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—Rodney Reid, co-founder,  
The Contemporaries

Part of collecting, then, is also knowing when it's time to part with items. Indursky has made a house rule that nothing new can come in unless something else goes. Karp has granted several entire collections to museums. “When my inner connoisseur no longer needs to collect a particular genus, relevant collections are given to appropriate museums,” she says. “Museums, I hope, will serve up these objects to future audiences who will see them with the perspective and clarity that distance affords.”

**Y**oung collectors groups have recently popped up in most major cities, a testament that art collectors are anything but a dying breed. Six years ago, Rodney Reid and Moran Bar-Kochva started The Contemporaries on the campus of the Harvard Business School. The New York City-based group now has 600 members between the ages of 27 and 40, and has organized more than 100 events to expose young professionals to contemporary art and culture.

“I think new collectors have a tendency to be more impatient than prior generations,” says Reid. “In the past, collectors built their collections over a lifetime. Today, some of the leading contemporary art collections were seemingly built overnight.” This got-to-have-it attitude is fueled by the accessibility of today's art. Reid says that the growing popularity of photography, prints and other types of work in editions proves the availability of art for the masses.

What it comes down to, really, isn't where you find your treasures or how long it takes you to amass your collection; it's how that collection makes you feel, whether it's stamps, dolls or 20th-century ceramics. Finding the right objects is about trusting your gut and following your heart. “Obey your instincts. Without self-consciousness, respond to the objects that satisfy you,” says Karp. That's what defines a successful collector. ●

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## COLLECTING 101: BEGINNING ON A BUDGET

Have you been bitten by the collecting bug? Bruce W. Pepich, executive director and curator of collections at the Racine Art Museum in Racine, Wis., offers these 10 rules to help you get started. “These rules apply equally for collecting crafts, collectibles and ethnic artifacts,” says Pepich. “Collecting different categories of artifacts can be very exciting, for example, combining antique quilts with contemporary art quilts.”

- It's the hunt that's enjoyable. Collecting on a budget can often be more fun than working with unlimited funds.
- Do the collecting yourself so you can learn from the process. It's not as enriching to have someone else select work for you.
- Get to know what it is you like, and learn about it. Investigate and research before you spend your money. The Internet is a great tool.
- Buy for your love of the object, never for appreciation or investment.
- Your taste will change as you grow and learn. At some point in time, you may edit, trade or donate some works. You may change your focus.
- Try to specialize. You can concentrate on a medium, style, culture or time period.
- Learn how to care for and store your artwork. Remember, we don't own anything; we are merely caretakers for the next generation.
- Don't fret if you can't afford works by nationally known artists. Forge your own territory. It's OK to begin collecting paperweights until you can afford glass sculptures; it will help you develop an eye.
- Look for sales at university art departments, artists' guilds and community art studios. You may discover an important future figure in the field.
- Collecting is a long-term process, so relax and enjoy the wonderful education you will receive.