

Art-Themed Gifts for Everyone
“THEMED GIFTING” CAN SPARK GIFT-BUYING CREATIVITY

Every year you tell yourself you’ll start early to think about your holiday gift list. Naturally, you want your gifts to be meaningful and appreciated. Who doesn’t love the feeling that comes with knowing your present was received with genuine pleasure? But at the last minute you’re still desperately looking for something – anything – that will do, for that nephew who’s already got everything he could possibly want, or the friend who always gives you brilliant gifts! Your plan to breeze through the holidays, happy and relaxed, goes up in smoke, once again.

This year, try “themed gifting” to help focus your creative thinking. It can turn what may have felt like a chore in years past into a pleasant – even fun -- experience.

Here’s an example. Everyone on your list probably has some sort of relationship with art. The first step is to list the name of everyone you want to gift. Then, with art as your theme, create a profile for each giftee. Jot down what you know about their attitudes and involvement with art. This done, google “gifts for art lovers” to quickly generate a huge variety of ideas; later, refine your search terms to reflect the profiles you’ve brainstormed.

To get you started, here are some sample “giftee profiles” and their art-themed gift ideas:

GIFTEE PROFILE: “... loves to see art when she travels; is going to Rome in the Spring”



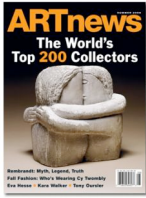
GIFT: A *Jane's Smart Art Guides*™ audio guide to the art treasures of St. Peter's Basilica will thrill her. And if she doesn't already own one, wrap a portable audio player in with the guide. Other titles and gift certificates are available. (\$13.95 – \$24.95, on CD or MP3/iPod download) (www.JanesSmartArt.com)

GIFTEE PROFILE: “... never used the ‘how-to’ book and drawing materials he bought”

GIFT: On the first page of an artist's pad, write the name and phone number of a local drawing teacher and “Call her to schedule your 10 lessons.” Talk to friends to find an art instructor and discuss the arrangement with him or her by phone. Art instruction can be found in most communities, in private classes or adult ed programs.

GIFTEE PROFILE: “... wears artsy jewelry; is furnishing her apartment ‘modern’”

GIFT: Rather than select something that won't appeal to a stylish young adult, get her a Museum of Modern Art gift certificate and wrap it with a copy of the MOMA catalog. That way *she* can make the choice between jewelry or something for her new home and it will be something she really likes. The MOMA gift certificate is not available from the website. Order at 1-800-793-3167. (www.momastore.org)



GIFTEE PROFILE: "... studied art in college; attends local artist exhibits"

GIFT: Subscription to ARTnews magazine After reading a couple of issues he may tell you that buying his Christmas gift will be easy for you from now on ... just renew his subscription! (\$39.95 for a 1-year subscription) (www.artnews.com/home/default.asp)

GIFTEE PROFILE: "... an avid amateur photographer; loves Cezanne"

GIFT: Browsing Amazon.com for a book about either Cezanne or photography, you'll find Cezanne: Landscape Into Art by Pavel Machotka. Linking photographs of Cezanne's native landscape with reproductions of his work, the book examines how Cezanne transformed nature into art. A double-barreled winner! (\$57.95) (www.Amazon.com)

GIFTEE PROFILE: "... loves modern art and frequently visits NYC"

GIFT: Another MOMA gift certificate would fit this bill, this time earmarked for admission tickets. But for variety, consider tickets or a membership to the Guggenheim Museum. (Membership: Individual \$75/ Dual \$125) (<http://guggenheim.stores.yahoo.net>)

GIFTEE PROFILE: "... hates modern art and is proud of it!"

GIFT: You're sure to find his gift on the CSL CartoonStock website, where you can order art-related cartoons printed on all sorts of items. He'll roar with delight when he unwraps a framed cartoon with the caption: "I've spent a fortune wining and dining you today Julie and now you tell me you love Picasso!" (UK£30)

(http://www.cartoonstock.com/directory/a/art_lovers_gifts.asp)



"I've spent a fortune wining and dining you today Julie and now you tell me you love Picasso!"



GIFTEE PROFILE: "... loves anything English or Victorian"

GIFT: An enchanting series of hand-painted decorative Art Tiles is at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts on-line gift shop. The vibrant enamel glazes are kiln fired, so the colors are permanent. She can use it as a trivet or display in on the wall. (<http://store.mfashop.com/arttiles.html>) (\$34.00)

Victorian Iris Tile

GIFTEE PROFILE: "... loves reading mysteries, but I know nothing about his relationship with art"

GIFT: If you've got no clue as to his attitudes about art, his gift will be a challenge, right? Wrong! Any fan of Iain Pears' art history mysteries will tell you, "It's a cinch!" Give him a selection of paperbacks featuring Pears' engaging protagonists, British art dealer Jonathan Argyll and Flavia di Stefano, of Italy's Art Theft Squad, and another Iain Pears fan will be born. (www.Amazon.com) (\$6 to \$10 range, each)

GIFTEE PROFILE: "... thinks anything about ancient Egypt is cool."

GIFT: If he lives near Ft. Lauderdale or Chicago, tickets to the Tutankhamun exhibit would have been a natural last year. This year you'd have to fly him to Philadelphia to see it, between February and September, 2007. (www.kingtut.org/philadelphia/index.htm)

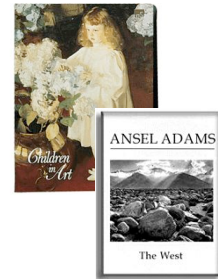
GIFTEE PROFILE: "... recently said he wished he knew more about art so he could appreciate it better."



GIFT: The Art Pack by Frayling, Frayling, and Van Der Meer. This is a sophisticated pop-up book for people who "have an active and committed interest in visual art, but not yet a very informed interest." Various three-dimensional devices demonstrate painting techniques like perspective and color theory. It's out of print, but new and "like-new" copies can be found on-line. (www.Amazon.com)

If there are children on your gift list, 1-2-3 Draw drawing instruction books for ages 6 & up would be a good choice. There are nineteen different books, illustrating how to draw things like Cars, Trucks and Other Vehicles; Knights, Castles, and Dragons; and Cartoon Aliens and other Space Stuff (\$8.95) (<http://www.1-2-3-draw.com>). Also, museum catalogs and their on-line gift shops have an array of art-related toys and gifts for kids, from babies to teens, especially this time of year.

Finally, you might purchase a variety of boxed note-cards for party gifts. Select some distinctly feminine ones, like images of flowers or children (\$12.95) (<http://store.mfashop.com/artiles.html>), more "manly" ones, like Ansel Adams (\$11.05) (<http://friendsofphotography.org/bookstore>), and some in between. When the time comes, you'll find you have a box that suits your giftee host or hostess to a T.



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