

## Swisspath Yachting Article Answers

### What would be your dream addition to a Superyacht interior?

Rather than a single addition, a dream yacht project would be one that incorporated sustainability into every aspect of the engineering and design. There is a growing interest in innovative yachts that harness clean energy like wind or solar power, and even use recycled parts for the mechanics. The art we source could then tell the story of the project's sustainable ethos.

Artelier often collaborates with artists who work with natural and eco-conscious materials, and revive ancient craft techniques that are inherently a more sustainable way of working. For instance, Stuart Ian Frost is an artist who works with natural foraged materials, and transforms them into distinctly contemporary artworks. There are many such environmentalist artists who would love the opportunity to recontextualise their work to a luxury context, and respond to the unique setting of being at sea. This is our specialism – finding respected artists who have great integrity in their work, and collaborating with them to produce new artworks tailored to the project.



*An artwork by Stuart Ian Frost, created from foraged fallen feathers*

## How do you go about selecting artwork for a particular space?

Initially, we get to know the client's interests, style and taste in depth, as well as tuning into the vision of the interior designer. We consider key materials, finishes and colours that are being used throughout the project, and imagine how they can be incorporated into art. It's also essential to understand the theme and intended atmosphere of the project, to then source art that enhances that experience.

Our art consultants then go through our database of 12,000 artists – carefully selected over a decade – and pick artists who really have a synergy with that particular project. We curate and present different options for the client, and after their feedback, establish a group of selected artists. These artists often produce work specially for the project, and our role then becomes in aiding the development of the artwork in line with the project's vision.



*A TV Roller painting, created especially for this Main Salon*

## What are the additional challenges you face with supplying artwork for yachts? (Logistics/ fixings etc)

Onboard yachts, there are many technical considerations that are unique to the yacht environment. It's necessary to consider if the artworks will be in areas with special conditions, such as the sea air of an open Beach Club, or the humidity of a spa. When developing the artworks, this has to be considered from the onset, and we develop specialist finishes together with the artists to protect the artworks. For instance, we created a porcelain wall sculpture for the yacht spa onboard M/Y Plvs Ultra – the fixings and finishes were adapted to resist the high levels of moisture. Artworks on yachts also need to withstand the vibration of the yacht and the

movement of the sea, so when considering options for art it's necessary to work out whether they can be constructed robustly and securely fixed in place.



*Porcelain wall sculpture created for the yacht spa on M/Y Plvs Ultra*

Sometimes, an artwork on a yacht needs to be integrated within the yacht's structure; in this case, it's necessary to co-ordinate with the yacht yard and interior contractors from an early stage. Onboard M/Y Neninka, which was launched as M/Y Aurora Borealis in 2019, we developed a curved 6m feature wall for the Owner's Suite. We collaborated closely with the interior contractor to specially develop curved panels that would fit flush against the wall, and the panels were then shipped to the artist so they could create the artwork in their studio.



*6m Feature Wall for the Owner's Suite on M/Y Neninka*

## How many different artists do you work with and how do you select them?

Artelier's art consultants are constantly researching new talented artists to add to our database, which currently includes approximately 12,000 artists. Many artists also approach us, and we evaluate their work to assess their suitability. We've developed a system of 12 considerations ([which can be read about here](#)) that we actively use as a measure for spotting talent for our database:

- Undiscovered talent
- Emerging career
- Originality
- Quality of ideas
- Use of materials
- Skill and ability
- Integrity and commitment
- Training and experience
- Longevity and evolution of artistic practice
- Innovation
- Artistic focus
- Versatility

When curating art, we then select artists purely based on their suitability for the specific demands of that project. This includes whether they are capable of working to the necessary quality, considerations, scale and volume that the project requires.

## Do you have any particular challenging collaborations you can tell us about?

It's always an interesting opportunity to be presented with a challenge; usually this is when the artwork and curation are highly technical. Our most challenging project to date of this kind is one that is currently under development, and will be launched next year at Monaco Yacht Show. We are collaborating with a glass artist to create an 8.5m carved glass installation, which will run up the staircase and lift shaft, spanning all three decks of the yacht.

The highly technical nature of integrating such an artwork has meant that the yacht structure has had to be engineered around the glass installation; this has led to us closely collaborating with the yacht yard and interior contractors. The movement and twisting of the yacht has also had to be considered when creating the artwork. The installation also features integrated lighting, which presents additional challenges.



*Details of the cast glass installation currently under production*

Have you had any seemingly impossible requests you have managed to pull off or any unusual requests you have had to decline?

Clients can have very specific requests, and we go to extreme lengths to accommodate them. For instance, a client had previously seen a small-scale crystal sculpture of 15cm height that they loved, and requested for the yacht's Main Salon to have a pair of 70cm sculptures made out of the same crystal. It was virtually impossible to source a fluorite crystal stone which was the necessary size for carving two 70cm sculptures. After extensive research, we identified a well-established and responsible mine in China and arranged that they specially locate an extra-large block, which took several months. We then organised shipping to transport the stone to the artist, who specially carved the crystal to make the pair of bespoke sculptures.



*A pair of bespoke crystal sculptures – detail & in situ*

**Are you finding clients are more eco-conscious in their choice of materials for installations, or is it the artists themselves who determine this?**

Artists have long pioneered an eco-conscious approach: they are resourceful, limit waste, and many use natural and sustainably sourced materials. In employing ancient craft practices, they are also working in a fundamentally low-impact way and often without the use of complex machinery.

We have seen a growing interest from clients in eco-conscious art, and in recent times this has been particularly noticeable in the yacht industry. While we have always known and worked with sustainable artists, it's a welcome change to see an increasing demand for their work, and so be able to connect these artists with luxury projects. On a yacht in particular, where eco-conscious design is highly challenging, sustainable art can be an excellent way of visibly reflecting the innovations elsewhere in the project.

**Are there any trends in artworks onboard yachts/installations at the moment or are there any particular trends that you envisage for 2021?**

In line with sustainability becoming a growing trend, yacht design and art installations are moving away from precious metals, and instead favouring natural materials. Simplicity and minimalism, with a focus on craftsmanship and high-end quality, is a contemporary aesthetic that suits this trend. We have seen increasing interest in natural materials for artworks, such as wood, textiles, paper and ceramics. To give the artworks a contemporary edge and high-end finish, the artists we work with often interpret these materials in highly original ways: this encourages viewers to reconsider the possibilities for how humble materials can create low-impact luxury. In 2021, this will no doubt become even more of a prominent feature.



*Sustainable artworks for yachts: paper, textiles, and ceramics*