

A message to the staff at Hiscox from Robert Hiscox

I like contemporary art made now while I am alive. I like meeting the artist and I want to acquire things which are representative of art in my lifetime.

To me, art is colours and shapes. I am always surprised that people will accept clothes and furnishings like curtains which have abstract designs, but when it comes to a piece of art, they want it to be representative. I would suggest that you look at any work with an open mind and see if it satisfies you in some way. If it doesn't, fine. Some of them will grow on you after a while, some won't. I dislike a great deal of contemporary art, but some of it gives me intense pleasure.

The choice of what to buy is entirely governed by my gut. Just like the attraction of a woman, it is not just looks but a chemistry and something indefinable that draws me to a certain work. I go towards art wanting my guts to be churned. Some pieces grab me immediately; some challenge me on first glance but eat into me afterwards and remain in my mind.

I hope some works we have acquired will eat into your guts and give you pleasure. They are there to stimulate and to make the office a more creative environment.

If any of you ever want to discuss a work with me, I would be delighted. Believe it or not, I would rather talk about art than insurance.

Robert Hiscox