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INSIDE INTERNATIONAL INTERIORS WITH A CONTEMPORARY APPROACH TO COSY STYLE



Ed O'Donnell and JP Banks

Partners in work and life, Angel O'Donnell's co-founder and brand director on the piece that captures their spark

We have owned this Jack Penny painting for more than a year and a half, but it went straight into storage after we bought it because we've been renovating our new mansion flat. It depicts nights out, that idea of one person seeing the other one home. It's focused on two characters and because this is our forever home and it's just the two of us, it couldn't be more perfect, not only for the space but also for us.

We've been fans of Jack's work since we put two of his paintings into a project for a private client in Chelsea. His work is heavy on colour and has this impasto quality – he lays the acrylic and the oils on thickly. It has a lot of impact. Back then, his style was more abstract and he was difficult to decode, but that has changed. Now, it's more delineated; there's a lot of movement, a sense that characters are about to fall or they're laughing. It seems fast and frenetic.

Our curator, Stoneman Collins, told us Jack actually started another painting on the other side, but it wasn't working for him, so he abandoned it. Rather than paint over it, he simply flipped the canvas over and started painting these two blokes clowning about. The thought that we'll be aware of it when it's hanging, but no one else will know, appealed to us. Similarly, Angel O'Donnell has evolved from a developer-led interior-design business into a broader practice spanning private clients, interior architecture and full-scale renovations, with hospitality next on the horizon. The way I design has also evolved and that resonates with this piece.

This apartment is bigger than the previous place, but there's less wall space so we'll have to edit our art collection – this will hang in pride of place behind the dining table. When we first saw Jack's work, it was out of our budget. Now, years later, owning one of his – a huge piece, as well – means a lot. *angelodonnell.com*

AS TOLD TO PHOEBE FRANGOUL. PICTURE: ANDREW URWIN

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