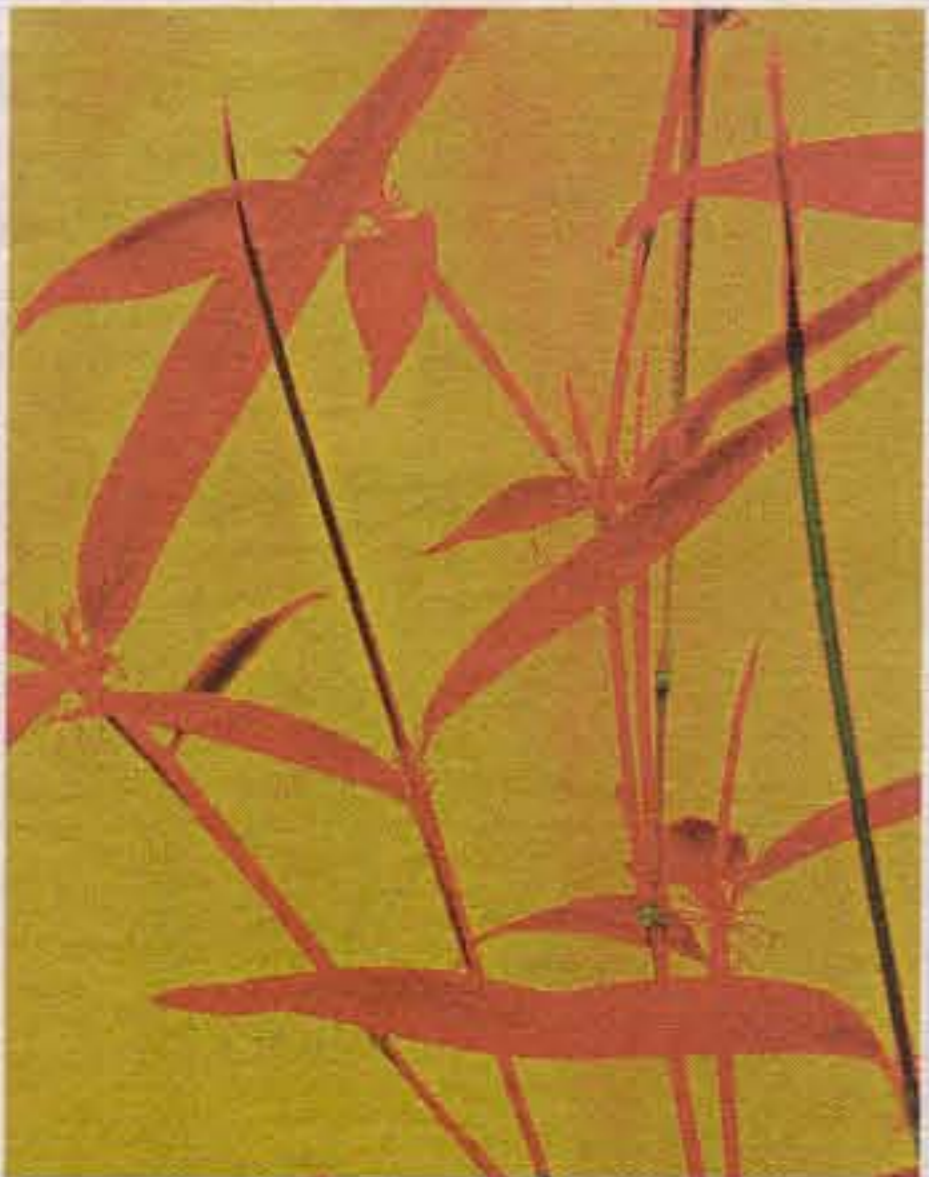


trendalert



ART FOR RENT... NANCY NOONJU NGAPA (© NANCY NOONJU APPEARS COURTESY OF ARTBANK).



AMBER DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPH ON CANVAS, \$165-\$945 (DEPENDING ON SIZE), FROM PAUL.M ART+DESIGN



FIRST LIGHT, A DIGITAL COLLAGE, \$69-149 (FINE ART PAPER), \$95-\$245 (GICLEE CANVAS) FROM LAST METRO.



