

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

FLORIDA

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE

ALL ABOUT ART
FLORIDA'S LEADING ARTISTS
MUST-SEE EXHIBITIONS
ART FAIR SEASON GUIDE &
STATEWIDE GALLERY DIRECTORY

ART IN RESIDENCE
ART-CENTRIC INTERIORS
& GALLERISTS AT HOME

EXCLUSIVE:
PHILIPPE STARCK
ON CREATIVITY, LOVE &
TAKING CENTER STAGE

PLUS: FASHION
& ACCESSORIES
HOLIDAY CUISINE
& TABLETOP
ALTERNATIVE
INVESTMENTS

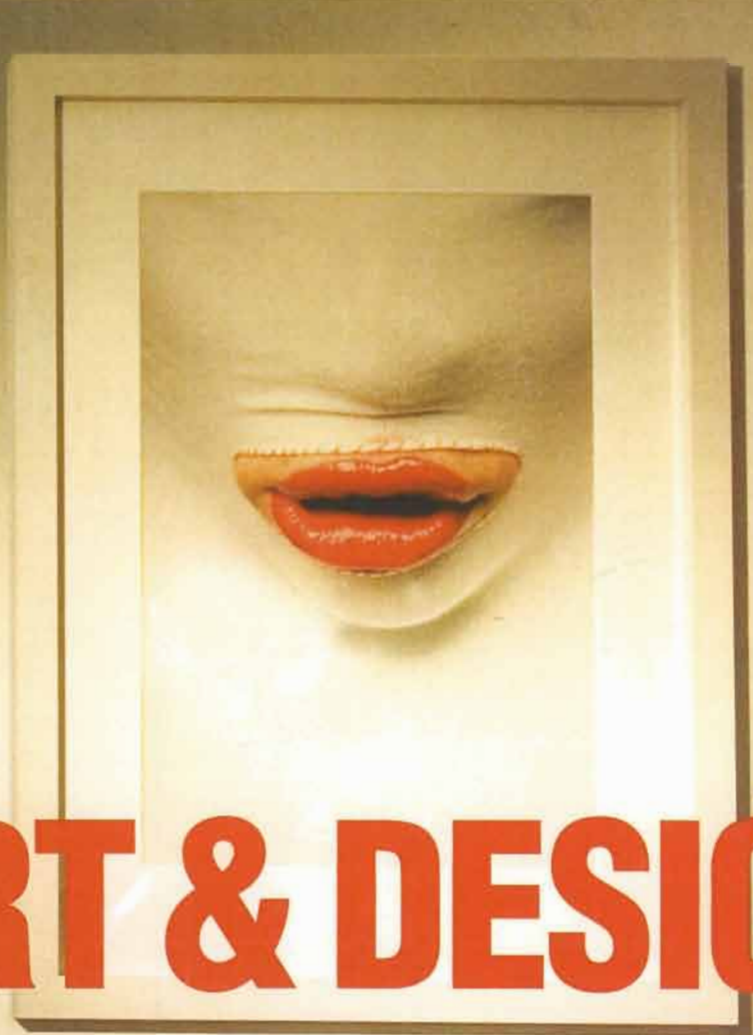
HOROSCOPE
PAGE 184

NOVEMBER 2007

\$3.95US \$6.95CAN 11 >

0 74470 01218 4

floridainternationalmag.com



ART & DESIGN

2007

GALLERISTS AT HOME

Florida's gallery owners welcome us into their residences
to reveal their private art collections

BY JENNIFER LESLIE KRAMER

You've seen their galleries — they're some of the most intriguing art spaces in the state thanks to collections of paintings, photography and sculpture that run the gamut from classical to contemporary and everything in between. But what do Florida's gallerists choose to be surrounded with at home? Four gallery owners invited us into their residences to take a peek at their own private collections and tell us why and how they live with art.



Kessler standing by *Cast Iron Boar* by Peitro Tacca. Above right: View of Kessler's music room and substantial art collection, including a Roybet portrait (far right).

THE ENTREPRENEUR: RICHARD KESSLER

While most people know Richard Kessler as a major player in Florida's hospitality industry (he's the head of the Kessler Collection in Orlando), many may not be aware he's also an avid art collector and owner of the Grand Bohemian Gallery in Orlando. "My hotels give me a wonderful place to integrate my personal interest of art into my business and share it with others," says Kessler. "In fact, I think the hotels have become pieces of art. The buildings are places of cultural exchange, and you leave feeling better than when you arrived."

Kessler's hotels all across the country — 10 to be exact — have allowed him to collect art the way he does — grandly. At his spectacular



estate in Windermere, period pieces adorn the walls of the foyer (one so impressive it could easily be mistaken for the lobby of one of his hotels) as well as the rest of his residence. "I really enjoy paintings," says Kessler. "Each one has a story to tell, and, like my hotels, it's almost always in the details."

Kessler admits that color plays an important part in his selection process. He adds, "I pay attention to how the piece was put together, how it feels as a whole. I know whether or not I connect immediately." And he's never one to think twice about a purchase. "When I find an artist I like, I'll commission five or six paintings at once," he says. "When I run out of room at home, I just find a hotel lobby that needs a new look." >