

THE RADAR HOME

BY HOLLY THOMAS



Don't hunt alone for innovative art, like Nicholas and Sheila Pye's *The Voracious*.

BYE-BYE, DIY

From picking a Picasso to pimping your garage, outsourcing is in

ART ATTACK

Consider Allison Cohen the art lover's Fairy Godmother. Whether you're a regular at galleries like 14th Street's Curator's Office (where you'll find the work by Nicholas and Sheila Pye, above) and know just the style you want, or are completely new to the scene, Cohen can set you up with the right piece for your taste, space and budget. Cohen owns Sightline, an art consulting company, and brings a background in art history and an abundance of artist and gallery contacts to the table. After visiting a client's home, she compiles a list of potential pieces. Once a client identifies a must-have item, she pursues and helps obtain the work, taking a small commission. Cohen can also snag invites to openings, studio tours and parties for her clients, so they'll know which piece they'll want her to hunt down next (202.465.4229; www.sightline.biz).

Once the work is officially yours, what to do with it? Make a call to Ben Gilligan—art installer by day, indie rocker by night—who has expertly installed Van Goghs and Picassos at Christie's, the Corcoran Gallery of Art and the Phillips Collection. For an hourly rate, plus materials, Gilligan will help a client choose the proper frame and location for the piece. After installation, he can design a custom lighting system to perfectly spotlight your masterpiece, and he'll even offer an impromptu art history lesson if you want to know your collection's talking points. No matter if you prefer vintage postcards or modern sculpture, Gilligan's goal is to help fill up those bare walls; his own apartment has 60 installations (202.550.3958, deanvegas@hotmail.com).



PETAL PUSHER

A standing weekly order at a top-tier florist is no longer enough. Washingtonians now want their floral arrangements every bit as customized as the rest of their homes. Sarah von Schrader, a local floral designer and owner of Urban Petals, provides in-home consultations with clients and then builds unique arrangements for their spaces. After the initial visit, von Schrader sets up a regular schedule to either deliver custom bouquets or arrive with exotic, imported blossoms in hand to whip up a delicate creation on the spot. For instance, one Urban Petals client's home in the Ritz-Carlton Residences is dressed with three fresh orchid arrangements per week. And with the holidays just around the corner, von Schrader is on call to craft a stunning centerpiece or wrap a stairway in rich evergreen garland (202.986.7960, www.urbanpetals.com).



GARAGE GLAM

So you've got the luxurious Lamborghini in the driveway and your neighbors are already green with envy—but just wait until you invite them over for a glass of scotch and a fine cigar in your swanky new garage.

Custom garage outfitter Vault uses furniture-grade stainless steel to craft 29 styles of cabinets, workbenches and tool chests suited for an auto showroom. Plus, the company can equip your space with carriage-style doors for a finishing touch. With one phone call, president Chad Haas will arrange to view blueprints of your space and contact a local installer to build your drive-in dream. Vault's high-end solutions will cost you, but when you're showing off your dream machine, Glenfiddich and Montecristo in hand, they'll feel worth every single grand (866.828.5810, www.showroomgarage.com).

For the neighborhood's neatest car park, try GarageTek, who says their patented wall storage system creates the world's cleanest garages. Your walls will be covered from floor to ceiling with their durable TekPanels, onto which will be clipped the cabinets, shelving, activity racks and accessories your GarageTek designer deems perfect for your family's needs (703.425.0900, www.garagetek.com).

And since plain concrete simply won't do once your garage has gone glam, turn to PremierGarage to pretty up what's underfoot. In about a day and a half, they can have you pulling in to park on a beautiful, stain- and spill-resistant floor finished with a coating created to mimic granite or terrazzo—and stand up to wear (703.484.2246, www.premiergarage.com).