

LUXURY

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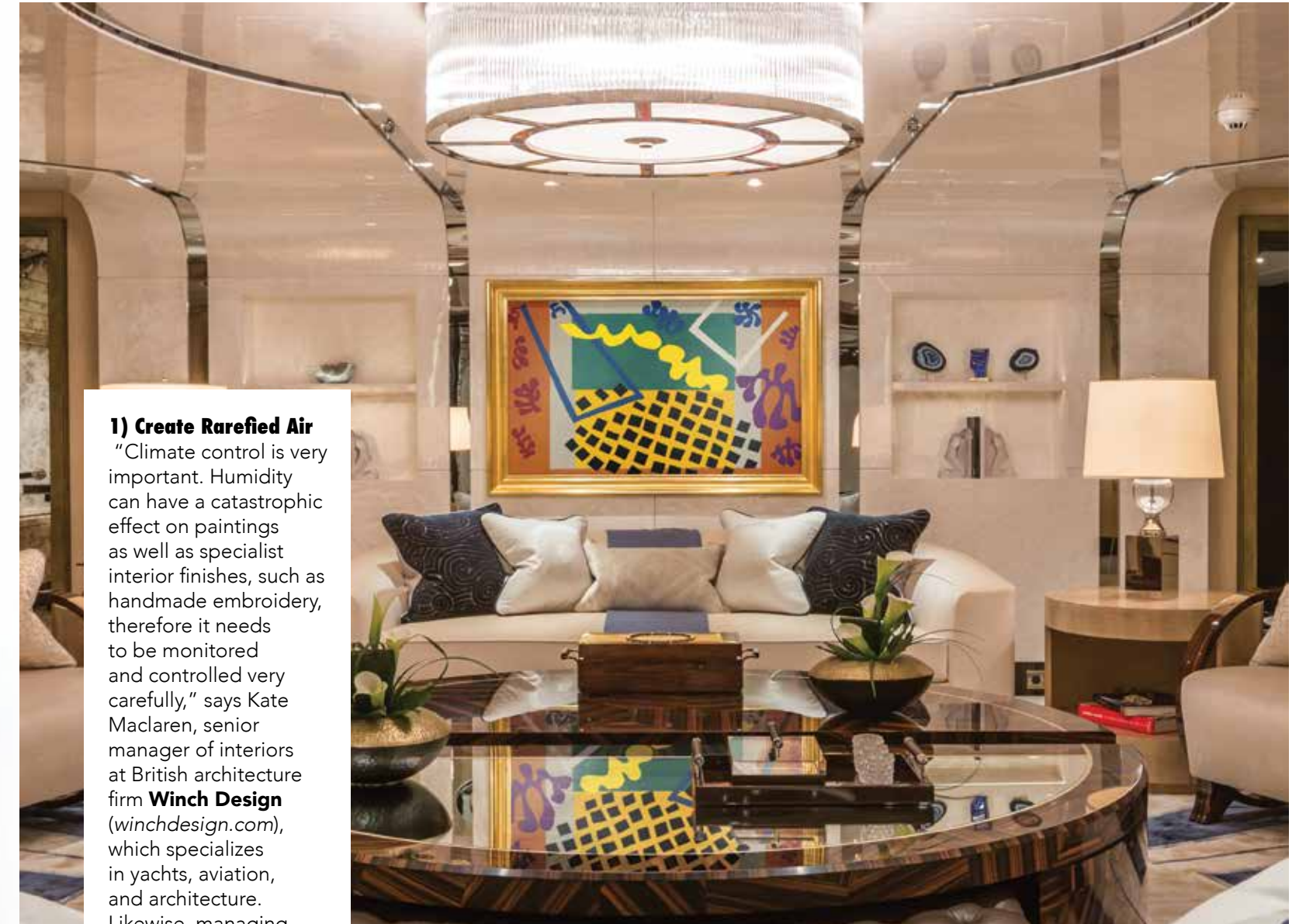
ART ON BOARD



