

#### SAVING FACE

To keep your collection even more cohesive, look for paintings with a consistent background color. In this instance, greens and teals complement the subjects' warm-toned color scheme.

#### Gingers

**WHY WE LOVE THEM:** Roughly 2 percent of the world's population has red hair, so portraits of redheads are a rarer find. **WHAT WE'D NAME THEM:** Annie, Margaret, Lucy, and Ethel (clockwise from top left). **HOW TO DISPLAY THEM:** A subtle rosy wallcovering (Sudbury Park; [cofax.com](http://cofax.com)) speaks to the hue at hand.

## Character Building

Vintage portraiture—of the midcentury style, in particular—is having a moment, but you can't exactly buy every Tom, Dick, and Harriet you run across in an antiques store. A quirkily curated grouping—from rosy-cheeked redheads to girls in pearls—makes for stylish company. (Bonus: Not a one of these "instant ancestors" will bring up exes at the dinner table.)

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To form your own gentleman's club, seek out 19th-century portraiture. Vendors like Coyote Moon Antiques ([coyotemoonantiques.etsy.com](http://coyotemoonantiques.etsy.com)) and Paris Hotel Boutique ([parishotelboutique.com](http://parishotelboutique.com)) also boast notable selections of these sirs.

#### Stoic Gents

**WHY WE LOVE THEM:** These stone-faced fellas, with their somber expressions and black attire, lend some get-to-work gravitas to a study. Why so serious? Back in the 19th century, smiling in a portrait was a social no-no. **WHAT WE'D NAME THEM:** August, Henry, Horatio, Charles, Jasper, and Byron (clockwise from top left). **HOW TO DISPLAY THEM:** Gold frames add warmth to the cold dispositions, and a Victorian era-inspired paint color (Bancha; [farrow-ball.com](http://farrow-ball.com)) highlights the black-and-white scheme.



## Ladies in Red

**WHY WE LOVE THEM:** No shrinking violets here! While female portraiture of decades past tended to veer demure—think formal dresses and polished pastels—this fiery menagerie shares a little mystique, as if they're all in on the same *Big Little Lies*-esque burning secret. **WHAT WE'D NAME THEM:** Maria, Emily, Laurel, Elizabeth, Anne, Jean, and Nancy (clockwise from top left). **HOW TO DISPLAY THEM:** A moody blue (Stiffkey Blue; [farrow-ball.com](http://farrow-ball.com)) lets the red apparel pop.

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Don't overlook the nooks and crannies of antiques stores. Sometimes unframed portraits can be found rolled up (top middle, bottom left) like maps as opposed to displayed on a wall.



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These captains tend to congregate near the coasts. Start the search at California-based Mate Gallery ([mategallery.com](http://mategallery.com)), or seek New England sources like The J.M. Byron House ([thejmbayronhouse.com](http://thejmbayronhouse.com)) and Brimfield Antique Flea Markets.

## Salty Seafarers

**WHY WE LOVE THEM:** These bearded boaters seem to possess a certain seen-it-all wisdom. (Sailors smoking pipes could be a category unto itself!) **WHAT WE'D NAME THEM:** Louie, Eddie, Pete, Thomas, Richard, William, George, and Leroy (clockwise from top left). **HOW TO DISPLAY THEM:** Wavy wallpaper (Whitby; [minimoderns.com](http://minimoderns.com)) and a weathered cabinet have equally salty dispositions. Or consider an off-kilter arrangement inspired by choppy waters and, perhaps, one too many rums on the rocks.



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Nashville designer Stephanie Sabbe lucked upon this grouping painted in the style of Nashville artist Lula B. Estes (1917–2008) at a local estate sale. Estes' portraits depicted some of the movers and shakers of Music City society.



• Cotillion Club •

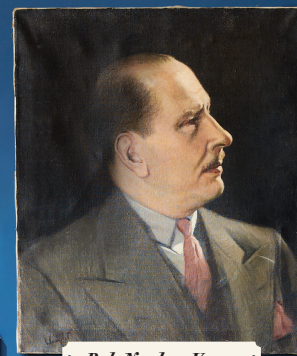
**WHY WE LOVE THEM:** Polished and proper (is that a hint of a smirk?), we like to imagine this ladies-who-lunch bunch trading gossip when left on their own. **WHAT WE'D NAME THEM:** Maureen, Grace Anne, Patricia, Genevieve, Beatrice, and Loretta (clockwise from left). **HOW TO DISPLAY THEM:** A neatly aligned arrangement speaks to their presumed love of social decorum, as does finely detailed furniture and blush pink paint (Moxie; *behr.com*). They'd also be perfect in a powder room.

### Cult of Personalities

Your options are endless. Want a hive of big hair? Overworked salesmen? Ladies lost in thought? Here, a few more categories to consider.



• Blunt Bangs •



• Bob Needs a Vacay •



• Girls in Pearls •



• Hair Spray Enthusiasts •



• Statement Coifs •



• Mischief Makers •

**THANK YOU**  
Turn to page 106 to find more of the collectors and vendors who loaned the portraits featured in this story.



• Is the Oven Still On? •



• Ladies in Hats •



• Posh Pets •