

LIFE & ARTS

ART

A Collection for the Trump White House

The art world is abuzz wondering which works of art the president-elect will borrow or buy; clues in an 1874 Renoir reproduction

BY KELLY CROW

DONALD TRUMP is known for speaking and tweeting what's on his mind but hasn't revealed much about his taste in art. That has museums, galleries and private collectors guessing what the president-elect will display in the White House.

Mr. Trump's relationship to the art world is complex. On the one hand, the billionaire businessman's brand is linked to luxurious flourishes and visual sumptuousness. Yet art dealers say Mr. Trump isn't a fixture at high-end auctions or art fairs, and he doesn't use the properties that bear his name to showcase contemporary artists such as Jeff Koons as some other developers do.

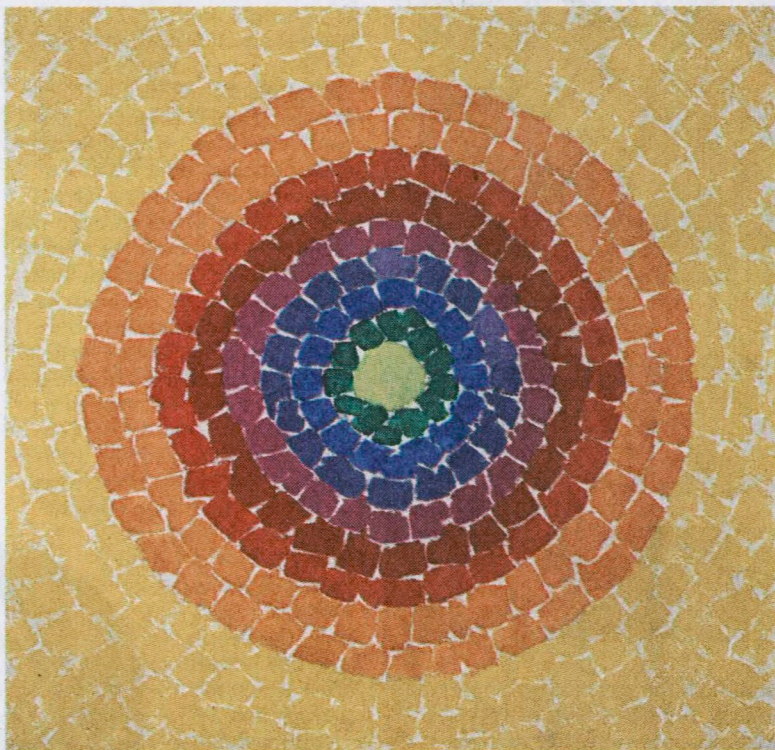
Magazine profiles of the Trumps' \$100 million New York penthouse indicate that the president-elect and his wife, Melania, favor 18th-century French style with gilded finishes and marble walls as well as painted ceilings and sculptures featuring mythological gods like Apollo, Eros and Psyche. Mrs. Trump's home office recently displayed a reproduction of "Theater Box," an 1874 portrait of a couple by Pierre-Auguste Renoir. The original hangs in London's Courtauld Gallery.

Mr. Trump's older daughter, Ivanka, has worked with New York art adviser Alex Marshall to collect rising stars like Nate Lowman, who paints oversize, comic-book-style bullet holes, and Alex Israel, whose canvases resemble pastel skies.

Once Mr. Trump takes office, he and his Cabinet will be allowed to sift through the White House's permanent collection or seek art loans from museums on the National Mall and beyond. The first couple also could hang up pieces from one of their homes.

The Trumps could affect the market values of artists they display—and at the same time send political messages with their choices. Bill Clinton earned praise for picking Simmie Knox, who is African-American, to paint the White House portraits of the president and first lady. President George W. Bush's administration was hailed for acquiring "The Builders," by African-American artist Jacob Lawrence, though some criticized the move because the painting depicts black men doing menial labor.

