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Curator Lisa Russell juxtaposes the work of old-world masters with that of exciting up-and-coming artists in her 6th Street gallery. *Opposite: The Kiss*, a bronze by Charles Umlauf, at the Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum. Russell calls both the artist and the site "Texas treasures."

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY MAYER

Apparition at the Circus, a signed lithograph by Marc Chagall, from the Russell Collection Fine Art Gallery.

“For every new artist I work with, I ask myself, ‘Could their art hang next to a Picasso?’ That answer must always be yes,” says Lisa Russell, owner of the Russell Collection Fine Art Gallery in Austin’s West End. Whether highlighting emerging artists like Chuck Voelter, Olga Porter and Rimi Yang, to name just a few, or exhibiting masterworks from Picasso, Chagall, Rembrandt and Matisse, it’s the collective balance of periods, knowledge—Russell and her staff thoroughly research everything they showcase—and curating that resonates most with her mission. “What displays on the walls here has a deeper meaning once you get to know the artist,” she explains. “I feel a great sense of accomplishment putting these collections together.” Russell, who also hosts lectures, visiting artists and themed international exhibits, says she’s most gratified by the impact she has on her clients’ lives. “The smile on someone’s face after making a connection with a piece of art is truly amazing.” russell-collection.com



BEST IN SHOW

LISA RUSSELL



I BECAME INTERESTED IN ART...

At a young age. My maternal grandmother was a sculptor and watercolorist, my mother an interior designer, and my father a collector.

WHAT DO YOU COLLECT?

Everything from the old masters to contemporary artists: Renoir, Leonor Fini, Luis Royo, Lélia Pissarro and America Martin.

WORK APPROACH:

I'm focused, driven and inspired on a daily basis by each and every artist I encounter, whether represented by me or not.

GREATEST FIND:

Charles Umlauf. I was introduced to one of his sons, Louis, five years ago, and since then we've had the honor of representing the family in three shows. If you've ever been to the Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum, you'll understand the importance of this Texas treasure.

MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW:

I love to fly-fish! It's the most peaceful form of movement I've ever experienced.