

## Jacob Dean, barrister

I REALLY started buying art because I needed something to hang on my walls as well as in my rooms in chambers. The first piece I bought was through a friend, whom I'd known at Oxford. It cost me £200 and it was a huge, fairly abstract eye of a goat. I had it hanging in chambers but it was frightening the clients so now I have it at home.

I really didn't know anything about art, my tastes are quite naive and I tend to go for bright colours. I bought a couple of pieces at the London Art Fair last year — in particular I love an Elisabeth Lecourt piece that I paid £900 for, which is a map of the South of France folded into a little girl's dress.

I sometimes trawl through BritArt.com. I bought a nice

piece from Rob & Nick Carter of some concentric rings of colour, a fibre and chrome print for £500. I buy a couple of pieces a year and so I now have seven or eight pieces. I'm not consciously building a collection or aiming at investment pieces.

I've never spent more than £1,000 because I don't have the confidence in my taste to spend more yet. I like buying at the London Art Fair partly because you see such a wide range of work and partly because it is so unthreatening.

I also like trawling the online galleries. They will often let you try something out on the walls. So far the Elisabeth Lecourt is my favourite piece but I'm becoming more confident about my own taste all the time.