Damaging sun exposure, salt, moisture, and high-seas movement are just a few of the special considerations required when furnishing a yacht with fine art. Even top art professionals consult more specialized design experts and conservators to find suitable pieces and commission custom works. Before weighing anchor, keep these points in mind.

by Molly Winans

Michal Baginski



1) Create Rarefied Air

"Climate control is very important. Humidity can have a catastrophic effect on paintings as well as specialist interior finishes, such as handmade embroidery, therefore it needs to be monitored and controlled very carefully," says Kate Maclaren, senior manager of interiors at British architecture firm **Winch Design** (winchdesign.com), which specializes in yachts, aviation, and architecture. Likewise, managing director of The Forbes Collections Bonnie Kirschstein notes that consistent climate control is especially critical. "Larger boats that travel from one climate to another encounter significant weather changes. The more fluctuation of temperature and humidity in the interior of the yacht, the more change you'll see in the artwork," she says. With precious works on board, yacht designers must integrate air-conditioning and other climate-control systems and art dealers must disclose the fragility of pieces during the selection process.



Works from the Matisse *Cut-Outs* collection (above and opposite) and a commissioned work by Luminaire Arts, a London art consultancy (left).

2) Draw Down the Sunshade

"Boats tend to have an abundance of windows and natural sunlight," says Kirschstein. "And the glare from the water increases the intensity of the sunlight." She recommends framing art with UV-filtered glass or Plexiglas and advises against works on paper, which can be prone to mold.

The potential for damage due to ultra-violet rays depends on the materials used,

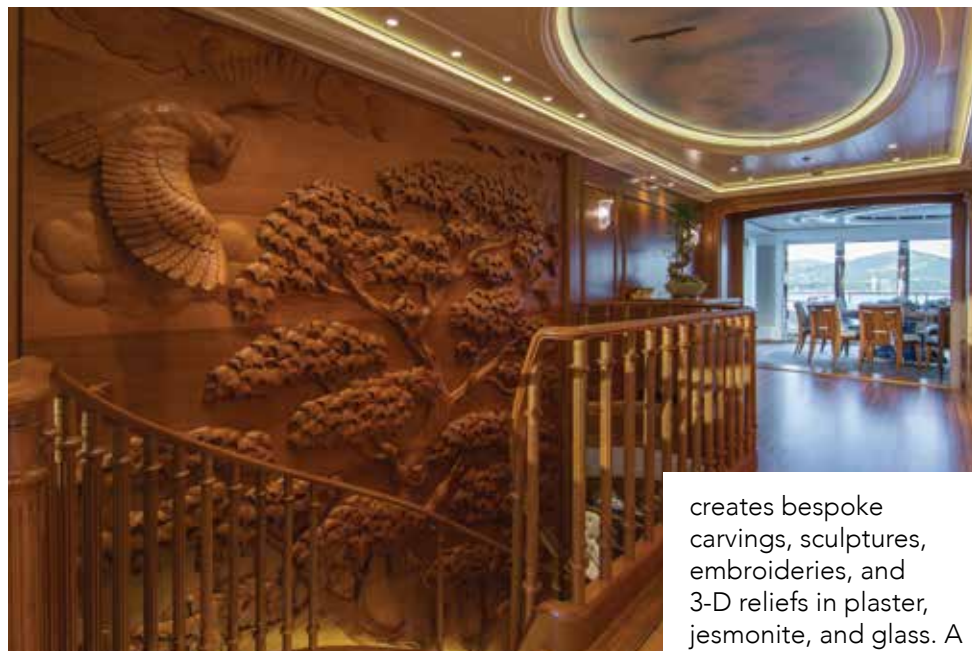
with oil paint and charcoal pencil being very susceptible. Maclaren recommends "hanging artwork away from sunlight or using anti-glare glass." Head Interior Designer Esha Tsai of **Horizon Yacht** (horizonyacht.com) in Taiwan notes that it's important near large windows and portholes to keep shades drawn. "Inside the boat, use LED lights to eliminate the risk of UV irradiation," Tsai says. ▶