A spokeswoman for William



From the White House's permanent collection, clockwise from above left, Alma Thomas's 'Resurrection,' Gilbert Stuart's portrait of George Washington, George P. A. Healy's Lincoln portrait and Jacob Lawrence's 'The Builders.' Below left, Mrs. Trump displayed a copy of Renoir's 'Theater Box' in her home office.



Allman, the White House's longtime curator, said it is too soon to know whether Mr. Trump or members of his cabinet will seek to borrow or swap out art for their offices. If so, Mr. Allman will help them draw up wish lists and send loan requests to museums, likely after the inauguration.

The White House declined to comment.

A spokeswoman for the White House Historical Association, the nonprofit that preserves and buys art for the White House, said new presidents usually redecorate their upstairs residences and the Oval Office within their first year of taking office. The spokeswoman, Lara Kline, added that Congress sets aside \$100,000 for the purpose.

Some works are likely keepers

because past presidents have displayed them, regardless of their political leanings, Ms. Kline said. Paintings with bipartisan appeal include Gilbert Stuart's 1797 portrait of George Washington that hangs in the East Room and George P.A. Healy's 1869 portrait of Abraham Lincoln above the mantel in the State Dining Room.

The current president and first lady brought in bold, abstract works—including Glenn Ligon's text piece about segregation, "Black Like Me #2," which departed sharply from the 19th-century still lifes and pastoral scenes in the White House's public rooms. Two years ago, Alma Thomas be-

came the first female African-American artist to enter the White House collection after Michelle Obama asked the historical association to buy "Resurrection," Ms. Thomas's rainbow-hue painting that evokes a target. "The Obamas brought a modern aesthetic," Ms. Kline added.

Elizabeth Feld, whose Hirschl & Adler Galleries in New York sell high-end antiques and classical paintings, said Mr. Trump likely will try to set a presidential tone now by displaying works that "make him look regal and strong, something with eagles or worthy heroes like Benjamin Franklin or

Thomas Jefferson."

Adam Williams, a New York-based seller of European Old Master paintings, said Mr. Trump tends to decorate with reproductions rather than antiques—but he hopes the new president will come to appreciate the originals on site. (Much of the French furniture in the White House was bought during James Monroe's administration.)

"You don't want a Koons on the wall of the Oval Office," Mr. Williams said. "You want calm and soothing."

HEALTH

PSYCHOLOGISTS FINE-TUNE TALK THERAPY

BY ANDREA PETERSEN



JON KRAUSE

NEW TWEAKS are improving the age-old practice of talk therapy.

Doing therapy in the morning, taking a nap afterward or adding a medication that enhances learning are just a few of the methods scientists are investigating to make cognitive behavioral therapy work better.

CBT, which involves changing dysfunctional patterns of thoughts and behaviors, is one of the most effective treatments for anxiety disorders, depression and eating disorders.

But about a quarter to half of people with depression and anxiety don't get significant relief after a course of CBT, which usually consists of about 12 to 15 weekly sessions. Anywhere from 15% to 30% of people who begin it don't finish, says David H. Barlow, founder of the Center for Anxiety and Related Disorders at Boston University. "There's still plenty of room for improvement," he says.

A study published in September in the journal *Psychoneuroendocrinology* that involved 24 patients with anxiety disorders found that therapy appointments earlier in the day were more effective than those later in the day.

In the study, subjects—who all had panic disorder with agoraphobia (fear of situations where escape may be difficult)—were treated with exposure therapy, a common component of CBT. They repeatedly confronted situations they feared, such as being in elevators or crowds. Subjects with sessions early in the day reported less severe anxiety symptoms at their next session than those who had sessions later in the day.

The researchers found that higher levels of the stress hormone cortisol that naturally occur in the morning were responsible for at least part of the benefit of the earlier sessions. "Acute boosts of cortisol can actually facilitate learning," says Alicia E. Meuret, associate professor of psychology

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