



TIME-TRAVEL AGENTS: Dan and Anna Kahoe mix eclectic antiques in their Mt. Pleasant home and at their shop, Goodwood.

The New Masters

Antiques go chic, thanks to young dealers and hip buyers

Victorian dolls, 19th-century Windsor chairs and maps of America in pre-U.S. days crowd the Washington Antique Show, which brings treasures of a zillion granny's attics to the Omni Shoreham Jan. 5-7 (2500 Calvert St. NW; washingtonantiques.org). While much of the merch there is put-me-in-a-museum stuff (silver that Paul Revere might've made, Chippendale chests), these days, customers and dealers are using furnishings of bygone eras in very 21st-century ways. Think a glittery Baroque chandelier with a sleek Saarinen table, or a weathered trunk used as a coffee table with an IKEA sofa.

"My style is modern, very mid-century," said Matt McHugh, 39, a real estate agent who lives in a Logan Circle condo. "But rather than having a showroom of all new things, I incorporate beat-up stuff with patina. I've got an old Coca-Cola sign and a 19th-century gilt mirror. They give my place personality."



OLD STUFF, NEW IDEAS: At home, the Kahoes use a 19th-century Indian dowry chest, left, as a bar, and a 20th-century metal doctor's cabinet as a jewelry case.

A desire to add warmth, history or beauty to their spaces propels many newbie collectors to bring antique (100 years or older) and vintage (50 to 100 years old) pieces into Crate & Barrel strongholds. "People look for quirky things to keep their homes from looking like catalogs," said Dan Kahoe, 42, who owns antiques store Goodwood

(1428 U St. NW; 202-986-3640) with his wife, Anna.

While many folks may recall a great aunt's parlor of uncomfortable dark-wood sofas, the point now is not to recreate an era, but to blend pieces of the past into contemporary rooms or to assemble an eclectic look by mixing furnishings from diverse periods, say, a curvy

Victorian dresser with a steel Deco bed.

It helps that many older pieces — farm tables, Empire sofas — boast clean lines. "Some antiques, like a pie safe with tin doors, are so simple that they seem modern," said Goodwood's Anna Kahoe, 39, who mingles finds like an oversized metal stork statue and throne-like 19th-century chairs in the Mt. Pleasant house she shares with her husband.

When adding older items to any interior, buy something that speaks to you, whether it's a '40s circus poster or 19th-century porch columns to use as plant stands. Since antiques aren't defined by trends, "even if you change your mind or design philosophy, you'll still love that antique in a few years," said D.C. interior designer Stan Kelly, who uses pieces with pasts in all his jobs.

Keep in mind an object of desire's "mixability," too. "Think how it'll fit in your home. Look at style and scale," said Kim Hessler, owner of Logan Circle Asian antique den Dragonfly (1457 Church St. NW; 202-265-3359). That means "no" to

"People look for things to keep their homes from looking like catalogs."

a mammoth Swedish grandfather clock if you dwell in a tiny studio, but "maybe" to one of Hessler's multifunctional Chinese armoires.

If American antiques seem too Mount Vernon, worldly goods (Indian cabinets, African headrests) add dash and blend harmoniously with modern interiors. "Asian antiques have a chameleon quality," said restaurateur Mark Kuller, 54, who shows off a painted Tibetan chest and a 7-foot-tall Chinese pitchfork in his Bethesda home. The latter often inspires conversation, part of the appeal of antiques.

"People come to your place, and they want to learn something about you," said Anna Kahoe. Buy antiques, and guests will find out more than: "She shops at Restoration Hardware." JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

possession obsession



THE POSSESSION: RODEO-STYLE DAGGER KAYAK

THE OWNER: JOHN COLEMAN, EXECUTIVE CHEF

Go With the Row

John Coleman, executive chef of the Lounge and Steak House at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, keeps his beloved kayak in the back of his Toyota Tundra pickup all summer and into the fall. Whenever he finds a few free moments, he heads for the Potomac, starting near the Old Angler's Inn and traveling toward Great Falls.

"I kayak for the fun of it, the exercise and the peace of mind," he said. His baby is a rodeo-style Dagger, purchased for just under a grand at Potomac Paddlers. The tight style allows for near-flips and 360-degree spins, he explained. (Think freestyle skiing, only in the water.)

While Coleman used to be more of a daredevil, frequenting ice-covered waters, he's "a lot more timid" now that he has three children. With good reason, since his own dad flipped over and lost all his teeth while tackling the water. Still, it's in his blood: Coleman's been boating since he was about 3 or 4 years old. He slept under canoes as a kid and has been known to use a boat as a sled in the snow or even as an umbrella in a downpour. STEPHANIE JONES

event horizon

Make an artist's book, a crafty volume to document, say, dreams, Jan. 6, 10 a.m., National Museum of Women in the Arts. \$20; 1250 New York Ave. NW; nmwa.org