

the college review

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01

How to collect art

Patric McCoy, AB'69, a retired environmental scientist, began collecting art as an undergrad. In 1968 his roommate Scott Stapleton, BFA'68, came back from art class with a lithograph he called "The Seventh Angel of Revelation."



McCoy was fascinated. "It had an ominous look to it," he says. "Back in the '60s we were really thinking these were the last days." They negotiated over a price and settled on \$10 (about \$72 today). "It tickles me now to think about it. That really was a lot of money."

McCoy estimates he has about 1,300 works--mostly, but not exclusively, made by contemporary artists from the African diaspora--in his three-bedroom North Kenwood apartment. (Among them is work by Theaster Gates and the AfriCOBRA collective; he also still displays Stapleton's

lithograph.) In 2003 McCoy co-founded Diasporal Rhythms, a collector's group. Some of the members' works are currently on display at the DuSable Museum.

The *New York Times* [described](#) you as a "fully committed zealot." Is that true?

Yes, 100 percent. The concept of promoting art collecting is something I feel very, very strongly about.

We as a society are suffering because we keep perpetuating these myths about what a collector is--elitist, unusual, super wealthy, crazy in their concern about privacy and security, academic beyond belief, and possessed with an interest in investment. That's not real. That's not healthy.

What advice would you give to aspiring collectors?

Get what you like. You see something you like, get it. Ask if it's for sale and what the price is. If you can do that price, you should get it. It's as simple as that.

You start out with stuff that you might grow out of: I thought this was great, but now it's not. If you're in the Chicago market, where it's not that expensive, then it's not a problem. Get something else.

If you see something you like and you will regret not getting it, then you really do need to get it. If it speaks to you, you need to get that. Those pieces--I've been collecting now for 50-some years--that I have seen and I did not get, I still remember them.

Meet Cora, the soccer dog



"She's a little bit of a presence on campus," says Jane Dailey, associate professor in History, the Law School, and the College, of her 12-year-old border collie, Cora, also known as "the soccer dog."

As word of Cora's ball handling skills spread, last spring UChicago Athletics arranged a kickabout with some two-legged soccer players: Caroline Olivero, AB'18, and second-year Bryce Millington.



Cora started chasing soccer balls around the family home as a puppy. When she's on her game, "another dog can sniff her, and she won't even acknowledge its presence," says Dailey. "She'll dribble a tennis ball, too. It's just her thing."

Rhythm and Jews name-checked on NPR

This past September Rhythm and Jews (RnJ), which bills itself as "the University of Chicago's premier Jewish a cappella group," had its 15 seconds of fame on NPR's quiz show [Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me!](#)

Celebrity guest Anna Kendrick, star of the *Pitch Perfect* movies about collegiate a cappella singing, was challenged to identify which groups were real and which were fake. She correctly identified The Tempo Tantrums (Ohio University) but not The Rhythm Method (Binghamton University) before being asked about Rhythm and Jews.

Kendrick: I love that. I hope that's real.

(APPLAUSE)



Unfortunately, none of the current RnJ members got to enjoy the moment. "I'm a fan of the show. I just happened not to be listening," says music director Helen Cain, Class of 2019, who has attended tapings of *Wait Wait* in Chicago. "The weird thing is, half-baked music puns are the mainstay of a cappella group names. We didn't think we were all that unique."

RnJ performs at the Latke-Hamantash Debate every year and does a tour every winter break--this year to New York City. As well as the usual schools and synagogues, tour coordinator Noah Friedlander, Class of 2021, hopes to arrange shows in Central Park and in a subway station, though the regulations are arcane. "You have to be at least 15 feet away from the turnstiles," he says.

[Watch](#) RnJ perform "Ruchot Milchama" during an "arch sing" at Cobb Gate on October 26.

Thanksgiving in Paris



International students enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner in Paris, Illinois, in 1957.

For more than 60 years, International House's Thanksgiving Homestay Program has matched UChicago's international students with host families in rural Illinois for the traditional American holiday. Many of today's host families and student guests are the children or grandchildren of the program's original participants.

For the host families, the program is "a window to the world," says Denise Jorgens, AM'83, PhD'95, director of International House. For the international visitors, it's a glimpse of America outside the city. Daoudaz Mariko from Mali, a recent participant, described the experience: "My home stay has been wonderful for me because it permits one to know how some American families are as hospitable as African families."

To thank you for reading, here's more to mull:

Thanksgiving in [Leiden](#), the Netherlands, where one persistent American got the locals hooked on cranberries. Thanksgiving at the [food pantry](#). When World War II veterans were thankful to live in [tiny, uninsulated houses](#) on the Midway. A contemporary pilgrim's gratitude for "[a mouthful of water, a warm shower, a place to sit down](#)."

The College Review, edited by Carrie Golus, AB'91, AM'93, is brought to you by Alumni Relations and Development and the College. Image credits: Nathan Keay; Zola Yi, Class of 2020; International House.

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