



THE SPECIALISTS: People in this group buy art that fits into specific categories. For example, their collections may consist exclusively of Mexican art from the 1920s, art that depicts hands, Picasso prints, or art that was made in the year they were born. They enjoy the hunt and take pride in the expertise they exhibit in their particular area of interest.

THE VACATIONERS: People in this group buy art from local galleries and artists during trips. Their homes are filled with memories of travels and vacations. Each work of art tells a story about a specific place they visited or person they met.

THE THRILL SEEKERS: People in this group buy when there are frenzies around artists. These people generally buy at gallery shows when most of the work has already sold. They want in on things that are hot and may be difficult to come by. They want artists' work only when others want it.

THE ADDICTS: People in this group buy art because their passion for art and compulsion to collect leave them no other choice. They generally have more art than space to put it in. They go to gallery and museum shows on a regular basis and strive to keep up with what's happening in the art world. Collecting art is a necessity, not just a luxury, in their lives.

I have fallen into each of these collector categories at one time or another. Like the vacationer, I enjoy going to galleries when I travel and have purchased art on trips. Like the decorator, I take pride in the art hanging in my home and have on occasion stood before a work

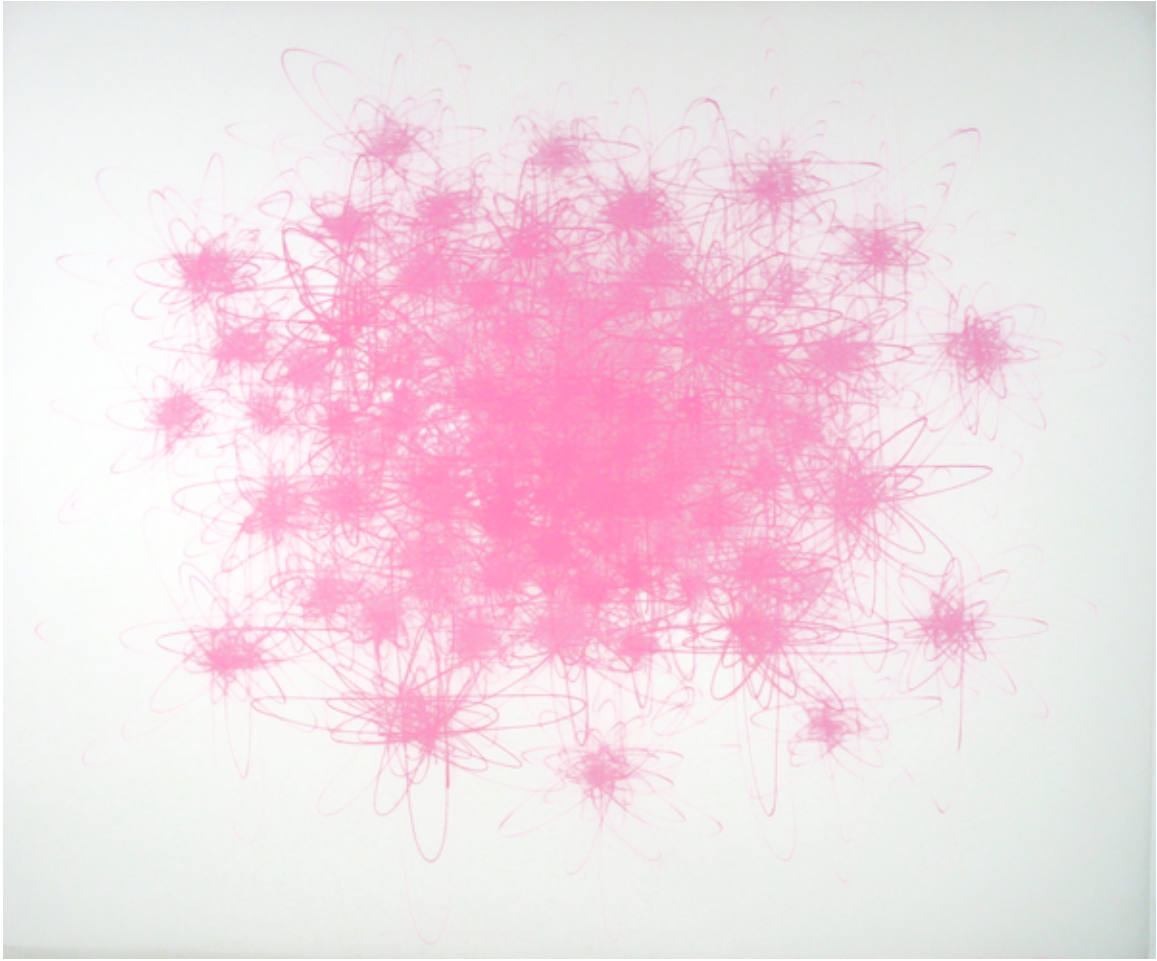
of art and thought, *That would look amazing in my dining room.* Mostly, though, I'm an addict. I collect art because I have to. It is my passion. It is my creative outlet. It brings me intense happiness.

Art collectors can be a combination of a few different types. For instance, I consider one of my friends to be a decorator specialist. She only buys art when she redecorates her home or has empty wall space to fill and only collects black-and-white photography.

Collecting art is as personal as deciding what to wear for the day. Some people are motivated by trends, others by what feels comfortable. Your art collection and how you go about shaping it should reflect your own personality and style. What type of collector are you? What type will you become?

The artist wanted to know what "a million felt like." So she drew 1,000,000 ellipses in this series. Each drawing represents a dent in her mission to reach one million.

Mary Temple, 460,500–462,000, 2002





- **WHEN NOT TO FRAME:**
Framing a painting that is stretched over a wood base is not necessary in most cases. Sometimes when an artist paints over the edge of the canvas, the sides actually become part of the work. Again, ask the gallery or artist if they recommend that you frame the painting or hang it as it is with exposed sides.
- **MOUNTING:** Mounting a photograph is an alternative to framing. When a photograph is particularly large, mounting the work is important to avoid creases, folds, and dings—even if you then frame the work. Mounting means adhering the photo to either an archival museum board, a piece of Sintra (a rigid plastic), or a sheet of metal. Although the photograph can never be separated from the mount, it is protected from dents and bruises. Mounted photos won't wrinkle or buckle because of humidity either.

TOP
Artwork by Paul Plante
and Dirk Westphal

CENTER
Artwork by Adia Millett

BOTTOM
Artwork by Mary Temple