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May 22, 2026



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Photo courtesy of PCVF

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Photo by Elizabeth Truong

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Courtesy Photo

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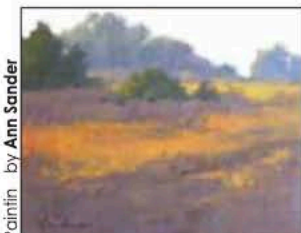


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AN AMERICAN GALLERY

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Photo by Fritz Olenberger

The Art of Collecting
May 29th through July 27th
Sullivan Goss
AN AMERICAN GALLERY
SullivanGoss.com

Paintin by John Nava

Cover story see page 5

Sullivan Goss: An American Gallery:

THE ART OF COLLECTING

By Kerry Methner / VOICE

NEARLY ANYTHING GOES IN THE WORLD OF COLLECTING. It's a pastime or sometimes an obsession framed in the heart and mind of the collector. According to Sullivan Goss: An American Gallery owner Nathan Vonk, it is also an art. He is curating an exhibition, *The Art of Collecting*, that opens May 29th and runs through July 27th exploring the multifaceted practice.

"Personal passions are at the heart of most good collections, which reflect the interests, experience, and personality of the collector," Vonk noted. Examples of this abound in the exhibit, such as "a large plate by Beatrice Wood that comes from one of Santa Barbara's best, most

dedicated, and interesting collectors."

Vonk caught the collecting bug early, but it can hit at any age. "I've been a collector since I was a kid," he shared. "I've collected baseball cards, concert bootlegs, first edition books, and art. And I still have most of each of these collections. When I was in college I found a beat up first edition of *The Old Man and The Sea* in a used bookstore. I cherish it as much today as I did when I got it."

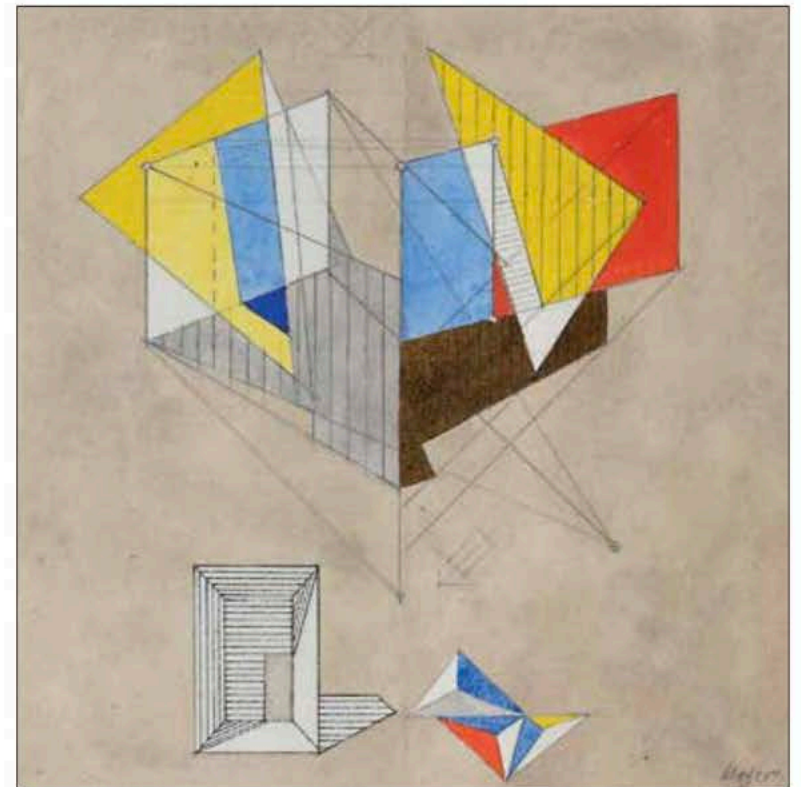
This exhibition features work from local collectors' collections, as well as from Sullivan Goss's rich inventory. Included are works by Whitney Brooks Abbott, Herbert Bayer, Patricia Chidlaw, Lockwood de Forest, Maynard Dixon, Jules Engle, Oskar Fischinger, Ynez Johnston, Dan Lutz, Susan McDonnell, Hank Pitcher, Leslie Lewis Sigler, and Beatrice Wood.

