

# Ask the Artsperts

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Harmon-Meek Gallery, Naples, FL

## Unusual Places for Art

*Dear Artsperts:*

Just curious, where is the most unusual place you have hung a painting?

*Signed,  
Hung Up*

*Dear Hung Up,*

Collectors of art, like collectors of anything, can find ways to display their passion in just about any place in their home. Probably the vast majority of our installations in clients' homes are over living room couches, dining room credenzas, and beds. Our dad likes to joke that he has been in more beds in Naples than any happily married man in town should be! But we also have had some more creative requests.

Our parents have every wall filled to the extent that guests often remarked that they only have room on the ceiling. So indeed a work of art managed to find its way onto a ceiling in their home. It happened that a painting that caught their eye was of four women of four generations tossing coins into a well (a wishing well we presume). When hung in a traditional manner the painting left two women sideways and one upside down but when hung on the ceiling it made more sense to the viewer because now the viewer is standing below the women as if inside the well. We took special care to ensure gravity would not cause the canvas to sag or worse the painting to fall.

In 2013 we were asked to hang five large oil paintings on canvas by Bob Kane on the outside walls of a Port Royal lanai. The patio overhang extended enough that rain showers would not be a factor and automatic screens could also protect from more severe weather. Of course the works can be moved indoors for the most severe weather conditions. But still there were other issues to address, namely the concern over humidity issues with respect to the canvas. We devised a solution to overcome these issues along with locks to secure the paintings to the outside walls.

We even hung a painting in someone's garage in 2014. It was a work by pop-artist Greg Constantine who creates what appear to be actual automobile license plates with interesting sayings created on a series of different plates he creates from using styrene and acrylic paint. The collector thought that the saying "Never drive faster than your guardian angel can fly" was a good thing to look at before backing out of her garage to venture out on to the roadways.

At one time mirrors that covered entire walls were quite popular. Today they are less popular and as a solution for increasing wall space without removing the mirror, we have hung works over mirrors in homes on a couple occasions. We hung the works from the ceiling using filament wire that is nearly invisible. We experimented with bonding tape, but unfortunately, it did not hold. The best most secure method is to use filament wire from the ceiling.

Who knows what requests may come, but we love the challenge and love that people want to surround themselves with art, everywhere!

*Sincerely,  
The Artsperts*



This work by Colleen Browning (1918-2003) hangs on the ceiling in the home of our parents. Also pictured is a work by Hunt Slonem.

This painting hung in the family room of our childhood home. Our dad was always watching for opportunities where our unsuspecting friends might be sitting under the painting. He would sneak up behind to drop pennies on their heads. Of course they would look up only to see the painting!



This Sculpture by Milton Hebard (1917-2015) was mounted on the side of a private home in Naples.