

Terry and Bob Edwards

The Contemporary Couple



Terry and Bob Edwards met in an art gallery, got married in front of *Rancho Santa Fe Heart*, a large painting and collage work by Jim Dine (the piece hangs prominently in their Naples home) and have spent a great deal of their adult lives in the art world.

Terry was an art museum docent and director of an art gallery over the course of her career. Bob began his collection with a varied mix, including Victorian paintings, Toulouse-Lautrec posters and etchings by 15th century painter Albrecht Dürer. In the '90s, upon meeting a New York City art dealer who moved to Naples, Bob shifted his focus to the modern and contemporary masters the couple has become well known for collecting. "This dealer was all about Andy Warhol, Sam Francis, (Joan) Miro and (Marc) Chagall," Bob says. "He wasn't just bringing in prints; he was bringing in original paintings. It was a stunning thing to see in Naples, which was then a small town, known for its Midwestern roots. Here was this guy bringing in some of the best art you could imagine. I saw a Warhol piece of Elvis that I later saw sell at auction for more than \$50 million... I'll never forget the path that he opened for me."

That path eventually became akin to a super highway. The couple purchased the home they live in precisely as a backdrop for the works they cherish, such as sculptor Boaz Vaadia's figures *Ammi'el and Amaryahu*, Robert Rauschenberg's windmill-like *Eco-Echo*, and the 8-foot glass spears by Dale Chihuly that stand like horticultural plantings in their living room.

"We saw the house had lots of walls for hanging," Terry says. "And even though we were going to try to be more minimal, somehow there was always something else that we could squeeze in."

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Bob is quick to point out that the pair have never bought a piece of art to match any furnishings in a home, like many people do. “But we bought a house to match the art,” he says.

Along the way, the couple developed a keen affinity for sculptures—especially outdoor works, like the John Henry *Tequila Sunrise* and Philip Jackson *Il Grandi*, which grace the grounds.

The sculptures are fairly unique to Naples. The couple was close with Olga Hirshhorn, the late Naples resident who was also a world-class collector (her husband, Joe, created the famed Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in D.C.). “It started with little things, a small Warhol piece, a Picasso ceramic, and then we began to meet more people in that space—the sculptors themselves,” Bob says. “The next thing I know, I was buying lots of sculptures and people were noticing. I ended up on the International Sculpture Center (ISC) board, and the *Sculpture* magazine board.” They eventually began having artists visit, and Bob even chaired the ISC’s Lifetime Achievement Award ceremony for six years.

These days, the couple has so much art that they’re planning to create a rotating exhibition space at Edwards Asset Management’s expansive offices.

“It is a source of joy for us as a couple. We love traveling and going to museums and galleries and constantly learning more about art,” Terry says. “It’s also been the source of some wonderful friendships.”