

SEEING green



Greens are having a big year in 2022 from avocado to emerald and sage. Handout photos / TNS

By Katie Laughridge
Tribune News Service

Every year Pantone picks a color of the year for us all to enjoy. However, while I love periwinkle, this year is going to be all about green (for me, at least). I have been a big fan of green for years (and really, my whole life), but I am turning up the volume on my obsession. Greens are having a big year in 2022, from avocado to emerald and sage — and I love them all.

Green is a wonderful year-round color that symbolizes rebirth, growth and life in general. While some people try to turn it into a negative hue of jealousy, I have always found it to be a relaxing color both in nature and in home decor. Using green in your home is a fantastic way to add an earthy and established essence to your spaces.

One of the best qualities of the color green is its versatility. So many shades of green work wonderfully in a home. For spaces with an earthy color palette of neutrals and browns, I tend to gravitate toward greens with the same undertones like sage and forest. If your home features bolder colors of navy or deep reds, a great pairing is jewel-toned greens like emerald and jade. Then of

course, bright and springy greens can be introduced to just about any color pairing for a burst of freshness.

Incorporating green into your home is easy, whether you want to go all in or ease into it. Don't be afraid to go bold! While it might seem a little far out to go all in and paint your room a shade of green, the payoff is worth it. While this color may be out of some people's comfort zones, it is not as scary as it may seem!

If wall color isn't the direction in which you want to go, start with the little things. One surefire way to introduce a new shade is through your throw pillows or art. Many of our fabrics contain shades of green that can slowly turn the volume up in your home. While a set of throw pillows or a new botanical print introduces the color to your room, it is important to establish your palette with the addition of a few strategic items. Lamps are a fantastic way to cement a new hue in your home and create a cohesive look throughout your space.

Adapted from nellhills.com. Katie Laughridge is the owner of Kansas City interior design destination Nell Hill's. For more information, contact Katie at info@nellhills.com.
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Leal painting tells romantic tale

Editor's note: This article was originally published May 13, 2019.

By Helaine Fendelman
and Joe Rosson
Tribune News Service

Dear Helaine and Joe:
My grandmother purchased this painting by Manuel Leal when she was in Mexico. She attached a note to the back of the picture telling a little about the artist. She also stated that, since written permission had to be given to remove the painting from Mexico, she had to conceal the painting in order to travel with it back to the United States. What is the value today? Thank you,
R. W.
Dear R. W.:
The date on the note was 1952, and it is said the name of the work is "Kiss Street." We believe this is a simplification of the actual name, which is "Callejon del Beso," or

"Alley of the Kiss." With it goes a romantic but tragic tale.

Leal (1893-1975) was a painter, teacher, storyteller and novelist in the town of Guanajuato, Mexico, which is located in the center of the country and is now a community of about 170,000. Guanajuato means "hilly place of frogs."

The Spanish came in the 1540s and began mining metals. It is said that at one time gold nuggets could be found on the ground. And during the 18th century, Guanajuato was the world's leading producer of silver. The town is said to have been the richest in Mexico during much of the colonial period.

Guanajuato is hilly, and streets are often just alleyways (the main street even runs underground for 3 kilometers). Many streets are impassible

for automobiles, and the Callejon de Beso is just 66 inches wide. Many of the streets have small piazzas, and balconies on the upper floors on either side of the street often almost touch each other.

There are steep steps on the Callejon de Beso, and tradition says if couples kiss on the third step, they will have seven years of happiness together. The other legend is of star-crossed lovers Dona Carmen and Don Luis, whose love was forbidden by Dona Carmen's father. The couple met on two of the balconies, one on either side of the alley. And as they held hands across the "Alley of the Kiss," Dona Carmen's father caught them and stabbed her to death. She died with Don Luis still holding her hand.

Leal was Guanajuato's most famous painter, and it should be noted he painted similar scenes

of the Callejon de la Galarza. Leal does have a small international following, but that leaves the question of the painting's worth. That is actually an interesting question because we do not know the size, and there is also conflicting information on pricing.

One source lists a similar painting that is approximately 29 by 23 inches as having sold for \$25,000, but we discovered in our research this was misreported, and the selling price was actually 25,000 pesos (\$1,962 at the time in 2014). That painting had a figure in it, and other Leal paintings without figures have sold for less. We feel the insurance replacement value for R. W.'s painting would be in the \$2,000 to \$3,000 range, with \$2,500 being about right.

Helaine Fendelman and Joe Rosson have written a number of books on antiques. Do you have an item you'd



Handout / TNS

A street scene in the Mexico city of Guanajuato by Manuel Leal.

like to know more about? Contact them at Joe Rosson, 2504 Seymour Ave., Knoxville, TN 37917, or email them at treasures@knology.net. If you'd like your question to be

considered for their column, please include a high-resolution photo of the subject, which must be in focus, with your inquiry.

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