



Celebrities collect big

Among many collectables and events celebrities love to flaunt and pontificate over, art is right up there

Art collections are more than just investments for celebrities; they are a reflection of tastes, values and inspirations. Let's delve into the collections of six prominent figures – Madonna, David and Victoria Beckham, Leonardo DiCaprio, Elton John, Lady Gaga, and Brad Pitt – to uncover what makes their art collections unique and why they continue to invest in these artistic treasures.

THE BECKHAMS

David and Victoria Beckham have curated an impressive collection that reflects their refined tastes and trained eye for contemporary art. Their collection features

works by British artists such as Banksy and Damien Hirst, known for thought-provoking and extreme pieces. David has been noted as a patron of provocative British art. The Beckhams' art collection extends beyond traditional boundaries, including modern sculptures and digital art. This eclectic mix aligns with their public personas, showcasing a blend of sophistication and trendsetting style.

MADONNA

Madonna, known for her boundary-pushing music and fashion, also has a diverse art collection that is just as memorable as her music.

Her collection includes pieces from renowned artists like Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, which reflects her interest in Mexican art and culture. Madonna also owns works by modern artists such as Jeff Koons and Damien Hirst, making clear her keen interest in contemporary art.

In total, it's estimated that Madonna's collection is worth more than \$100 million – a stash that not only serves as

an investment, but also as a personal statement of her artistic inclinations.

LEONARDO DICAPRIO

Leonardo DiCaprio's art collection is as varied as his film roles. While it is well known that the star has a passion for supporting environmental causes, this is also reflected in his collection, which includes works by artists who focus on environmental themes. He has previously made large purchases at charity auctions aimed at raising funds and awareness for causes close to his heart. DiCaprio owns pieces by Shepard Fairey and other contemporary artists ▶

Above: Brad Pitt – pictured at Silverstone GP filming for 2025 release *F1* during the Formula One British Grand Prix – owns Jeff Koons' *Balloon Dog (Orange)*



who use their art to advocate for environmental and social issues.

His collection not only highlights his commitment to these causes, but also serves as a platform to raise awareness and support for various worthy environmental initiatives.

ELTON JOHN

Elton John's art collection is a vibrant mix of colour and creativity, much like his on-stage presence. His sizable assortment features a major focus on photography. Beginning in the early 1990s with works by Herb Ritts, Horst P. Horst, and Irving Penn, his collection has grown into one of the world's leading private collections. Spanning over 7,000 photographs, it includes iconic pieces such as *Man Ray's Glass Tears* (1932) and Robert Mapplethorpe's rare colour flower images. Although mostly private, his collection was notably showcased in the Radical Eye exhibition at Tate Modern in 2016, highlighting Elton's profound passion for and support of contemporary photography.

LADY GAGA

Lady Gaga's art is bold and unconventional, featuring contemporary works from artists such as Marina Abramović and Jeff Koons, who are known for their groundbreaking and boundary-pushing art. Lady Gaga's investment in art is as much about her personal aesthetic as it is about supporting artists who challenge traditional norms. Her involvement in major art events like Art Basel highlights her broader creative sensibilities and her commitment to exploring diverse forms of art.



BRAD PITT

Brad Pitt's art collection is as diverse as it is impressive, with a particular emphasis on sculpture. Among the standout pieces is Jeff Koons' *Balloon Dog (Orange)*, which famously sold for \$58.4 million at auction in 2013, setting a record for the most expensive work by a living artist ever sold.

Pitt's collection also features significant sculptures by Richard Serra and Louise Bourgeois, reflecting his deep appreciation for form and structure. It's clear that he not only has refined

Top left: Elton John has been collecting notable art his whole life Above: Musician and actress Lady Gaga loves all mediums of art Below: The Beckhams own work by pseudonymous English-based street artist, Banksy, whose real name and identity remain unconfirmed and the subject of speculation

taste but also a commitment to acquiring iconic and thought-provoking works.

These celebrities' art collections are not just symbols of affluence but rather deeply personal expressions of their tastes and passions.

Each collection tells a unique story, reflecting the individual's values and interests, from Madonna's eclectic mix to DiCaprio's environmental advocacy and Pitt's sculptural fascination. These celebrities impact the art world through their collections, reflecting their dedication to both personal expression and supporting the arts. ■