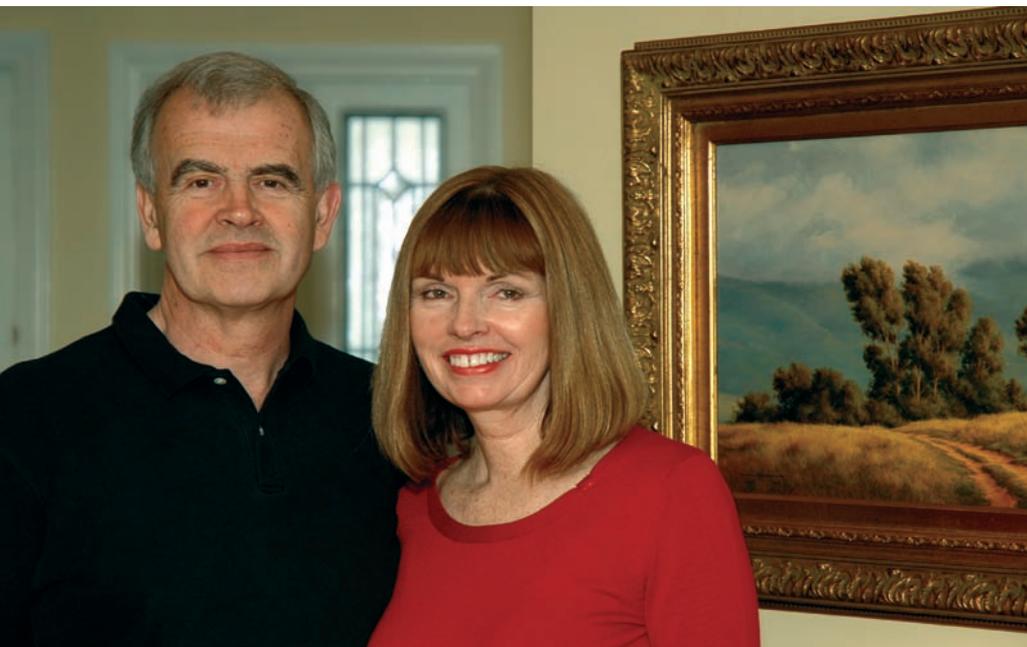


The Waterhouse Collection

A matched love and similar eye for art creates a magnificent and harmonious collection in this Santa Barbara, CA home.



RALPH AND DIANE WATERHOUSE PICTURED IN FRONT OF ONE OF RALPH'S PAINTINGS.

Ralph and Diane Waterhouse have been collecting art together since they met twenty-three years ago in Santa Barbara, California. Shortly thereafter, they opened the Waterhouse Gallery and have since acquired a magnificent array of traditional work that beautifully fills their home. Ranging from tightly rendered realism to impressionism, the Waterhouse collection includes figurative, still life, landscape, and portraits with a total of 86 works in oil, watercolor and pastels.

"We love a variety of subject matter," says Diane Waterhouse. "We don't purchase any specific style. I love loose and I love tight. It depends on the painting and we like to keep that open."

Luckily, Ralph and Diane have very similar tastes in art and agree over 90 percent of the time, making for a very harmonious collection.

"Painting itself moves us," explains Ralph Waterhouse. "Diane and I don't go looking for a painting, however our love of art keeps us from just walking by a gallery. We are drawn inside and when we find a piece that strikes a chord we say 'wow that would really work for us' and it is rare we disagree."

Each painting sparks a story and the passion in their home comes alive through the work. Lindsay Goodwin recently did a commission that Diane surprised Ralph with for their anniversary. "I let Lindsay's artistic vision run and she ended up painting in the dining room, took all the china out of our cabinet and set the table for the painting," says Diane. "It is absolutely wonderful and she is a spectacular young artist."

The Waterhouse's roots in the art world run very deep as they are owners of the Waterhouse Gallery and avid art



ENTRYWAY WITH A JUNN ROCA CITYSCAPE.

The Waterhouse Collection

collectors. Ralph has also been an artist for over 30 years and shows in numerous galleries throughout the nation.

“I think we have a unique perspective,” says Diane. “The empathy of the plight of an artist, we know how artists feel.”

Formally trained in England as a graphic artist, Ralph began collecting art as soon as he could afford to.

“My love of art has been constant in my life and I began collecting at a very young age,” says Ralph who is currently president of the Santa Barbara Art Dealers Association. “I then opened a studio/gallery in the Lake District in England and painted for eight years before moving to the States.”

Diane Waterhouse’s father was an amateur portrait painter and she was also surrounded by art as a child. “I grew up admiring art, reading art books and watching my father paint,” says Diane. “My dad knew Ralph in the 70s and on our first date I showed Ralph

photographs of my dad’s work. We went to see my dad and he remembered Ralph. The rest is history.”

Their daughter Claire is 11 and has been happily surrounded by art since Steve Hanks painted a beautifully done piece of her when she was a baby.

“Claire even has an appreciation for the 12 figurative nudes that we have in the bathroom and bedroom,” says Diane. “Quite remarkable for her age because her friends are typically embarrassed by them.”

The doors of the Waterhouse Gallery opened in November 1984 in Santa Barbara with a strong emphasis on plein air painting, even though it was not as popular at the time.

“Everything we show in the gallery is our personal taste,” says Diane. “Over the years we have also seen the promise in a lot of emerging artists like Jeremy Lipking and have been privileged to acquire early works.”

The Waterhouses’ collecting

philosophy is based purely on emotional response and they believe you should buy from your heart.

“In regard to our purchases for our collection, we do not follow trends or buy what we read about or who’s hot now,” says Ralph. “We buy art from an emotional standpoint and it’s a very personal thing for us. We are very spontaneous with our purchases.”

Ralph and Diane agree it’s nearly impossible for them to pick their favorite piece in their collection and immediately begin breaking it down by categories when asked. One that Diane is quite fond of though is the John Hubbard Rich painting hanging above their fireplace.

“I saw this painting and it stabbed me in the heart. I had a dream about it and can’t exactly explain why,” says Diane. “That painting is in my psyche, it is the most magnificent piece and I can’t believe that I own it.” ●

ABOVE THE SOFA HANGS WORK FROM LAURA ROBB, TOM BROWING, AND KEVIN MACPHERSON, AMONG OTHERS.





COZY LIVING ROOM CORNER WITH
TWO EARL CARPENTER PAINTINGS.



ONE OF DIANE'S FAVORITE WORKS IS THIS JOHN HUBBARD RICH PAINTING ABOVE THE FIREPLACE.

A JEREMY LIPKING NUDE GRACES THE BATHROOM WALL.

“Painting itself moves us,” explains Ralph Waterhouse. “Diane and I don’t go looking for a painting, however our love of art keeps us from just walking by a gallery. We are drawn inside and when we find a piece that strikes a chord we say ‘wow that would really work for us’ and it is rare we disagree.”

