

**Edward Hurst**  
Dealer and interior consultant



**Favourite heirloom**

A very beautiful, 17th-century Augsburg Mannerist cabinet in ebony that used to belong to my father and has the most extraordinary outline—every surface is shaped. The drawers are lined with original 1630s silk and there are myriad hidden drawers. Rather unusually for a piece of furniture, it's stamped in the same way as silver, with the word 'Ebon' and the Augsburg city mark, which is a pine cone.

**Favourite acquisition**

A painting by George Spencer Watson that was so big I had to have it taken off its frame in order to get it into our dining room in Dorset. It's of a woman in a red riding habit, leading a dapple-grey horse with a lurcher at her side (*above*). I first saw it at a sale locally about three years ago: I walked into the room, it hit me very hard, and I fell in love.

Painted in 1910, it's of his wife, Hilda, a mime artist, and has all my favourite, earthy colours. The sunlight bounces off her face



and it gives me a huge amount of pleasure—so much so that my wife, Jane, says I prefer being with Hilda than chatting with her in the kitchen.

**Dream acquisition**

A pair of George II mahogany elbow chairs by William Kent that I rather like. A few years ago, at Masterpiece, I sold the bench that went with them to the Museum of Decorative Arts in Houston, Texas; obviously, that was a superior piece! But I'd like to have the chairs, too.

I'd also really like something by the artist Rachel Kneebone (at White Cube, 020-7930 5373; [whitecube.com](http://whitecube.com)), beautiful sculptures in white porcelain.

**“I think it's so important to have pieces that tell a story; rooms without these grounding pieces can be so bland”**

**Emily Todhunter**  
Interior designer and co-founder, Todhunter Earle



**Favourite heirloom**

I inherited a wonderful Victorian barrel organ from my grandparents that is of great sentimental value and has also travelled with me from New York City and back. My parents are big

collectors and I've been endlessly surrounded by things that tell a story. I think it's so important in a house; rooms without these grounding pieces can be so bland. Some clients are somewhat nervous when they ask me to incorporate inherited treasures into schemes, as if they might wreck the overall look. In fact, the opposite is true.

**Favourite acquisition**

I love to buy Greek icons and often go to The Temple Gallery in

**James Graham-Stewart**  
Dealer, English and Continental works of art



**Favourite heirloom**

I have a small piece of carved stone, with no intrinsic value, and a handwritten label on the bottom that reads: 'Souvenir of Old Sarum, 1735'. I'd admired it for some time at a dealer's, and eventually he gave it to me. Later, a good friend did what we call in the trade a 'Queen Mary' on me and badgered me into giving it to him. Whenever the queen visited, it became protocol that one should give her whatever she admired. As a result, dealers rather dreaded her visits and took to hiding their best things beforehand.

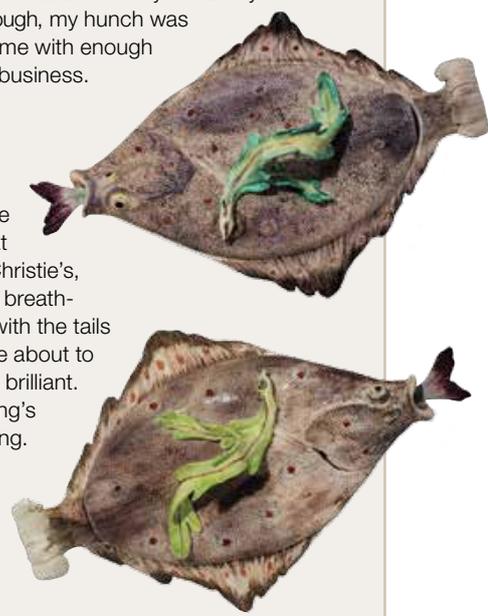
**Favourite acquisition**

After a rather big night out in Notting Hill, I walked down Portobello Road and into a shop that I'd been to many times before. There was a brass chandelier that had been there for some time, but that day, with the heightened awareness of a cracking hangover, I realised that the casting on the brass suggested it wasn't a 19th-century copy, but the real deal.

I bought it there and then for all the money I could lay my hands on and, sure enough, my hunch was right. That then provided me with enough capital to set up my own business.

**Dream acquisition**

There was a pair of Chelsea porcelain plaice tureens (*right*) in the Rockefeller Collection that was recently on view at Christie's, which I liked. They are so breathtakingly well-conceived, with the tails curling up as if the fish are about to swim off—bizarre and yet brilliant. I also love Domitilla Harding's work ([www.domitillaharding.com](http://www.domitillaharding.com)). She works with glass masters in Murano, creating beautiful vessels, vases and sculptures that she pushes to the limits.



Holland Park, London W11 (020-7727 3809; [www.templegallery.com](http://www.templegallery.com)). Pieces such as those make great confirmation presents for

godchildren. I don't think we give enough historic objects or pictures to young people—they are so much more memorable than modern pieces.

**Dream acquisition**

Kate Malone makes the most amazing ceramics with beautiful, colourful glazes (*left*). I've got my eye on one of her vases that she sells through Adrian Sassoon in Rutland Gate, London SW7 (020-7581 9888; [www.adriansassoon.com](http://www.adriansassoon.com)) ➤



Courtesy of Adrian Sassoon Ltd.