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PHOTO BY RACHAEL BOLING

My Favorite Objet d'Art

OUR HOME IS not the designer show house with the perfectly placed appointments that one might expect. My husband and I raise our two boys in a home that is stylishly comfortable and is quite often scattered with dog toys and soccer balls.

I don't generally buy an item to fit a specific space; instead, our home is filled with an assortment of eclectic items for which I have found the perfect place. Some of these pieces are gifts from very special clients, heirlooms from our family and treasures that the boys have made.

Those who know me know I am very true to my own personal style; I continue to love the same pieces and I don't change my decor with the trends. As a matter of fact, I still own most every piece that I have collected, much to my husband's dismay. Through the years I have tried to teach our boys to have an appreciation of art and personal artistic expression. You will find many of their artistic creations proudly displayed throughout our home, from sculptures on the cocktail table to the cherished framed masterpieces that adorn the walls.

Because I have so many things that are sentimental to me, I at first thought it might be difficult to choose my favorite objet d'art. As I did an inventory in my mind trying to weigh each piece's emotional significance, I realized that by far the most special is the artwork that graces our walls. It was much easier than I thought to actually choose my favorite painting.

My husband's brother was a very talented artist who gave us many beautiful creations. There is one painting in particular that captivated our children's attention at an early age that they affectionately named "the funny little dancing man." Although my brother-in-law did many paintings especially for each one of us in the family, this one was from his own personal collection. It is a watercolor that was completed in 1994.

Part of "the dancing man's" appeal is his mysterious stare that inevitably makes you curious of his thoughts. The colors are warm and rich and evoke strong emotions. There is not a day that I walk by and gaze at him where I am not drawn to smile.

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