

## Gallery's Paintings Sate Enthusiasts's Appetite for Fine Art

---

If art is food for the soul, then the new McColl-Shiraz Gallery is a bountiful banquet. Visitors entering the gallery on East Boulevard are greeted by the joyful face of a German maiden in Friedrich Koch's "Young Girl With Vase of Flowers," painted in 1887. With her warm welcome, clients are ushered into an art experience unlike any other in the Southeast.

# An Elegant Repast For the Senses

The McColl-Shiraz Gallery allows collectors and art enthusiasts the opportunity to view and acquire museum-quality European and American oil paintings created from the 17th through the 20th centuries. One wall displays the detailed realism of sailing vessels battling stormy white caps in Frans Blyk's "The Exploration Sets Sail." Perhaps you'd prefer the rich brushstrokes and vivid turquoise waves of American impressionist Childe Hassam's "Incoming Tide." Mr. Hassam's work is also displayed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Boston Fine Art Museum and the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C.

"A good painting gives you pleasure every time you look at it," says Hugh L. McColl Jr., retired chairman of Bank of America and co-owner of McColl-Shiraz. "It's also a storehouse of value that grows."

---

by Peggy Anderson  
photos by Michael LoBiondo



Massoud A. Shiraz  
and Hugh L. McColl Jr.

photo by Garry Ballenger





"Italian Country Estate"  
by Louis Spangenberg.

The McColl-Shiraz Gallery is a partnership between Mr. McColl and art conservator Massoud A. Shiraz. During his 30-year career, Mr. Shiraz has restored paintings for the Vatican Museum and the Louvre, as well as for private collectors around the world.

Locating fine art for their gallery and clients is a matter of passion and pride for the two men. In addition to Christie's and Sotheby's, the pieces on display have been found at the London and Holland

"A good  
painting gives  
you pleasure  
every time  
you look at it."

— Hugh L. McColl Jr.

Locating fine art for their gallery and clients is a matter of passion and pride for the two men.

antiques fairs, smaller auctions, museums and in private collections.

The average price for a painting at McColl-Shiraz is between \$20,000 and \$45,000. "Society Lady at Her Home by the Shore," by 19th-century Spanish painter Vicente Palmaroliy Gonzalez, is priced at \$138,000. Other valuable paintings include a recently acquired beach scene by Eugene Boudin, teacher of Claude Monet.

### It's All About Trust

"What appealed to me about the gallery is that they serve in a consulting search capacity," says client Reitzel Snider, a Charlotte business leader and enthusiastic art collector. Mr. Snider recently relied on Mr. Shiraz to locate a set of landscapes for his home.

"Mr. Shiraz is a scholar with an insatiable curiosity about art," says Mr. Snider. "I trust his judgment and his integrity. And trust is a very big concern for collectors."



"The Exploration Sets Sail" by Frans Jacobus Blyk.





"Incoming Tide"  
by (Frederick)  
Childe Hassam.

The search began with specific parameters. "I wanted a pair of paintings that depicted an English, French or New England scene," recalls Mr. Snider. "Mr. Shiraz found two exquisite little paintings, at least 100 years old, that show the same scene in winter and spring. They're absolutely wonderful."

Mr. Shiraz was educated in art conservancy at the University of Iran at Tehran, and quickly established himself as an art restorer in Rome. He has lived in Charlotte for 17 years.

"Art is a wonderful investment, if you

"What appealed to me about the gallery is that they serve in a consulting search capacity."

— client Reitzel Snider



know what you are doing," says Mr. Shiraz. "There are many factors that determine the value of a painting." Those factors include the condition of the painting, how much of it has been previously restored, which museums currently exhibit the artist's work and whether the work is one of the artist's finest.

The McColl-Shiraz Gallery is also home to more than 200 antique picture frames, the only collection of its kind outside of New York.

"We have hand-carved period frames that are appropriate for a Rembrandt, a Titian, a Raphael or a Vermeer," says Mr. Shiraz. Museums are likely to purchase many of these frames, which include gilded, ebony and silver examples. Some clients prefer to inset mirrors into the frames for an elegant look.

### Aura of a Museum

Housed in the former Dilworth Post Office, the gallery has been completely ren-

ovated with arched interior doorways and exquisite lighting.

"I wanted it to feel like a museum," says Mr. McColl. Long known as a patron of the arts in Charlotte, Mr. McColl enjoys making great paintings available to the public. "Some of these paintings have been in someone's private collection for more than 80 years," he notes.

In the fall, the gallery plans its first focused exhibition, featuring marine paintings by artists including James E. Buttersworth and James Hamilton. In addition, the gallery will host small group seminars on subjects such as art restoration or particular art styles. Call (704) 333-5983 for more information.

"Sometimes I'll come over here and wander around and look at the paintings," says Mr. McColl, who admits he often falls in love with the art. "A painting will talk to you."

Visitors to the gallery at 208 East Boulevard can listen to the paintings talk.

"We have hand-carved period frames that are appropriate for a Rembrandt, a Titian, a Raphael or a Vermeer."

— Mr. Shiraz

You'll hear the waves gently clattering against the blue-hued rocks in the Hassam. Or catch the hopeful whispers of a traveling band of gypsies, the contented lows of cows in a meadow and the fierce squawks of a brilliant flock of roosters.

Truly a banquet for the senses. Plan to stay until your hungry soul is filled.



French XIX Century empire frame with floral molding on plate oak leaf ornaments on frieze and ornamental edge.