

# The Artful Home<sup>®</sup>

The GUILD Sourcebook of Residential Art





designer profile

## GREG THOMPSON

Little Rock, AR

Art consultant Greg Thompson understands that building a successful collection of contemporary art requires more than an encyclopedic knowledge of art or a shrewd sense of what will have lasting merit and value.

“I’m a matchmaker between my clients and the artists. There’s an emotional content to what I do, whether I’m working with private individuals or my corporate clients,” he explains.

A successful corporate collection generally helps build and enhance the public image a business wishes to present to the world. According to Thompson, a private collection may be much more personal.

“Generally, a private collection is a much more direct reflection of the client’s specific interests and personality,” Thompson says. “We get to know our clients very well. It’s not just about what kind of art they like or don’t like. It’s about who they are, and, at heart, what they care about.

“We may begin working with an individual to simply fill a space in a home. But as we get to know the client and his or her artistic interests and passions, it becomes a long-term relationship.”

Photographs: Russ Pow







◀ Surrounded by books, this painting of the Buffalo River by well-known regional artist Diane Williams provides a marvelous view without windows.

“For many of us, rivers and streams truly define the natural beauty of Arkansas, and we think of them as a refuge from the 110-degree heat and humidity of summer,” comments art consultant Greg Thompson.

Thompson’s client fell in love with Williams’ work, which celebrates the serene paradox of a river—tranquility and movement—with a coolness that is rich and multilayered rather than austere. The custom-made gold leaf on wood frame is elegant and narrow, and does not intrude on the expansive view.

▲ A J. O. Buckley piece entitled *The Caddo River* brings the outdoors inside in this light-drenched room.

Buckley, a highly-regarded regional artist, is known for a loose painterly style and the calm elegance he brings to portraits, figurative work and landscapes. As in a number of his other landscapes, Buckley here displays an almost Eastern sensibility and serenity in which every element of the painting is part of a greater whole.

The depiction of the unmoving dogs in the peaceful water charms and amuses Thompson’s client, who lives in an active household with multiple busy, noisy dogs.



any work that is commissioned and provides consultation on framing, delivery and installation.

And when a specific sale, either corporate or residential, is complete, Thompson remembers what kinds of subjects the client loves or finds interesting and will call when he discovers an artist or work that expresses those things.

“It’s surprising how long I remember what is appealing to whom,” he laughs. “The first match is rarely the last.”

◀ **The Arkansas Arts Center has** the largest collection of drawings on paper in the world, including artist Bill Vuksanovich’s work. Vuksanovich, a Chicago-based artist, is celebrated for his pencil drawings, which display his mastery of extreme photorealism.

“In a private setting, there is more freedom to listen to what the artwork itself suggests for framing. A corporate setting is a little different, with more pressure to have the frame match the furniture, or match the color scheme of the room,” Thompson notes.

◀ **Corner Room, an acrylic on canvas** by artist Al Allen, has the feel of trompe l’oeil. Precise and moody, the painting provides an intriguing backdrop to a collection of unrelated but compatible objects, including wood sculpture by Robyn Horn and the homeowner’s playful marble collection.

Art consultant Greg Thompson likes to mix two- and three-dimensional media, and encourages private as well as corporate clients to include fine crafts in building an art collection.

“The fine crafts movement has catapulted itself to the forefront of the art world in the last ten years or so,” Thompson observes. “The quality and range of work is incredible, and it literally adds so much texture and value to any thoughtful collection.”

The framed photographs on the left are by Dean Mitchell. Oil paintings to the right are by Larry Hampton.

