

Opening Times
Friday: 12pm - 7pm
Sat & Sun: 10am - 5pm

RDS Dublin
24-26 May 2019

TICKETS
€15
AVAILABLE
AT THE
DOOR



The Art You Love. How To Choose Art for your home in 5 steps

29/4/2019



'Tropical Reflections' oil on canvas by Gerard Byrne at The Library Dylan Hotel, Ballsbridge. Photo credit: Colm Murphy

by Sylwia Janik, The Gerard Byrne Studio Art Consultant
Haven't found the perfect piece of art for your newly decorated home yet?

Most of us would share the same dilemma when it comes to selecting art for the home: How to choose among hundreds of available artworks and selecting the one that becomes an intrinsic part of your daily life.

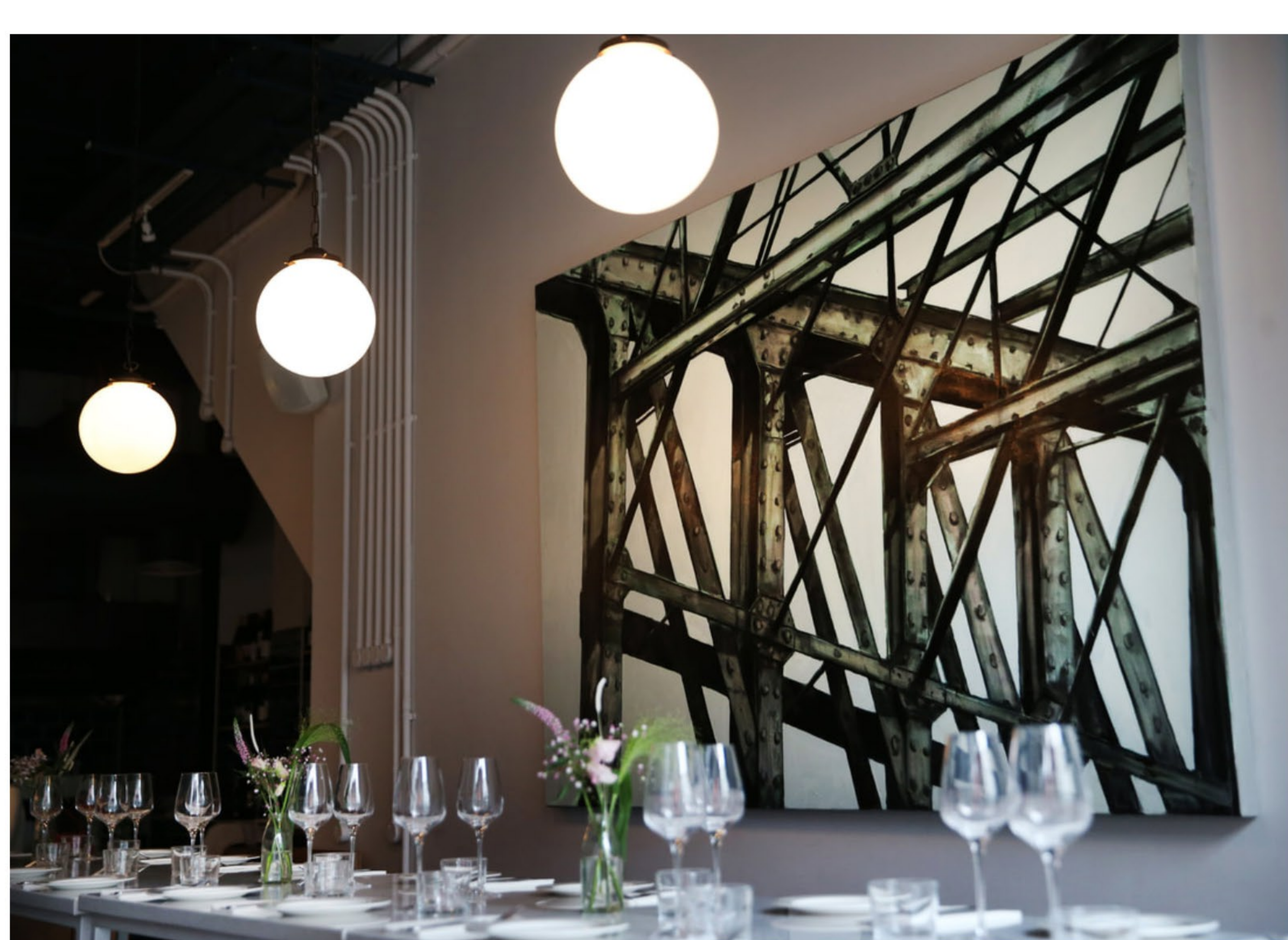
My answer is simple : Search for Love! The rest are details and technicalities.