POPPY TWO-COLOUR WALLPAPER ON CATALAN RED BASE, \$66 PER METRE FROM AFFICIONADOS OF THE NOD.



EXCITE, A LARGE FABRIC PANEL THAT BUFFERS SOUND IN ANY ROOM. \$1100 FROM ACOUSTIC ART.

Art starters

How to score a masterpiece without breaking the bank.

YOU DON'T have to know a lot about art to know what you like. And you don't need a big budget to outfit your home with works by old and contemporary masters. Posters, prints and photographs are the ultimate in affordable art. Originals can be picked up for a fraction of what you'll pay for a painting or sculpture and they're a great way to start your collection.

Paper chase

Posters have come a long way since the patchouli-drenched '60s, but their reputation as cheap and cheerful decoration is holding fast. Revisit classic rock 'n' roll photography and tour posters, psychedelica and political art.

Art Nouveau is back and the trend for vintage travel and advertising posters is strong, with fantastic examples of early commercial art that look every bit as fresh as they did when first produced. You can also pick up works by 21st-century artists honouring the great Pop movement. Perfect for the retro-minimalist hipster in us all.

Fill your home with photography for the price of a sectional sofa. Black-and-white is a classic choice, but colour is big, with bold, saturated digital images featuring

hyper-realistic enlargements of plants and flowers and stunning land and seascapes. You can even choose favourite photos from your own collection to blow up and print on high-grade paper or fabric.

Soft focus

Fabrics and wallpapers are very effective when stretched. That's the look all over the interiors in *Hotel Babylon*, where printed fabrics - hung solo, as multiples and as wall panels - play a major role.

Original vintage fabrics and new limited editions, like Florence Broadhurst's orientals and abstracts, are made for hanging. And contemporary textile artists are also into oversize florals and botanicals that suit a range of installations.

Fabric panels look great and can also improve the acoustics in a room. Acoustic Art is a new company that combines form and function with a range of digital artworks on fabric that are bonded to high-density acoustic foam to reduce extraneous noise.



ABSTRACT FLORENCE BROADHURST LIMITED EDITION, \$690 UNFRAMED, \$1135 FRAMED FROM SIGNATURE PRINTS.



HILLSIDE, A PHOTOGRAPH HAND-SCREEN-PRINTED ONTO COTTON DRILL, \$841 FROM SALU.

DIRECTOR, GRAPHIC ART GALLERY

MARTIN OSSNER

In posters and prints the fashion changes almost every year. Abstract is big now and so is colour. People are also into abstract photography, and nudes are coming in as well, mainly for the bedroom.

There's a big range of prints and posters to choose from and importers and wholesalers provide catalogues to retailers to make it easier to discover the direction and style you're looking for. It depends a lot on the interior of your home, but there is a trend for the hippie images of the 1960s and '70s.

Block-mounting is the most economical way of mounting a poster and it looks good. Next up is foam core, which is light and gives a nice finish. You can also mount prints or photographs behind acrylic. It's more expensive but it's frameless and gives the image a very modern, 3-D effect.

In framing, aluminium is more economical than timber, but it's not as popular as it used to be. Elaborate Baroque-style frames are also out and gold frames have been replaced with minimalist, hard-edged silver.

Only two things go up in price with posters and prints. The collectables, like old movie posters and original vintage travel posters; and original graphic art: etchings, lithographs and screen prints. There's a lot of confusion in the market over limited-edition prints, but they're simply numbered and signed offset prints, copies of original works. Instead of paying \$20 you might pay \$500, just because it's signed and numbered.

Rent it

Still looking? Check out Artbank, an Australian Government initiative set up in 1980 to support and promote Australian artists. Artbank offers a rental and consulting service for paintings, sculpture, drawings, prints, photography, craft, decorative art, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art. Fees range from \$110 to \$5500 per year.

CYNDI TEBBEL

Where to buy ACOUSTIC ART 9310 3438 or www.acousticart.com.au AFFICIONADOS OF THE NOD 9212 7277 ARTBANK 1800 251 651 or www.artbank.gov.au LAST METRO 4842 1458 or www.lastmetro.com.au PAUL.M ART+DESIGN (03) 9484 0780 or www.paulm.com.au SALU ART (08) 9443 3875 or www.saluart.com SIGNATURE PRINTS 8338 8400