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CREATING SOLUTIONS FOR THE ART MARKETPLACE

Spotlight On The Dodge Art Collection

FACTS & FIGURES

- The John Dodge Art Collection is a series of giclée prints made from John Dodge's collection of more than 50,000 antique images.
- The company features a wide range of prints of hand-colored images, including historical scenes, cityscapes, florals and antique valentines and more.

BY JULIE KELLER
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BEDFORD, Mass.—The John Dodge Art Collection, a compilation of giclée prints created from images from the 1800s to the 1900s, is part of a business that is more than 40 years in the making.

The unique company produces limited-edition prints created from the archives of 78-year-old artist John Dodge. Dodge boasts a collection of more than 50,000 antique images that include steel and wood engravings, lithographs, photographs and illustrations. Dodge said he has a wide range of prints depicting anything from historical scenes, cityscapes and

florals to art deco, art nouveau and more. Dodge also has one of the largest collections of valentines in the country. "You name the subject, and I've got it in my archives," said Dodge about his diverse collection.

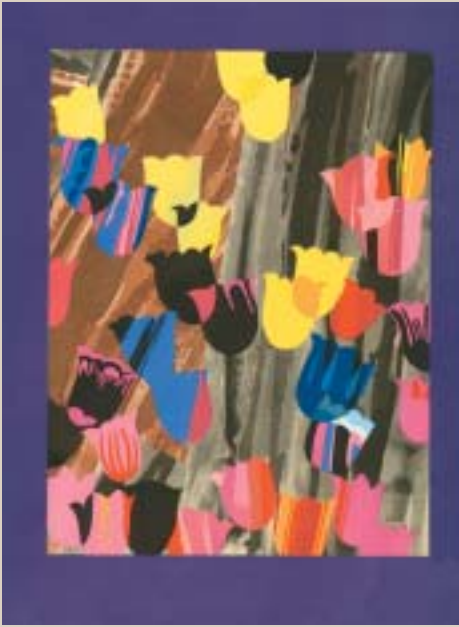
The prints from the Dodge Art Collection are created through a multiple-step process. First, Dodge and his business partner and graphic artist Jan van Steenwijk scan the antique at a high-resolution and print the work on an Epson 9500 ink-jet printer. Then Dodge, who is considered by his peers to be one of the top professional col-

orists on the East Coast, hand-colors the print. This retouched print is then scanned again at high resolution and made into a giclée print using archival paper and archival ink. The prints are available in various sizes from 8 by 10 inches to 44 inches by 10 feet.

Hand-colored prints from the collection have a diverse collector base. The work is purchased by interior designers, decorators, collectors and galleries nationwide, from California to Florida. "I just signed on a gallery in Annapolis, Md., that wants naval work," said Dodge.



John Dodge (l) with Jan van Steenwijk (r), his business partner and graphic artist



A pochoir print by G. Benedictus, circa 1930, that has been hand-colored by Dodge



Dodge's collection includes hundreds of Valentines, including this one from around 1863.



This image is one in a series of 12 images of bronze ornamentals, doors, gates and more.

Dodge's client list is quite impressive indeed. His prints can be found in hotels and hospitals around the world. Most recently, prints were purchased by State Street Bank in Boston, a hospital in Saudia Arabia, the Palmer House in Chicago and the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, among others.

Dodge started collecting the antique prints more than 40 years ago when he worked as an antique dealer. He started reproducing art and antique prints

for hotels in the 1970s and has been successful with that business since then. But Dodge's interest in art began long before that. He studied art under the GI Bill after serving in World War II. Though he didn't immediately pursue an art career, he went into the art business in 1952 and "made a living working at it," he explained.

Today, Dodge is still expanding his collection, and he recently purchased an Art Deco portfolio for \$15,000 which he plans to make prints of. He is also

part of the Ephemra Society of America and continues to grow his huge collection of Ephemra, which he describes as "anything printed on paper which can be thrown away. Baseball cards, trading cards and posters all fall into this category," he explained. "And so does my collection."

Dodge recently began selling his prints to galleries and plans to exhibit his collection of giclée prints at Artexpo New York for the first time in February. **ABN**

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The
John Dodge
Art Collection

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