3) Keep It Anchored

As anyone who's traveled extensively by yacht will tell you, it's not always smooth sailing. Yachts rock even on calm days, and their engines cause vibrations that can affect artwork. "Install the work with D-rings and security hardware that doesn't allow it to move," Kirschstein says. "L-brackets can also be used on the top and bottom to completely stabilize the piece." Adds Maclaren, "Sea fastening ensures that items such as table lamps are secured firmly in place. We use specialist artwork fixings, which use a key that locks and unlocks fastenings."

Top and Bottom Right: ALBERTO COCCHI; Bottom Left: Michal Baginski



creates bespoke carvings, sculptures, embroideries, and 3-D reliefs in plaster, jesmonite, and glass. A recent project included "a 42-foot-high, hand-carved wall [shown] that spanned the height of four decks. The carving was the brainchild of the yacht's owner, inspired by the giant sequoias of California."

4) Customize

Beyond hanging traditional paintings, yacht owners have plenty of options. Says Maclaren, "Built-in art has always been popular on yachts, one advantage being that this sidesteps the challenges of fastening." Winch Designs regularly



Top: Klaus Jordan; Bottom: Andy Barnham/Masterpiece London

5) Stay on Trend

"An increase in younger clients with young families has led to lighter, brighter décor more suited to sunny environments and contemporary styles," Maclaren says. "But trends still follow the design of the interior, so artwork choices range from contemporary and modern to traditional oils and Old Masters to art deco." At Winch, the team "believes artwork to be as important as the furnishings on a yacht," says Maclaren. "Thus the company's commitment to working with well-known artists, artisans, and craftsmen to create custom installations." Tsai has noticed that "abstract paintings, handcrafted metal wall art, and sculptures have become popular. Lighting has also taken on an artistic focal point for mega-yachts, not only providing a light source but the fixture itself as artwork."

6) Evaluate Your Surroundings

German firm **Tilman Kriesel Art Advisors** (artadvisors.de), which handles all aspects of creative installations aboard yachts, recommends finding qualified advice on the placement of artwork because space is limited aboard yachts. Lighting solutions can be tricky where there is less room to step back and look at a piece. Having enough light is important, yet having too much may alter the colors of a piece of work.

Lighting artwork correctly is just as important as choosing the right piece to display. *Opposite:* Custom installations are a popular trend.



BUYER'S GUIDE

In addition to sourcing pieces from private sales and major auction houses Sotheby's, Christie's, and Phillips, designers and art consultants seek out fine art shows to find the latest high-end artwork for yacht owners.

FINE ART SHOWS

Art Basel

The world's premier modern and contemporary art fairs held annually in Basel, Switzerland in June, Miami Beach in December, and Hong Kong in March. artbasel.com

Frieze Art Fairs

Frieze is a media and events company that hosts several international art fairs throughout the year: Frieze London and Frieze Masters in London in October, Frieze LA in February, and Frieze New York in May. frieze.com

Masterpiece Fair

Billed as the unmissable art fair for new and established collectors to discover the finest works of art, design, furniture, and jewelry from antiquity to the present. Held in London in late June/early July. masterpiecefair.com

PAD Fairs

International galleries from major cities across Europe, North America, and Asia come together to offer a panorama of works of modern art, photography, design, and decorative and tribal arts at these shows: London in October, Paris in April, and Geneva in late January/early February. pad-fairs.com

The European Fine Art Fair (TEFAF)

TEFAF runs three fairs: TEFAF New York Spring, which takes place in May, focuses on modern and contemporary art and design; TEFAF New York Fall, taking place in October, covers fine and decorative art from antiquity to 1920; and TEFAF Maastricht, Netherlands, every March, covers 7,000 years of art history. tefaf.com

Art Consultants and Collection Management

The Association of Professional Art Advisors artadvisors.org ♦