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DIY Ideas & Styling Secrets to Create a Home You Love, Whether You Rent or Own



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tricky spaces

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* to make for *
every room

GENEVA VANDERZEIL

PERFECTING YOUR SPACE

CREATING A GALLERY WALL

If there's one thing that injects personality into a room, it's art. Large pieces of unique artwork can completely transform a space, but can also sometimes be impractical or expensive to purchase. Another option for an art display that speaks volumes (without a huge cost) is a gallery wall. I love creating gallery walls as either the focal point of a room, or in an empty corner that needs a bit of love.

△ DECIDE ON THE SPACE

Obviously, one of the key elements of your gallery wall will be the space you use to display it, mainly in terms of the size of the wall. Don't feel you have to fill a whole wall – you can use a vertical or horizontal section only if that works better or if your collection is limited.

△ CONSIDER THE LAYOUT

The types of frames and elements that you want to integrate will determine the best gallery layout, and whether the layout is symmetrical or more random. Rule of thumb? If you have similar-sized frames or identical pieces, go for symmetry; if you have more eclectic pieces, a random design will work better.

△ CHOOSE YOUR ART

Collect all of the items you want to include in your gallery. Don't constrain yourself to art – anything flat can be framed. Get creative and think about using wrapping paper, maps, cards or tickets. Think of it as the scrapbooking project that gets to see the light of day, and reminds you of happy times!

△ CHOOSE YOUR FRAMES

If you are going for a design where the art is very similar, you might consider choosing similar frames. If you are going for a more organic look, mixing frames also works. White, black and pine wood frames work well together. Also think about whether you want to include white picture mounts inside the frames, which will give the art space to breathe and have a slightly more sophisticated result.

△ ADD TEXTURE

Vintage items like small wall-hangings, rosettes and other items with sentimental meaning can add texture and interest to your gallery wall, as well as adding a personal touch. These are best used when you're creating an organic or random layout.

△ PLAN YOUR LAYOUT

It really pays to plan your layout. You'll be surprised how hard it is to create a layout you're happy with just by eye. One trick in the stylist's book is to cut out craft paper in the shape and size of your frames and move them around on the wall using tape until you find the perfect layout.

△ HANG YOUR ART

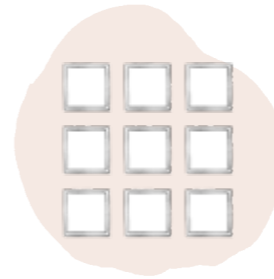
Once you've decided on the layout, methodically remove the craft paper and replace it with the art. I like to use 3M Command Picture Hanging Strips, placing a strip on the top and bottom of each frame. If you plan to hang your art by eye, it's a good idea to start with the biggest items. Remember that visually, less space between the art is better than more.

Plan it out!





Gallery wall ideas



SQUARE BLOCKS



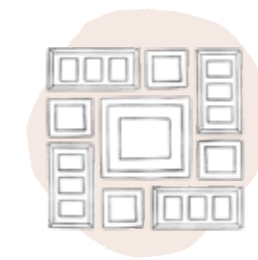
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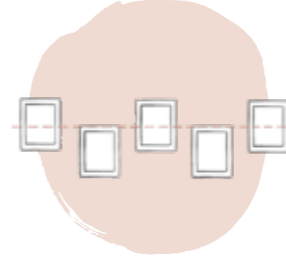
SPIRAL



MIX AND MATCH



ON A SHELF



CHEVRON



ALONG A LINE



Tip

Adding photos to the bedroom is a lovely sentimental touch. Clip photos between two pieces of acrylic and hang them using leather cord, or glue binder clips onto wooden planks for a standing display.

