

The Joys of Antique Shopping: Treasures Tell Stories



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“My apothecary table!” In the sixth season of *Friends*, Phoebe explained to Ross and Rachel how important it was for her to have furniture that told a story. This free-spirited fictional character’s love for antiques is something many people said they relate to.

Barbara Beaver, owner of Beaver’s Den Antiques in Woodland Hills, said antiques are what make a house feel like a home.

“These things have survived and the reason why is because of the quality and that they were loved and taken care of,” Beaver said. “For these things to go on to new homes and be appreciated by young people is wonderful.”

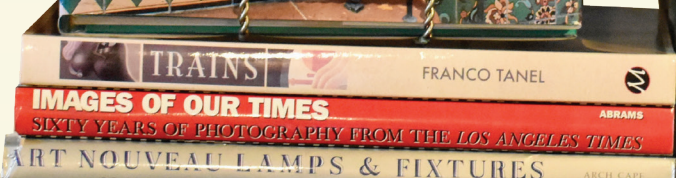
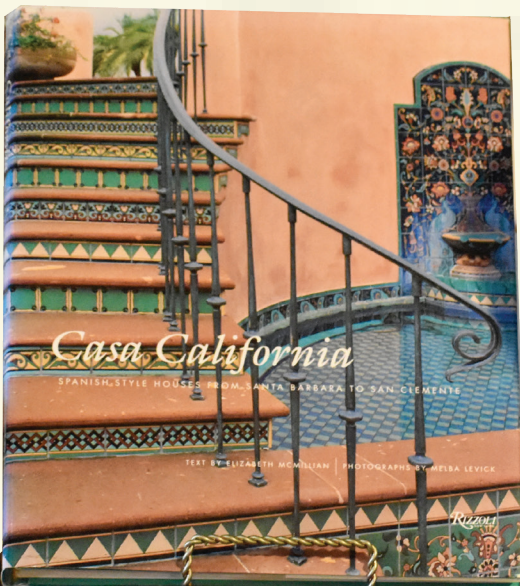
Searching for Antiques

Students, faculty and local shop owners said they appreciate the thrill of the hunt, the everlasting quality of antiques, as well as the

keepsake of history — remembering things locally made with love, not manufactured in 2024’s fast-paced world.

“You can get the same thing [item] at an antique sale and paint it to your heart’s delight, and you will have that piece forever because they’re just so well made,” said Avesta Carrara, office manager of Alumni Relations.

Carrara said she first became interested in antiques by admiring the decor in her grandmother’s house in France. She ended up bringing small pieces of this



house back home with her but had the desire to grow her collection.

She said she started finding estate sales as well as antique markets and moved on to collecting and selling antiques of her own for over 25 years. Other than her sheets and towels, she has no new items in her house.

“If you shop estate sales, you know that stuff is not going into landfills, and a lot of the kids don’t want it,” Carrara said. “A lot of the time either the parents are downsizing or someone has passed away. I have been to more places in L.A. than I ever would have had I not had an interest in antiques.”

Memorable Finds

Carrara’s most prized possession: a pie safe. She said she had been looking for one for years and they were used in the 1800s as a cabinet for food.

She also found a coveted butcher’s block she had been looking for, used to cut meat in old butcher shops.

“I wish they [antiques] could talk,” Carrara said. “Because if they could talk they could tell me where they have been and who they have been with.”

After losing her home in the 2018 Woolsey Fire, Carrara said she had to start her collection over, but that it left space for a bigger and better vision.

“When do you have the opportunity to redo everything and start from scratch as an adult?” Carrara said.

Carrara’s favorite era is anything before 1960, she said, but she really looks for things from the 1800s. She said she is fascinated that older antique

Barbara Beaver
Beaver’s Den Antiques
Owner

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