




THE JOY OF

Memories

CURATING A PHOTO GALLERY WALL



Curating a family photo gallery wall is a special reminder of your life well-lived and a value-laden tribute to the ones you hold dear.

Last year, my mother, along with her husband, bought a small bungalow just outside of downtown St. Augustine, FL. Excitedly, she planned every inch of their décor, buying furniture and determining layouts of rooms before the new paint was even dry. Though her style is vastly different from my own and her process is much more fast-paced, I admire the intention with which she curated the pieces in her home. She knew exactly what she wanted and went out to get it.

One of the most intentional decisions she made was to collect all of her family photos and create a gallery wall for them in an otherwise odd corner of the dining room. This would be the only place family photos were displayed: no pictures of the grandkids on the nightstand, clinging to the fridge, or stuck in the corner of the bathroom mirror.

Along with my sister, I had the privilege of going through the lifetime of family photos and myriad frames she had collected and choosing which would make a cohesive gallery wall. This was no easy task! As is our usual manner, my sister and I debated the merits of each and every photo; the quality of each and every frame; the balance of the collage we were slowly, piece by piece, allowing to take shape – the literal, physical equivalent of swiping through your iPhone photos and re-living the memories of your life.

continued on next page



Experiencing the past so viscerally made me wonder if I have been too quick to discard photos because of bad lighting, or to crop photos with mistakenly captured elements in the background. I'm still saving memories, but is it dishonest to only keep those memories that make a good photo? Perhaps it's just that our values evolve along with technology: to me, keeping more photos than I'll ever have the time to go through isn't a purposeful practice. And sifting through folder upon folder of candid shots isn't a joyful activity. Making a decision on the spot—to keep or not to keep—is the more immediate version of "storing" photos, just as Instagram is the more immediate way to curate them.

Witnessing my mom's dedication to the family photo gallery wall invited my curiosity and, ultimately, won my respect. While I can't picture a wall full of candid and/or studio shots of my children and the generations to come anywhere in my home, I did recently hang a big, beautiful, vibrant photo of our kids in the entryway that makes me happy every time I walk by. (Thank you,

Artifact Uprising & Walker Studios!) No matter the way in which you choose to honor your familial legacy, the process of curating your photographic memories is an invitation for reflection, not just to be reminded of special occasions, but to remember the value of capturing and collecting the people and memories who bring us joy.



Dwell on This

Whether you have a family photo wall or prefer to keep your memories digital, there are countless ways to display your values throughout your home. From pillows you switch out with the seasons to a handcrafted statement piece you invest in, the guests in your home will know what you stand for when you display it loudly & proudly.

1

Make a statement.

Turn the trend of affirmational throw pillows into a meaningful reminder of the energy you want in your space.

2

Write it down.

Personalize and proclaim your family values with a hand-painted "family rules" sign, or write them on a vintage chalkboard. We love the selection at [K.Patton Designs](#).

3

Open with it.

Include a family crest, oversized family photo, or a really special family mantra on your foyer table for an inspiring, meaningful welcome to your home.

4

Hang it up.

Add whimsy and nostalgia to your values through the time-honored tradition of needlepoint craft. The resurgence of this art has many Etsy sellers sharing their talents. [Jolie Marche](#) is our current favorite!

5

Serve some love.

Infuse the goodness of those special homemade brownies or the family casserole recipe by serving them in an entitled baking dish.



Share your Space

Thanks to [@casaandco](#) (above) and [@walkerstudiosllc](#) (below) for sharing photos of their beautiful dwellings!

Tag us ([@theperpetualyou](#)) on your interior photos to be featured in an upcoming issue!