



DURING A VISIT TO THE GALLERY OF ARTIST STANISLAV LIBENSKÝ IN PRAGUE, RICK AND KATRINA KASH (PICTURED LEFT) ACQUIRED A DRAMATIC, PYRAMID-SHAPED SCULPTURE BY THE ARTIST. IT SITS ATOP A STEEL PEDESTAL IN THE COUPLE'S LIVING ROOM. OPPOSITE PAGE: DECORATIVE FURNISHINGS IN THE KASHES' HOME COMPRISE A MIX OF FINE ART, GLASS SCULPTURE, AND MODERN FURNITURE.

# ARTISTIC ESCAPE

ONE WORLDLY COUPLE CREATES A SHOWPLACE FOR THEIR COLLECTION OF FINE AND GLASS ART—AND A WELCOMING GATHERING SPOT FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

By Lindsay Lambert Day | Photography by Jerry Rabinowitz



When Chicagoans Rick Kash and Katrina Lundmark-Kash decided to buy a second home in Florida, an initial search took them to Sarasota. But when nothing there tugged at their heartstrings, they turned their attention toward Naples, which instantly won them over.

"We both just fell in love with the area," says Katrina. "The beaches, the town itself, the people were wonderful."

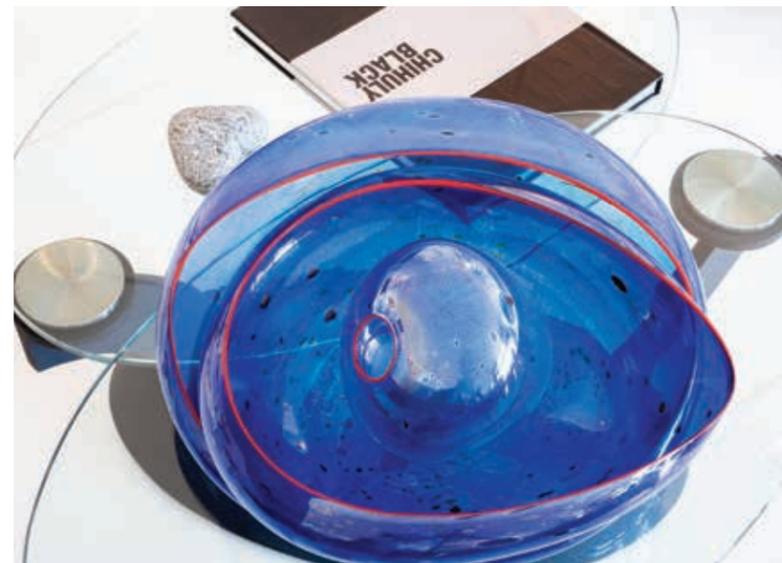
After purchasing a contemporary condominium with floor-to-ceiling windows, the Kashes set about personalizing their living space. Katrina, a designer by trade, took the lead. During the nearly yearlong process, she worked with craftsmen in Italy to create a custom couch fitted with stainless-steel legs and covered in a white, wool-blend woven fabric. A low-slung, tufted sofa by the contemporary French design house Ligne Roset breaks up the predominantly white palette with a playful pop of sapphire blue, a recurrent accent color throughout the home.

Trips to Paris resulted in other unique pieces, including a pair of armchairs Katrina had reupholstered in a timeless, gray Armani fabric. "Everyone who comes here just falls in love with them; they're so unusual," Katrina says of the chairs, which she estimates to have been designed in the 1930s or '40s. "I wanted something that was very textural and soft to break up some of the hard lines and edges in the apartment, so when I found this gray fabric, I knew it would be perfect."

Despite her painstaking efforts and careful choices where the condo's furniture was concerned, Katrina never intended for the pieces to be focal points. Rather, she was setting the space up to serve a very specific purpose.

"Because of our art collection and all of our glass art, which is very colorful, I wanted the feeling of our

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: A COBALT BLUE SCULPTURE BY ZORA PALOVÁ ANCHORS THE DINING ROOM; BOLD COLORS APPEAR IN MUCH OF THE ART, LIKE THIS SPHERICAL PIECE WITH A VIBRANT RED RIM AND AN OPAQUE CIRCLE SCULPTURE BY CZECH ARTIST STEPHAN PALA.



ABSTRACT FORMS AND PRIMARY COLORS ADD STRUCTURE, SHAPE, AND VIBRANCY TO THE ALL WHITE APARTMENT.



MODERN FURNITURE ALSO INJECTS COLOR INTO THE HOME. THE LIPSTICK-RED HUE OF THIS CURVACEOUS LONGUE PICKS UP BURSTS OF THE SAME FIERY COLOR IN A TEARDROP-SHAPED SCULPTURE NEARBY.



THE KASHES ACQUIRED TURQUOISE, TRUMPET-SHAPED FLORAL SCULPTURES (PICTURED LEFT) BY DALE CHIHULY AT A LONDON GALLERY.

apartment to be that when the elevator doors open and you walk in, you're walking into an art gallery," she says. "The furniture is just the background."

