

A Closer Look at Commissioning Bespoke Art for Superyachts



May 11, 2020

Artelier's project for M/Y Go featured a series of artwork commissions inspired by the design scheme's fresh aqua blue accent colours. Turquoise made the yacht instantly recognisable by its striking turquoise hull – this theme is carried through to the interiors, and so Artelier delivered art that enhanced the blue design palette and the polished stainless-steel finishes. The works of the artists they commissioned were integral to an extensive art collection aboard the yacht, sitting alongside pieces by prominent artists such as the glass sculptor Chihuly.

As part of Artelier's art consultancy, they identify key placements for artworks onboard. For pride of place in the Main Saloon, they collaborated with British sculptor Simon Allen to develop a sculpture for the yacht's dining area.

Allen created a large-scale circular wall sculpture from carved wood, basing the design on the ripples of water surfaces. The sculpture was finished with hand applied gold leaf; Allen used Moon Gold leaf, as its cooler gold tones complement the polished chrome and steel in the surrounding interiors.

The sculpture presented a technical challenge, as it needed to be hung on a mirror. Overseeing the artwork installation, Artelier also developed specialist fastening solutions for fixing the heavy sculpture, allowing it to safely hang on a glass surface.

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Taking inspiration from the mirror that the sculpture would hang upon, the artist added a turquoise blue backing to the sculpture – true to the nature of a project aboard a Turquoise yacht. When the mirror reflects the backing, it shines a blue glow around the artwork, giving an off-blue tinge to the piece.

Simon Allen's collaboration on the project continued to the stairwell; to emphasize the height of the space, Artelier commissioned a sculptural triptych that would span across all three floors.

The three panels were specially designed for the project, and custom made to fit into the niches of the stairwell's walls. Crafted from carved wood and gilded with white gold leaf, they shimmer in the light. When the sculptures are hung above one another, together they give the the impression of flowing water streaming between the upper and lower levels.

As well as bespoke sculpture commissions, Artelier also provided a range of paintings for the yacht. In keeping with the fresh colors and polished metals of the design scheme, they researched a portfolio of painters whose work would enhance the interiors.

For the Owners' Suite, they commissioned a pair of contemporary abstract paintings. The paintings bring the bright aqua palette seen elsewhere on the yacht to the more muted color scheme of the bedroom. The abstract shapes depicted are reminiscent of ink in water, interpreting the marine theme in an original way.

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Continuing this theme, Artelier provided other paintings that showed abstract water imagery, evoking the movement of water and creating gestural seascapes. In a commission for artworks in the hallway, they collaborated with a painter from Devon, UK, who has long been influenced by the sea close to their coastal home. For these paintings, the artist took inspiration from a bird's eye view of atolls, using the dazzling bright colors of tropical waters for their color palette.

As M/Y Go was custom built for the use of her owner, the interiors of the yacht reflected their personal taste – a fusion between elegant, modern styles, with vivid bursts of the yacht's signature turquoise color. Working closely with the designers, as art consultants Artelier delivered an onboard collection that brought together these concepts, and proved to be an integral part of the overall high-caliber presentation.

As international art consultants, Artelier specialises in curating art collections for luxury yachts. As well as sourcing contemporary art by leading global artists, they also collaborate with artists to create custom art tailored to the project. They share their insight on curating art for M/Y Go (77m), a Turquoise yacht, and how the newly commissioned art draws together the yacht's design concepts.