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# Color Me Collector

by **Deborah Yonick** — [June 1, 2024](#)

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"Collecting is a fundamental aspect of human existence that has served to enable and enhance our evolution, offering both material and emotional value to us as individuals and communities," wrote Professor Andrew Dillon in a column for Art Basel last year.

Dillon, a professor at The University of Texas, School of Information in Austin, described a collection as offering "life support over time, a means of trading, a basis for community and communication, a stockpile of wealth, and a mechanism of self-identity... a basis for informing and learning, providing emotional comfort and security, and marking our lives in personally meaningful ways."

Regardless of the things collected, from fine art to pop star memorabilia, Dillon found consistent shared motivations for the behavior, including emotions, identity, value, and desire for connection. His words resonate as discussions arose in

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