



7 Gallery Wall Ideas That Effortlessly Express Who, Deep Down, You Truly Are

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Need some gallery wall ideas for your home? There's no doubt that a gallery wall can really speak volumes about who you are, what you love, where you've been. Still, that can feel like a lot of pressure, so if you're stumped on what to display—and how—that's understandable.

"You name it, you can do it—but if you're spatially challenged, keep your look simple at first," suggests **Karen Gray-Plaisted** of KGP Designs. "Otherwise, it can end up looking like a random bunch of stuff and not a gallery, as intended."

To get the creativity rolling, here's how to look beyond the usual ho-hum framed pictures and create something that's truly unique and, well, *you*.

1. Go monochrome



You can purchase frames of one type, the same color, or a single style, but this can get pricey, and sometimes it's limiting, explains **Darla DeMorrow** of HeartWork Organizing and the author of "Organizing Your Home With Sort and Succeed."

Instead, "mix a bunch of thrift or vintage frames and spray-paint them the same color," she suggests. The room above sports a series of lacquered frames in sunny yellow, which helps to punch up an otherwise quiet living room palette.

2. Mix it up



"You can also add in nonframed items like pottery, mixed-media art, or metalwork, which will make a wall grouping more interesting," notes DeMorrow. Here, a flower-petal mirror takes up residence with an oil painting, a black-and-white photo, pop art prints, and a set of horns. Hey, this is your house—anything goes!

3. Showcase your kin



Give your family some love on the wall.

Denise Palmer

Many ponder putting up a gallery wall of photos of family, friends, or even beloved pets—still, if you want to jazz it up, "this classic idea for a wall gallery looks best if the color scheme is tight, either in black and white or warmer sepia tones," explains **Denise Palmer** of Piper Classics.

"Use any combination of black, white, or cream frames, as using these three tones adds a bit of variety and interest while ensuring the photos complement each other," Palmer explains.

4. Tap the kids



Your tots are busy with crayons all day long, so swoop in and gather up their best work. A kids' art wall gallery helps you clear away paper clutter as well as decorate the playroom, for just the cost of framing. Make this look even more intentionally childlike by hanging pictures with rustic ribbons or clothespins, suggests **Marty Basher**, a home organization expert with Modular Closets.

The most important thing to remember with a gallery is to let it reflect your style and make it personal to you, advises **Liz Toombs**, owner of PDR Interiors.

5. Make a grid



Measure carefully and then make rows—it's that easy.

"Keeping a gallery rather uniform with, say, nine pictures all framed the same and all evenly spaced looks lovely," says Gray-Plaisted.

Modern design fans often prefer simple, thin black or white frames, notes **J.B. Sassano**, president of Mr. Handyman. "For a more adventurous feel, add in oversized mats in bright colors," he says.

6. Play with shapes



Create a wall gallery of decoupage plates.

ChrisJung.me

While most framed objects are square or rectangular, try to think outside the box, so to speak. Consider hanging different shapes when creating this project, like circular plates or pottery.

Toombs' own home has a gallery of new and vintage blue-and-white plates with a golden deer head right in the middle.

"It's one of my favorite walls, because it blends my favorite color in a traditional art display, plus some added whimsy," she says.

Also consider shaking up the shape of your entire layout, too. "I'll rarely hang a grouping in a perfect rectangle or square," she says.

7. Match the gallery to your room



Your husband may love hockey, but you *don't* want a jersey collection in the living room.

"Choose items to suit the place where they'll hang," says Basher. The den is the best spot to show off a collection of sports memorabilia, and the dining room is perfect for a set of antique copper molds, he adds.