Indeed, the pristine apartment—with its 9-and-a-half-foot ceilings and views of the Gulf of Mexico on three sides—serves as a clean canvas for the Kashes' extensive and well-curated collection of art. Paintings by Pablo Picasso and Marc Chagall commingle with numerous glass sculptures by Seattle-based Dale Chihuly; Stanislav Libenský, the late Czech master whom Katrina calls "one of the fathers of glass art"; Jon Kuhn, whose works are featured in the Vatican Museums and the White House Permanent Collection; Czech artist Stepan Pala; and Slovakian artist Zora Palová, to name a few.

Though the Kashes' glass sculptures could rival those of a longtime collector, the couple began building their assemblage just seven years ago, not long after they met. "I have an extensive art history background, but I wasn't knowledgeable about glass art until I met Rick," Katrina says. "He'd just started [collecting] and had a few pieces, so we basically grew that [collection] together."

As for what turned him on to the medium, Rick doesn't recall an encounter with a specific piece or artist, but rather a feeling. "I think it was...walking into a wonderful glass studio or gallery, and it was like turning the lights on, seeing a cascade of colors, and you could almost hear a crescendo of music," says Rick, who retired as vice chairman of the Nielsen Company in 2017. "Suddenly you say, 'Wow, I've just opened

a part of the world that I think I could really love for a long time.' Visualizing is one thing, but having the ability and the good fortune to be able to acquire pieces that you love, that's special."

Today, the Kashes find most of their acquisitions at galleries, such as Seattle's Traver Gallery. They also attend the Sculpture Objects Functional Art and Design expo, held in Chicago every November, and make purchases during their extensive international travels. One such excursion to Prague was coordinated directly through a gallery the Kashes frequent. "We shipped back something like six huge pieces," Katrina says of the trip, which included tours of artists' galleries. "That was something."

For serious collectors such as the Kashes, these gallery visits often mean coming face-to-face with their favorite artists. "We've met probably every artist whose work we have, except for Libenský, who's no longer living," Katrina says. "But we did meet his wife, [Jaroslava] Brychtová when we bought a big piece from his studio [in Prague]."

Such experiences are exhilarating, even intimate. "I think artists do what they do primarily from love," Rick says. "And for them to share their unique perspective, their affinities and affections, and to show you how a piece evolved from a sketch on a piece of paper to what you see in your home or in a museum—that's



WHEN SEARCHING FOR A HOME IN NAPLES, THE KASHES KNEW THEY WANTED SOMETHING WITH A CLEAN, NEUTRAL PALETTE TO MAKE THE ART STAND OUT. COLORS SUCH AS PURPLE, ORANGE, YELLOW, AND AQUA POP AGAINST THE HOME'S WHITE AND OFF-WHITE BACKDROP.

hot stuff. The priceless part of it is how the art makes you feel, not the money it costs to buy it."

To be sure, the glass artworks and the memories of trips they conjure aren't the only priceless components of the Kashes' life in Naples. So, too, are the friendships they've forged and the organizations they support in their adopted hometown. Both Rick and Katrina are trustees of the Naples Children & Education Foundation, and Rick has served on NCEF's grant committee for three years. "It very much keeps me involved with my passion for [helping disadvantaged] children and being a liaison to some of the organization's largest grantees," he says of the committee that's responsible for distributing the \$13 to \$15 million raised each year at the organization's major fundraising event, the Naples Winter Wine Festival.

Beyond the couple's desire to create a gallery-like atmosphere in their



apartment, they also wanted the space to be warm and welcoming for friends and family, including Katrina's son and daughter and Rick's daughter, all of whom are grown.

Though the Kashes maintain a home in Chicago, Katrina says they're now practically based in Naples and want to spend even more time in town than the seven months they currently log here. The exception: the couple's beloved international travels, much of which they purchase as auction lots from the Naples Winter Wine Festival for the exclusive experiences they afford. During a trip to Australia, they stayed on a private island owned by entrepreneur and adventurer Richard Branson. Last year, they visited Tanzania and went gorilla trekking in Rwanda with friends from Chicago.

In addition, the Kashes frequently embark on trips that cater to their

love of wine. Their personal collection is 30 years in the making and includes bottles from as far back as 1928. They'll surely add to this stockpile come spring, when they kick off an around-the-world private jet journey with three days in Napa sampling library collections at some of the region's most esteemed wineries.

While it's more than likely the Kashes' art collection will also grow during their upcoming adventures, there's something to be said for coming back home again to Naples. "Every time I walk back into the apartment," says Rick, "I open the door and am absolutely amazed at the beauty, excitement, and history that's inside waiting for us." ◀◀

WITH 9-AND-A-HALF-FOOT CEILINGS AND VIEWS OF THE GULF OF MEXICO ON THREE SIDES, THE PRISTINE APARTMENT SERVES AS A CLEAN CANVAS FOR THE KASHES' EXTENSIVE AND WELL-CURATED COLLECTION OF ART.

OPPOSITE PAGE: THIS PRISMATIC SCULPTURE BY JON KUHN STANDS APPROXIMATELY 6 FEET TALL. "IT'S LIKE MILLIONS OF DIAMONDS INSIDE THAT ARE ALL THESE PRISMS," KATRINA KASH SAYS.

