



**HOME IS WHERE THE ART IS! THIS ISSUE WE FEATURE** two homes from contrasting eras, uniquely laid out and characteristically styled. What these homes have in common, however, is equally compelling – homeowners who love their art.

As you'll see on page 38, Anita chose a subtle palette, allowing a copious collection of artwork to take centre stage. Visiting her home is like visiting a gallery, soothing and good for the soul.

Becky, on the other hand, took inspiration from her home's artwork to inject pops of colour throughout her décor (page 22). The result is living spaces as vibrant and arresting as she is. Just look at the painting on our cover, a glorious interpretation of a holiday snapshot rendered by the oh-so-talented Hamilton artist, Marina Randazzo.

For fun, I googled "What your art style says about you," and was taken to numerous quizzes promising to reveal my personality (and one or two trying to suck me into joining Internet dating sites). Apparently I am creative and optimistic, and have boundless energy and lust for life. While I like to think I have my creative moments, boundless energy is a bit of a push!

I don't believe me choosing an Impressionist painting over a Cubist one tells you a lot about my psychology or what's important to me. That I display photographs of my children and wood cuts of my hometown speaks more loudly.

One of my favourite paintings is a town scene by Carol Clancey that we purchased at St. John's farmers' market in Newfoundland. I adore the bright colours of the rowhouses, but what I really love are the memories it brings back, of a thoroughly happy family holiday.

Art can make a statement. It can be provocative and inspirational and therapeutic. But when it comes to our homes, I think the art we hang on our walls should meet one criteria – that it bring us joy. Just as I hope this winter issue of OUR HOMES Hamilton brings you joy. Isn't it fun to see what interesting people and beautiful things we have in our neighbourhoods?!

Wishing you the happiest of the season,

*Melissa*

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