. In addition to design and space constraints an added consideration is also the environment on board the yacht, with experts suggesting a piece that will do well in the desired location or ensuring the art is hung or placed in a way that ensures it is not damaged. This is particularly important when dealing with the more valuable end of the spectrum, where insurance clauses will require that the art is properly placed and maintained.

When all of this hard work comes together, the result is an interior with art that perfectly suits, complements and enhances the yacht and that owners can draw immense enjoyment from. “Yachts are ideal places for owners to enjoy their collections wherever they are in the world because it's during that time away in calm waters that one can admire and appreciate the yacht's artistic surroundings,” says Holgate. “Design can bring comfort and luxury but the art within should subtly inspire dreams, provoke imagination and prolong enjoyment while travelling.”

