

your home as a masterpiece

Style and sophistication for every facet of your decor

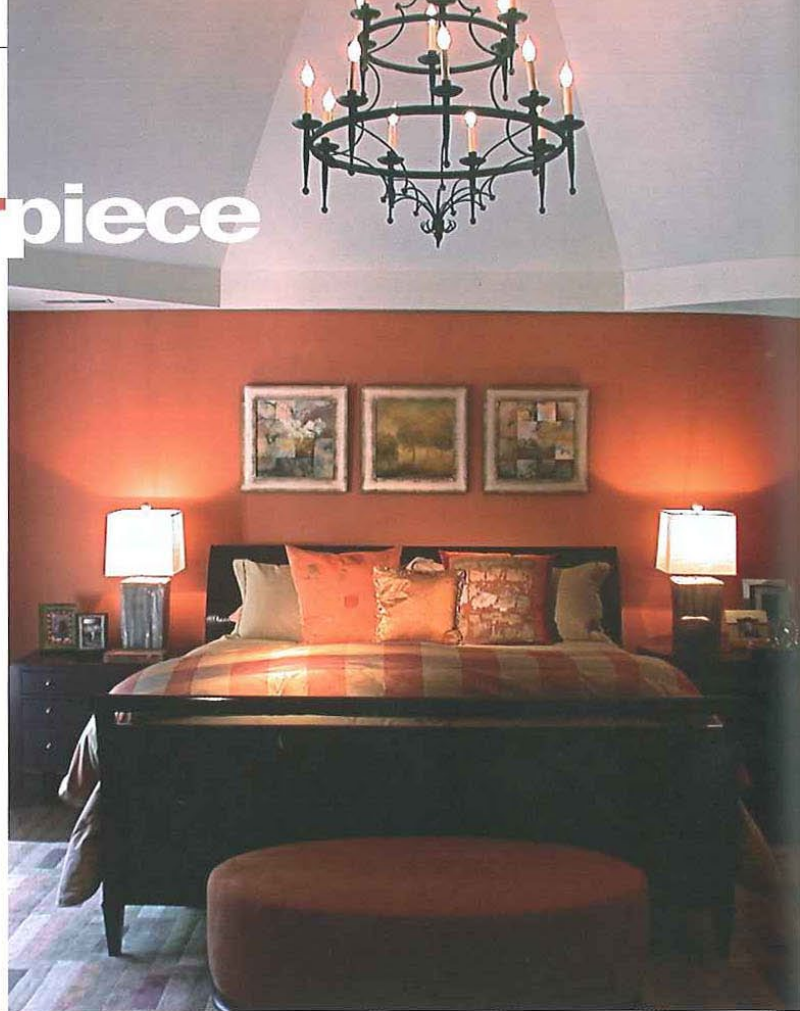
Bennett Galleries and Company is a full-service store offering the very best in original art and fine craft and everything for the home. With over 30 year's experience, they have emerged as a destination-attraction with customers from all over the United States. Their focus is on original art and fine craft, European furniture, lighting, ceramics, jewelry, dinnerware, glassware, and linens. Additionally, the store offers full design services to create truly unique spaces for your home.

Bennett was initially formed as a frame shop in 1976 by owner Rick Bennett, originally from Nashville. Rick taught himself color and scale as he sold custom framing. The natural next step was adding the art to fill those custom frames. Along the way, he met and married Jeannie, a former corporate interiors consultant. In 1987, the Bennetts moved into Western Plaza: by then, what they had was unquestionably the best art gallery in town. Over the next decade, Bennett Galleries grew in inventory and reputation.

"The East Tennessean isn't America's most extravagant consumer and early on we struggled with the idea of moving to a more cosmopolitan area, but we were dedicated to making this work in our community... dedicated to making a difference." reveals Jeannie. "Our struggles to survive have only made us more committed not only to our customers, but also the artists we support."

In 1996, the Bennetts purchased and renovated an old movie theatre known as the Capri Cinema in the heart of Bearden giving them approximately 40,000 square feet of showroom and warehouse space. Within the large structure, they have been able to create a series of small cozy shops. A 2,000 square foot fine arts gallery is to the right in a traditional white hall-like space away from the sun. Near the entrance you'll find soaps, candles and small gifts. House wares and furniture are in the middle along with a children's alcove and several other nooks arranged by theme. On the mezzanine and upstairs you'll find more fine art and furniture both domestic and imported, as well as, a recently completed "warehouse" showroom space.

"Sometimes we do a house from the ground up," Rick says, "from talking to the architects to putting sheets on the beds. It's what the customer has asked for." Bennett Galleries currently has licensed designers



who can help customers with single items or complete homes. "We have customers who have shopped with us for years who are coming back to redo their homes in Knoxville or their second homes in places like Hilton Head or Kiawah Island in South Carolina and numerous other locations in Florida," says Rick.

And though Knoxville is home to more than 40 galleries and numerous other furniture and gift stores, Bennett has emerged as something of a destination-attraction. "We like the idea of bringing other pieces of the world to Knoxville," says Jeannie. This is one of their busiest seasons hosting accomplished interior designer and the founder of Aero Studios, Thomas O'Brien for Hickory Chair;

International, award-winning designer, Gurhan, who is renowned for pioneering the revival of 24-karat gold jewelry and well-known Italian painter, Franco Cimitan.

Bennett Galleries strives to show how to mix fine art with exquisite furniture and clever objects. For the journey of creating unique spaces that reflect one's own distinctive self, there is no better place in Knoxville to find unique, handcrafted gifts, fine furniture and art. Come in and see the difference.

