AN ODDBALL MENAGERIE

Artist Hunt Slonem arrays his quirky collections, from Neo-Gothic chairs to marble busts of Marie Antoinette, in time-warping vignettes

BY KELLY CHOW

Very few artists like to discuss the fascination for the collections that are the source of their paintings, but that's the case with artist Hunt Slonem...
Pedestals and Bird Paintings

Saturday mornings, Mr. Slonem says he can usually be found trolling the city's flea markets; lately, he's been shopping for pedestals to prop up his collection of marble busts. "I'm a believer that if you get three or more of the same thing together, you've got a good look going," he adds.

Glass Vessels

In the 1980s, Mr. Slonem began paying as much as $20 apiece at flea markets for these colorful hand-blown glasses and decanters. He in the 1940s and 1950s by a West Virginia company called Blenko. Today, he says, collectors pay as much as $3,000 apiece for this century glassware. 

He says he initially learned how to collect by watching others: "All my friends have pictures of people who had interesting collections."