

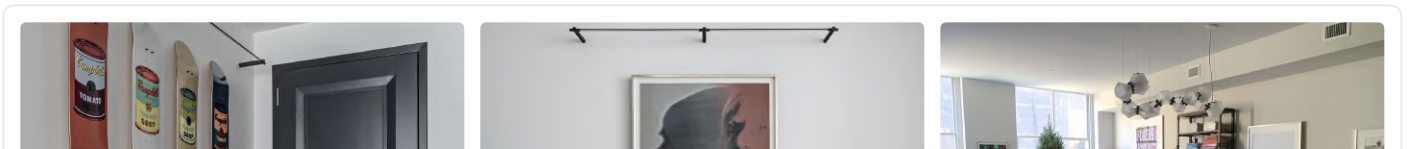
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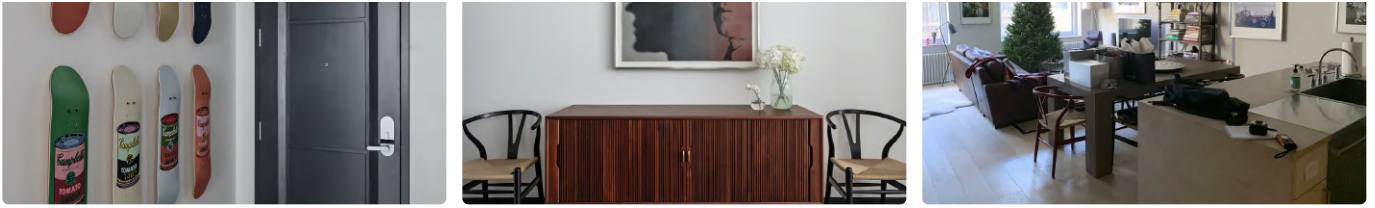
Sharp Edits in a SoHo Loft Spotlight the Owner's Art Collection

Architect Kyle O'Donnell of Gramercy Design finds the perfect place for every piece, from Andy Warhol skate decks to a Mickey Mouse sculpture.

Text by

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"I'm a Warhol-phile," says Marc Fichera, a sales associate with The Stein Team at Sotheby's International Realty in Manhattan. Indeed, a colorful array of skate decks depicting Andy Warhol's iconic Campbell's Soup cans greets visitors in the entry of Marc's home, a 1,000-square foot loft in the SoHo-Cast Iron District. He also has two prints, one photograph, and one Polaroid by the pop artist along with pieces by other LGBTQ+ artists. All figure prominently in the unit he shares with Dustin Zuber, a stylist at luxury e-commerce site The Editorialist.



In the entry of Marc and Dustin's home, limited-edition skate decks with Andy Warhol's Campbell's Soup cans are a prelude of what's to come in the SoHo loft. Designer Kyle O'Donnell, who will open a by-appointment storefront studio in the West Village this coming spring, swapped the builder-grade door with a door boasting an angled inset design.

Matthew Placek

Photo Categories: hallway, medium hardwood floors

Marc has been collecting art and furniture since he moved to the city after college. After purchasing the loft, Marc decided it was time to hire someone to help him pull it all together. That someone was Kyle O'Donnell, the 32-year-old founder of

Gramercy Design who has been in the biz since he was 14. Marc and O'Donnell connected at a photo shoot of an Upper West Side townhouse owned by their mutual clients, Anne Hathaway and her husband Adam Shulman. Less than a year later, they were collaborating.



Andy Warhol's *The Shadow (FS II.267)* from the artist's Myths series was Marc's gift to himself after closing his first big home sale. It hangs above a vintage teak credenza that O'Donnell added for warmth. "We worked together to find pieces that related to what Marc already had," O'Donnell says. "The furniture is an extension of his artwork."

Matthew Placek

Photo Categories: living room, storage, accent lighting, chair

O'Donnell began by taking inventory of Marc's collection. Before placing anything, he smartened up the blank, beige space by playing up contrast. The wood floors were fine, and the 12-foot ceilings and large windows were assets; he added crown moldings, swapped the doors and the hardware, painted the baseboards and window

trim black, and painted the walls white. "Marc wanted a gallery-like feel," O'Donnell says. "We provided a clean backdrop that would highlight his art."



Before: The living room before the redesign shows the former RH sofa and heavy dining table and chairs.



Linear black picture lights by Juniper showcase the artwork and brighten the whole length of the apartment. "The lights are a nod to a traditional way of highlighting art but feel very modern," O'Donnell says.

Matthew Placek

Photo Categories: dining room, chair, pendant lighting, medium hardwood floors, table

O'Donnell created three zones—living, dining, and kitchen—that function independently but present cohesively. "The challenge is making three separate areas feel like one unified space," he says. Touches of black, including minimalist picture lights that crisply outline the perimeter, unify the open floor plan while like-minded groupings of furniture, lighting, and art offer inviting areas for living, eating, and cooking. "Everything has to talk to each other," O'Donnell says.





The completed gallery wall includes portraits mixed with abstracts. "If I had to identify a theme for my collection, it's LGBTQ+ art," Marc says. Such pieces include works picturing queer subjects and by queer artists.