1. Search for Love (Until You Find It).

Do you think finding a perfect art piece for your home is a challenge? I'd say it's a pure thrill!

There is no pressure in finding the perfect art piece for your home. Take your time. The more familiar you are with the available options the better choice you are going to make. Start with visits to art galleries and museums to find out what sort of art has an impact on you. Explore art galleries, art fairs and auctions. Make notes of art that inspires you and look on the internet for more inspiration. Do not be afraid to make enquiries directly to the artist or via the galleries representing them.

Once you have an idea what you like you can commence your search. Do not just follow seasonal trends unless they are in line with what you genuinely favour. The art you chose - like love - must grow with you. Search high and low. You will find it!



'Train of Thought' large scale artwork by Gerard Byrne at Host Restaurant, Ranelagh. Photo credit: Leon Farrell

2. Go for Love! (Choose Art you Love).

If you fall in love with a piece - whether it is a painting, drawing, photograph or sculpture, your home decor should not stop you from having it. If you truly connect with a painting (or any form of art) then it will already reflect the personality and style of your home. Remember, your connection to that artwork reflects who you are.

What you need to do next is choose the spot for your artwork. You can rely on the expertise of an art consultant, interior designer or sometimes the artist in making the decision. Many art galleries offer a consultation service. Do not worry if you think the little gem of a painting is too small for your room - the right sized frame or the perfect lighting will make it the pinnacle feature of your room. Don't surrender if you think your beloved artwork is too big for the space - you might be surprised how it transforms your room and adds an extra dimension. Always chose Art you Love. You'll never regret it!



Charcoal sketches from Spain by Gerard Byrne at the artist's home. Photo credit: Ruth Maria Murphy

3. Make the Move. Get to Know the Artist.

It is necessary to know the artist to appreciate their work?

Probably not. But knowing the artist behind your favourite work, learning his or her values and background adds context to their work. Every piece has its own story. I suggest signing up to the gallery or artist's newsletter, exploring their website and following their Instagram to see their latest works. Who knows, your favourite piece might be showing right there!

4. There's Always a Way!

There has been an ongoing discussion whether art is a luxury or necessity. I personally think it is both. I'd like to share some tips on how to seize a 'must have' art piece when your head considers it a luxury and your heart cries out it's a necessity.

- Contact the artist directly or the gallery that represents them to check the price.
- If the price seems above your current budget check if it is possible to arrange installments.
- Give hints to your family and friends that a gift voucher of your favourite gallery would be the most valued present.

- Check if a barter is possible. The artist might be open to swapping the artwork for something valuable/ a service you offer. (Don't feel offended if the offer is not accepted though.)
- If the work is absolutely out of your reach start with a fine art limited edition print signed by the artist. Keep an eye on the artist's career. There is nothing like an original piece!



Charcoal sketches from Spain by Gerard Byrne at the artist's home. Photo credit: Ruth Maria Murphy

5. Be a Creator.

Your choice of artwork will have an effect on the character of your home.

What feel do you want to create?

If you want a fun and energetic room pick out bold works and striking conversation pieces, either abstract or figurative. These will complement the contemporary surroundings but will also work well with a traditional decor adding energy and vibrancy to a space. If you opt for a more relaxed look choose flowers, still lifes and landscapes in line with the colours already present in the room. If you want it to be uplifting, choose works that inspire you like architectural pieces. Do not be afraid to experiment. Your home is your castle. You make the rules!



'Lobster Mad!' oil on canvas by Gerard Byrne at The Gerard Byrne Studio, Ranelagh. Photo credit: Ruth Maria Murphy

Getting a commissioned piece of art is a great way to get exactly what you dream of. When choosing an artist make sure he or she has experience in making commissions. Also clearly state your expectations so that you get your very own unique piece of art that will keep you proud and inspired for the years to come.

You can always enquire if your chosen art work can be taken on loan for a couple of days. Some galleries offer the service. That way you can see does it fit well and feel rest assured that you have made the right decision.

The Gerard Byrne Studio will be exhibiting at house 2019 in the RDS from 24 - 26 May. Get your tickets [here](#) to stop by and see them at stand F34/F36!