



Lauren Prakke, "Masterpiece Selection," *Masterpiece London 2016*, June 2016.

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MASTERPIECE SELECTION



The entrance to the secret annex in the Anne Frank House, Amsterdam

When it comes to design, I'm very loyal to the objects I love but I'm not particularly faithful to a single period. I love Dutch design, for example, and own some **Moooli chairs** – the burnt ones that have been set on fire and each have a unique appearance because they burn in different ways. But the pieces that stand out for me are **Ico Parisi sofas**. They're modern Italian, curvilinear, and have a sensual design that's completely unforgettable. You can see lots and lots of sofas and they all blend into one, but even after 60 years these are complete originals that still feel utterly contemporary.

Lisa Yuskavage and **Mira Dancy** are two artists who really resonate with me. They represent a re-emergence of the figurative in contemporary painting, and they're both lavish, erotic, and fearless in their presentation of the female figure. Their works tend to be psychologically charged. Lisa is quite cartoonish, and Mira paints more like a German Expressionist; but at the core of what they do they're really similar. I hugely respect **Tate Modern** for featuring three top female artists last year – Sonia Delaunay,

Agnes Martin, and Marlene Dumas. Women artists have been underacknowledged and underpaid for so many years.

The museum that inspires me the most is the **Anne Frank House** in Amsterdam. It's extremely moving to contemplate Anne Frank's experience, her depth of feeling, and her maturity in the face of injustice. She managed to retain a sense of light and life and to grow as a person, in spite of the great hardship she suffered. The museum makes you think about humanity, and evaluate your own sense of what it means to be human.

My ultimate masterpiece is **Michelangelo's David**. I used to sculpt at the Art Students League of New York, and have a deep interest in sculpture as a medium. I love how this work portrays the underdog, David, as a victor, and its sense of proportion, beauty, and perfection. In fact, everything about it is enthralling: the watchful eyes, the pulsing veins, the tension of the pose and the material. It's a genuine masterpiece and I defy anyone not to be moved by it.

Whitehall Magazine and Alexandre Vallerio / Photo: Cris Toala Olivares / © Anne Frank House



Lauren Prakke, collector and art patron, picks out some of her favourite masterpieces



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David, 1501–04, Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475–1564), marble, ht 517cm, Galleria dell'Accademia, Florence



Blood Moon, 2015, Mira Dancy (b. 1979), acrylic on canvas, 193 x 147cm



Sofa no. 812, c. 1951, Ico (1916–66) and Luisa Parisi (1914–90) for Cassina, metal and upholstery, 81.5 x 174 x 81.5cm

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