Vonk is hoping to unravel some of the complexity of collecting for people considering stepping into the practice. He values the role of collectors and how creating personal archives can preserve and amplify important cultural pieces and moments. He is pairing the exhibit to a lecture also titled *The Art of Collecting* at Casa del Herrero on June 16th.

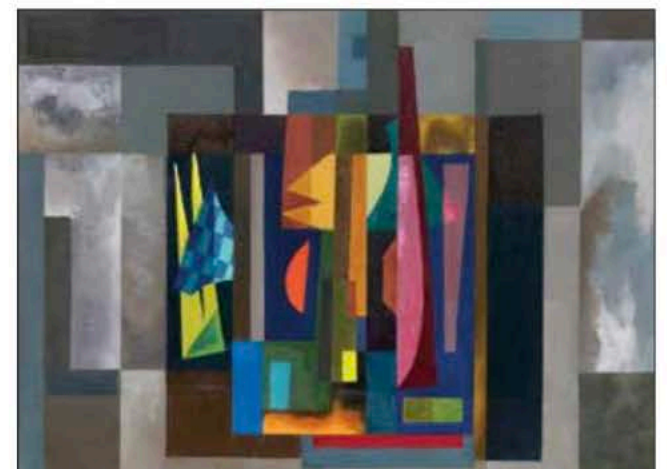
"Collectors are vital to curating and preserving important cultural artifacts. Collecting involves using expert knowledge of a particular subject to single out the important objects from a specific place and time," he explained. "Patricia Chidlaw's *Cadillac Graveyard* is a great example of a painting that documents a quintessential American scene. But it is also a masterpiece of contemporary realism. So it could appeal to people who are collectors of either topic."

Pieces of art often come to occupy special places in collectors' hearts. Vonk shared of such a piece in the exhibit, "There is a small work by Herbert Bayer, which the artist gifted to a collector at his Santa Barbara wedding in 1981. He and his wife have loved the piece for 45 years, but need to downsize and want it to find a new home where it is as loved and appreciated as it was in theirs."

This speaks to Vonk's philosophy that collecting is a



Geometry Homework I, 1981 8.75 x 8.75 inches | Acrylic on paper. Signed lower right by **Herbert Bayer**.



Italian Series: Roma, 1965 21 x 29.5 inches | Gouache on paper. Signed lower right by **Jules Engle**

commitment to culture, history, and aesthetic appreciation. It also supports Sullivan Goss's continuing mission, as the release notes, "to make the art world more accessible for visitors and aspiring collectors. By demystifying the industry, the gallery aims to provide a clearer perspective on the role of the collector in the celebration and preservation of art, culture, and community." The exhibition is also a way to help viewers and collectors better understand the business side of collecting.

"Each work of art has a certain degree of cultural, historic, and aesthetic value, and these are the primary factors determining its worth in the art market. The most expensive works of art have high value in each of these three categories," Vonk shared.

The release continues, "The exhibition provides an opportunity for curious art lovers to ask gallery curators about market forces such as provenance, artistic lineage, and critical reception. The gallery hopes to foster discussions about the complex ecosystem of the art world that includes artists, collectors, galleries, and museums and to encourage people to consider collecting as a process of curation, where they get to decide the relevant criteria."

For tickets and info on Vonk's June 16th lecture call 805-565-5653 or email casa@casadelherrero.org. If tickets are not available, visit the gallery for an abbreviated in gallery version. "Just ask," Vonk added. sullivangoss.com



Single Rose, 2025 16 x 12 inches | Oil on panel. Signed on back by **John Nava**



Cadillac Graveyard, c. 2000 22 x 72 inches | Oil on linen. Signed lower right by **Patricia Chidlaw**