Photo Categories: kitchen



Artwork with stenciled letters by Christopher Wool inject a graphic dynamism into the living room. "Since they're a pair, it made sense to have them flank the television," O'Donnell says. A custom wall-hung media cabinet with angled doors—echoing the ones used elsewhere in the space—keeps the floor clear. The Noguchi table was one of Marc's first furniture purchases post-college, and the 1950s-era lounge chairs in the style of Maurizio Tempestini were a pandemic purchase from a vintage shop in St. Louis via 1stDibs.

Matthew Placek

Photo Categories: living room, sofa, chair, end tables, coffee tables, media cabinet, shelves, accent lighting, medium hardwood floors

Oversize windows that frame historic, cast-iron facades draw the eye deep into the loft where a De Sede patchwork leather sofa anchors the living area. "The simple form and hand-crafted feel of the sofa speak to the art," the architectural designer says. The vintage piece replaced a beat-up leather sofa from RH that the couple sold a tad too soon. "We built a pillow fort to sit on for three months until [the new couch] was delivered from Switzerland," Dustin laughs. "COVID delays."



Marc fell for the graphic painting by Korean-American artist Jen Pak, who is also a childhood friend, at a pop-up gallery show on the Lower East Side.

Matthew Placek

Photo Categories: living room, accent lighting, sofa, medium hardwood floors

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A Gabriel Scott black steel-and-smoky glass chandelier anchors the dining area. Marc, who had often walked by the lighting designer's showroom, had promised himself he would acquire one of the multifaceted fixtures when he bought his first apartment. O'Donnell lowered it to make the space feel more intimate and so that diners could experience the sculptural shape at a more personal level. He also replaced a too-heavy slab table with a solid but airy Danish extension table and surrounded it with vintage Marcel Breuer Cesca chairs that he deems "not too serious."



Geometric abstracts by Jen Pak complement portraits that include Herb Ritts' *Batman Back* and Terry Richardson's *Batman and Robin*.

Matthew Placek

Photo Categories: dining room, stools, shelves, chair, table, accent lighting, pendant lighting, medium hardwood floors

After identifying the most significant artworks as stand-alones, O'Donnell and Marc arranged the spares on a gallery wall that bridges the dining area and kitchen. Here, portraits by fashion-meets-Hollywood photographers Herb Ritts and Bruce Weber

mingle with Tom Bianchi's Fire Island Pines nudes and an original production cel from *The Little Mermaid*. "I'm an all-around Disney fan," says Marc, who also has a pebbled-leather Mickey Mouse sculpture in the living room from the Disney and Coach collection.



O'Donnell spruced up the kitchen with new cabinet fronts painted black and a glossy, chocolate brown backsplash.

Matthew Placek

Photo Categories: kitchen, refrigerator, range, ceramic tile backsplashes, porcelain tile backsplashes



Front- and back-of-head portraits by Cuban photographer Jose Picayo from the Robin Rice Gallery in the West Village flank the headboard upholstered in Ralph Lauren fabric. "It's inspired by the tall headboards at the Crosby Hotel," Marc says. The walls are painted Benjamin Moore Polo Blue.

Matthew Placek

Photo Categories: bedroom, table lighting, bed, night stands

The trio were all in when it came to painting the bedroom a moody blue, though the couple's friends protested. "When we painted samples next to the bed, everyone that came protested, but we love it," Marc says. The juxtaposition of light and dark is cozy. "It's very relaxing to go from the bright living room into the dark bedroom," Dustin says. The closet situation, however, is not so Zen. "Everything is spilling out; we need to have some restraint," Marc admits.

O'Donnell imagines he will be coming up with a remedy sometime soon. "I'm just waiting for their call," he says.



Before: The old vanity and sconce in the bathroom were replaced.



In the bath, a portrait of English actor Joseph Fiennes by Herb Ritts hangs atop existing Cole & Son "Nuvolette" wallpaper by Piero Fornasetti, and the Gabriel Scott sconce relates to the chandelier in the dining room. O'Donnell added crown molding and designed a new vanity in the same style as the media console and new kitchen cabinet doors.

Matthew Placek

Photo Categories: bath room, engineered quartz counters, drop in sinks



Fichera Residence floor plan

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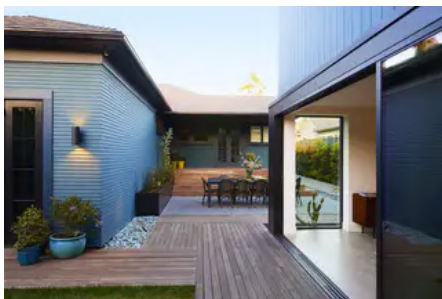
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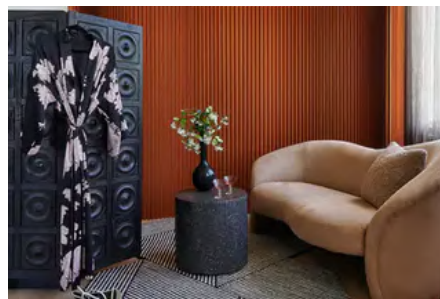
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