

SHOPPING FOR THE PERFECT ANTIQUE

BY YANIC SIMARD



SHOPPING FOR ANTIQUES IS ALWAYS FUN AND exciting and can build up quite the adrenaline rush. Imagining where the piece came from, who it used to belong to, what it was used for, the feeling you get when you have to have it, and you better grab it right away because someone else will- you snooze you loose! Though it can be quite an adventure going through these museum-like shops, having some tips to go by while scouting out these pieces is extremely significant, to help avoid disappointment and encourage a smart purchase.

1 / DO NOT SPEND A FORTUNE ON AN ANTIQUE UNLESS YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE BUYING

Beware of reproductions and re-makes. If you're looking to buy true antiques, take the time to do your homework first, you want to feel good about what you take home. Just because a piece is expensive, doesn't mean it's real. There are several online resources available which give tips on determining factors, on whether a piece is real or not, and also on what the fair price that you should pay is. You have often found a quality piece if it is signed by the designer, but again, do your research first. This will help you avoid disappointment and encourage a confident and educated buy.

2 / PURCHASE WHAT YOU LOVE

Buying what you love can be just as if not even more important than buying something that is genuine. Don't buy a piece if it doesn't appeal to you. It will just sit on the shelf and collect dust, invest in pieces that reflect your personal style and that mean something to you. It will make learning about their history much more of an interesting endeavor!

3 / RESTORATION

Just because a piece looks "old" doesn't mean it's the perfect antique. It may be in very poor condition and something that needs a bit of work. Always fully-inspect the item before deciding to buy it. Open its drawers or doors, look at the bottom of it, check that its legs or arms are steady, pick up the piece to see if anything falls off, run your hand against the surface. If an antique is chipped, torn or cracked in any way, it may deface its value drastically. It's a good idea to ask

the seller how and if it can be re-conditioned. It's always good to know what to expect ahead of time, so that way you know what you're in for once it's yours.

4 / SHOP IN THE UK

The UK is known for its authentic antiques, so if you're a serious antique shopper, taking a trip there would be something I'd suggest. The UK has a prominent history in trade and invention, and many of the pieces from these times remain in the region.

5 / LOOK OUTSIDE THE "ANTIQUÉ SHOP"

Antiques and unique collectables are everywhere. I found an amazing elaborate gilt side table for my place curb side! Check out garage sales, flea markets, and even local malls sometimes hold antique bazaars. Browse often and compare, the more you search the more you'll know.



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