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Framing *Faux Pas*

Choosing the right frame for a work of art will highlight its beauty, preserve its condition and add character to the room you hang it in. Choosing the wrong one, however, could do just the opposite

After we'd pointed to where we thought each picture would look best, the handyman, with forearms bulging, drilled hole after hole into our solid concrete walls. The screws went in and we hung our art, but I've never really been satisfied with the arrangement.

"A complementary frame does significantly more to a piece of art than just mounting it; it brings out its true colour and depth to enhance the entire room, adding elegance and a personal touch of style"

customers decide where a piece should go and how it should be framed to suit the rest of the décor. Six months after framing, they also offer a complimentary inspection of the piece to check for mould, warping and any other problems caused by Singapore's humid climate.

by Heidi Sarna

A horizontal Impressionist acrylic of a Vietnamese woman and some bamboo is sandwiched between a vintage travel poster and a towering shadow-box containing wooden panels from a Burmese bible. A pair of German folk-style birth certificates my father painted are lost in a corner above a big chair, and don't even ask me about the Indian miniatures. We realize we need to rearrange everything and start again, but then there'd be all those holes to patch and that mind-numbing drilling again. Ugh. Who has the patience and what makes me think we'd do it better the second time around?

"It's all about balance; the artwork in a room can create a mood or break it," says Alex Mytton-Mills, co-owner of the Frame Hub Gallery in Holland Village.

When choosing a frame for a piece of artwork, Alex says various factors must be considered, from coordinating the colour scheme of the room to lighting issues. One must take a holistic approach to ensure a seamless look.

Alex and her partner, Jason, make house calls – at no extra charge – to help

wreaking havoc on your artwork. Matting can be used to keep the glass away from the artwork and allow space for air to circulate. A dehumidifier machine moved from room to room can go along way in helping art stay dry. Keep an eye out for white spots: an indication that mould has set in. If discovered early, says Alex, it can be gently wiped off with a soft, white Japanese brush.

"Treat your artwork as you'd like to be treated in your home," she advises. Art shouldn't be displayed in direct sunlight and rooms should be well ventilated. Turning air-conditioning on and off frequently will increase the frequency of expansion and contraction, and, in turn, increase the risk of damage. ■

In the spirit of prevention, there are ways to keep moisture from

FrameHub Gallery is located at 46A Lorong Mambong, Holland Village. Call 6466 1147 or visit www.framehubgallery.com.

