

“I love layering things from different periods and cultures, mixing the pristine and the patinated. It’s like they’re all having a conversation. Everything’s harmonious—and then you slip in one thing that’s not, and that gives the room added interest.”

—TIMOTHY WHEALON, *HOUSE BEAUTIFUL*, JUNE 2009



Photograph courtesy of William Waldron

ARBITERS  
OF  
STYLE

## PRESENTING INTERIOR DESIGNER AND ANTIQUES CONSULTANT, **TIMOTHY WHEALON**

This month’s Arbiter of Style has built a reputation as one of New York’s most sought-after interior designers. Recently singled out on *Elle Décor*’s A-List, an exclusive list of the year’s top 25 interior designers, his work has been published in *House Beautiful*, *Veranda*, *House and Garden*, *Architectural Digest*, and many others. After a brief career on Wall Street, Whealon set his sights on a career that would allow him to indulge his lifelong passion for design. He returned to graduate school in the field and opened Timothy Whealon Inc. in 1994, specializing in “high-end interior design with a focus on fine and decorative arts.” Clients love him for his skillful connoisseur’s eye and his playful mixture of period and contemporary pieces. We love him for his art historical expertise, design savvy and old-fashioned Midwestern charm...

# TIMOTHY'S FAVORITES

## COUNTRY ROOTS

I think my Midwestern upbringing instilled in me a very “American” aesthetic. My design preferences bring together worldly sensibilities—informed by places I have studied and visited around the globe—edited down to an American point of view.

## MODERN MIX

I am drawn to pieces with good lines and I like to mix antiques with modern pieces. I create rooms that refer to the past but are not trapped in them.

## WHERE TO BEGIN?

Decorating should be an organic process. I always begin by discussing with my clients how a room will be used, because comfort and usability are important parts of creating a livable space. From there I draw up a furniture and design plan and search for the best pieces to serve that plan. My goal is to create interiors with room to grow and look better with the patina of time, and perhaps an item of my client's own choosing from one of the Christie's Interiors Sales...

## ACCESS TO THE BEST

Interiors auctions are a great starting point for anyone who is intimidated by price tags, estimates, or the auction process in general. Buying at auction is very accessible and straightforward, and Christie's Bid Department walks you through the process and helpfully answers any questions. You can find so many different styles and periods in the same room—you're almost guaranteed to fall in love with something!

## ART INSPIRES ART

Billy Baldwin and Albert Hadley are two designers whose work has inspired and influenced me. One of my favorite artists is Agnes Martin, for the poetry and simplicity of her work. Her particular breed of Minimalism speaks to qualities of air, water and light—and while I would never put myself in the same league of her as an artist, I use her work as a reference point for how I approach interior design.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

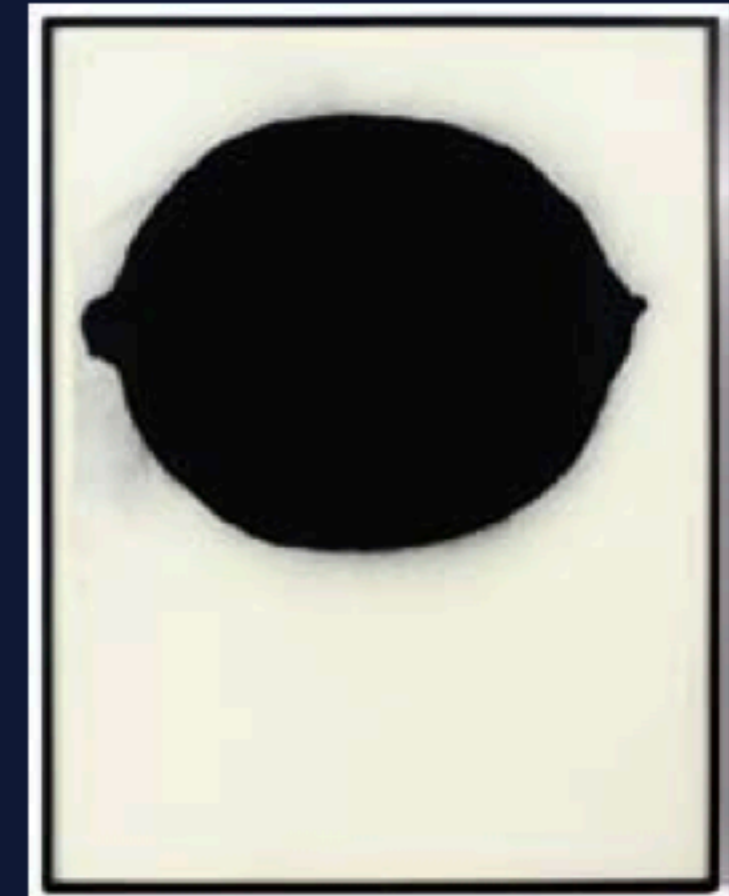
I think one of today's biggest trends in interior design is individuality. People are shying away from the cookie-cutter look of a lot of mass market retailers and designers. Instead of ordering a furniture suite from a single source, they are turning to the experts to help them create a specific look for their home that reflects their personalities and their lifestyles. I think that's really how it should be!

Visit [christies.com/arbiters](https://www.christies.com/arbiters) to view more of Timothy's top picks from our July Interiors sale.



“David Hicks, another of my favorite designers, often used rock crystal to create vibrant interiors in elaborate country houses. I've always wanted to own a pair of these for myself!”

LOT 1050 \$2,000–3,000 (No reserve)



“How can you go wrong with Donald Sultan? I love his abstract twist on the traditional still life. Yellow Lemon has a wonderful graphic quality because of the black and white, and with its large size it could easily serve as a centerpiece above a fireplace or mantel.”

LOT 251 \$6,000–8,000



“This piece has it all—texture in the form of the mother-of-pearl inlay, and geometry in the shape of the chest itself. It's based on a 19th century model, but the unique finishes make it much more appealing to the modern collector. I can't wait to see this one in person!”

LOT 1060 \$6,000–8,000



“Stools are a functional and attractive addition to any sitting room. This pair caught my eye with their x-form motif and the refined-yet-rugged feel of the enamel against the sheepskin. If your space is limited, tuck these stools away under console tables when you're not using them.”

LOT 410 \$3,000–5,000 (No reserve)



“Clean, versatile, and boasting an interesting silhouette, this Billy Haines armchair would be suitable for a city apartment or a house in the Hamptons—its timeless style can translate to virtually any interior.”

LOT 456 \$1,000–1,500 (No reserve)