

With its high ceilings and generous light, the spacious Stockholm apartment of art advisor and dealer Paul McCabe and actor Jenny Ulving is the perfect place to show off their impressive art collection.

Ahead of the curve PAUL MCCABE

WHEN PAUL MCCABE and Jenny Ulving settled in Stockholm five years ago, they were immediately drawn to the grand apartment on Engelbrektsgränd, in the Östermalm district. “We chose the apartment because it had a nice atmosphere,” says McCabe. “When you look out of the window it’s green. Both Jenny and I love nature, and where in the city centre do you find a wonderful apartment without buildings in front of you?” The windows face the Humlegården city park, where you can watch the changing of the seasons as the light dances through the leaves.

Most of the furniture in the apartment comes from the nearby Jacksons antiques shop. “Paul Jackson has amazing knowledge and an incredible stock of furniture,” says McCabe. “I love the mix of Scandinavian and Italian.” The vintage furniture perfectly complements the artworks on the walls – some of McCabe’s favourites from his collection as well as works by artist friends.

As a big player in the international art scene, McCabe’s life is very mobile, and he has recently moved with his wife and three children to Milan (although the Stockholm apartment will remain in the family). “I’ve never been tied to one place,” he says. “Stockholm is our hometown, but Milan is more central to my world. There are many more private collectors there and my clients often come there. Milan is an inspiring and dynamic hub.”

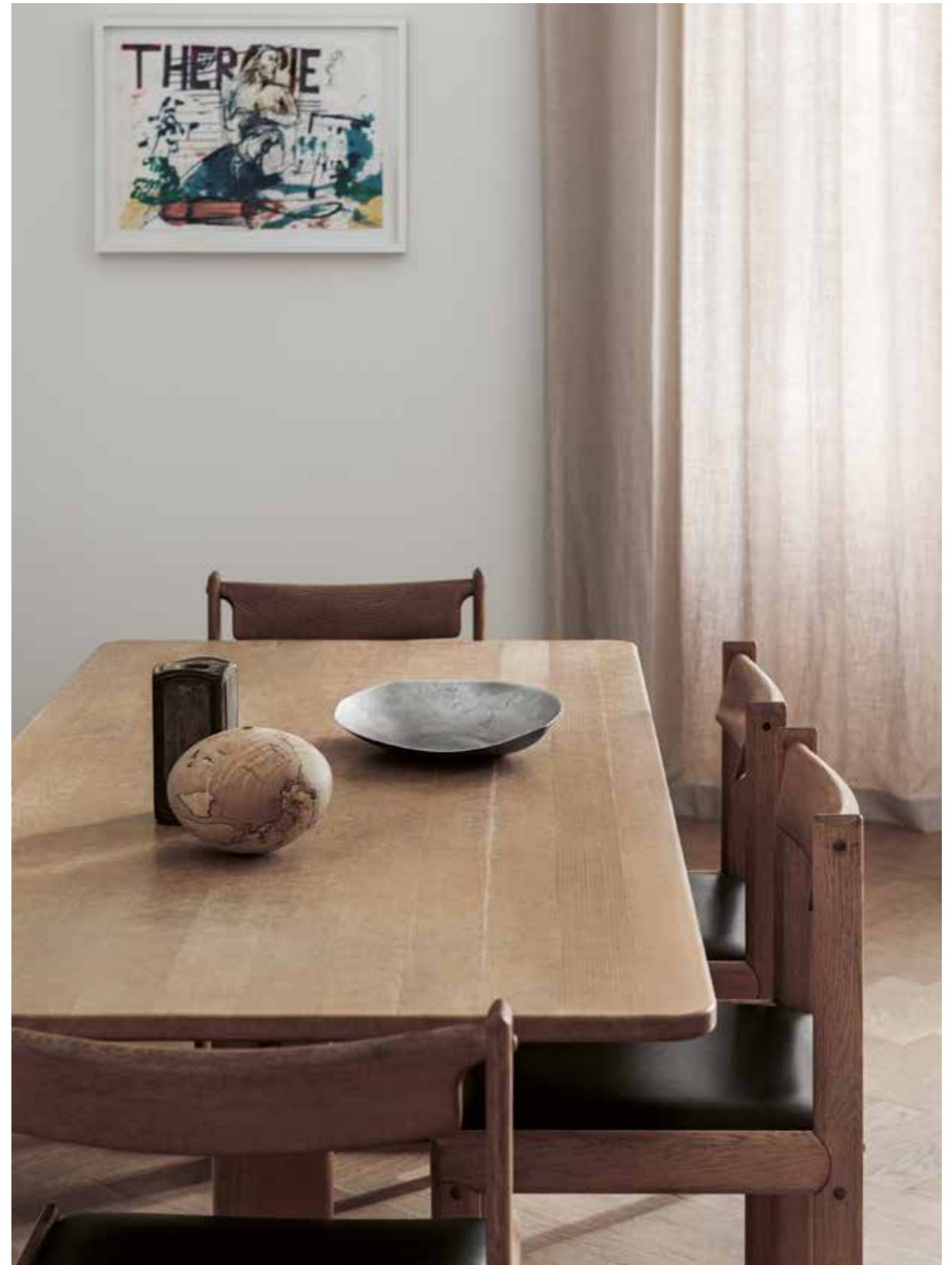
Changing residency is not unusual for McCabe. He was born

in Cape Town and has lived in Miami, London and New York. Art has always played a big part in his life, right back to his early home life in South Africa. His father, Patrick Hugh McCabe, was a well-known ballet dancer who shifted into the fashion industry and now pursues his passion as a painter. “I grew up with creative encouragement, it became my strength as a child,” says McCabe, remembering how he watched when his father taught his sister to dance and play the piano. He started painting, and when he was 19 years old he held a successful exhibition of his work. “I sold everything and got orders,” he says, but he found the process of creating art difficult. “I would sit for two days and paint, obsessed and with insomnia, but I realised I wanted to be involved with the best art.”

McCabe decided that he would rather work with other people’s creations, and with the money from his exhibition he opened a small gallery in the late 1990s. He moved around the art world, leading a bachelor life, living in hotels and building his collection. In the early 2000s, he moved his business to Miami and then on to London and New York. It was in New York that he met Ulving, who was there on holiday. They fell in love and moved in together, but when they decided to start a family they left the US and moved to Stockholm. McCabe was keen to boost the local art scene in the city and opened his gallery, McCabe Fine Art, on Artillerigatan,

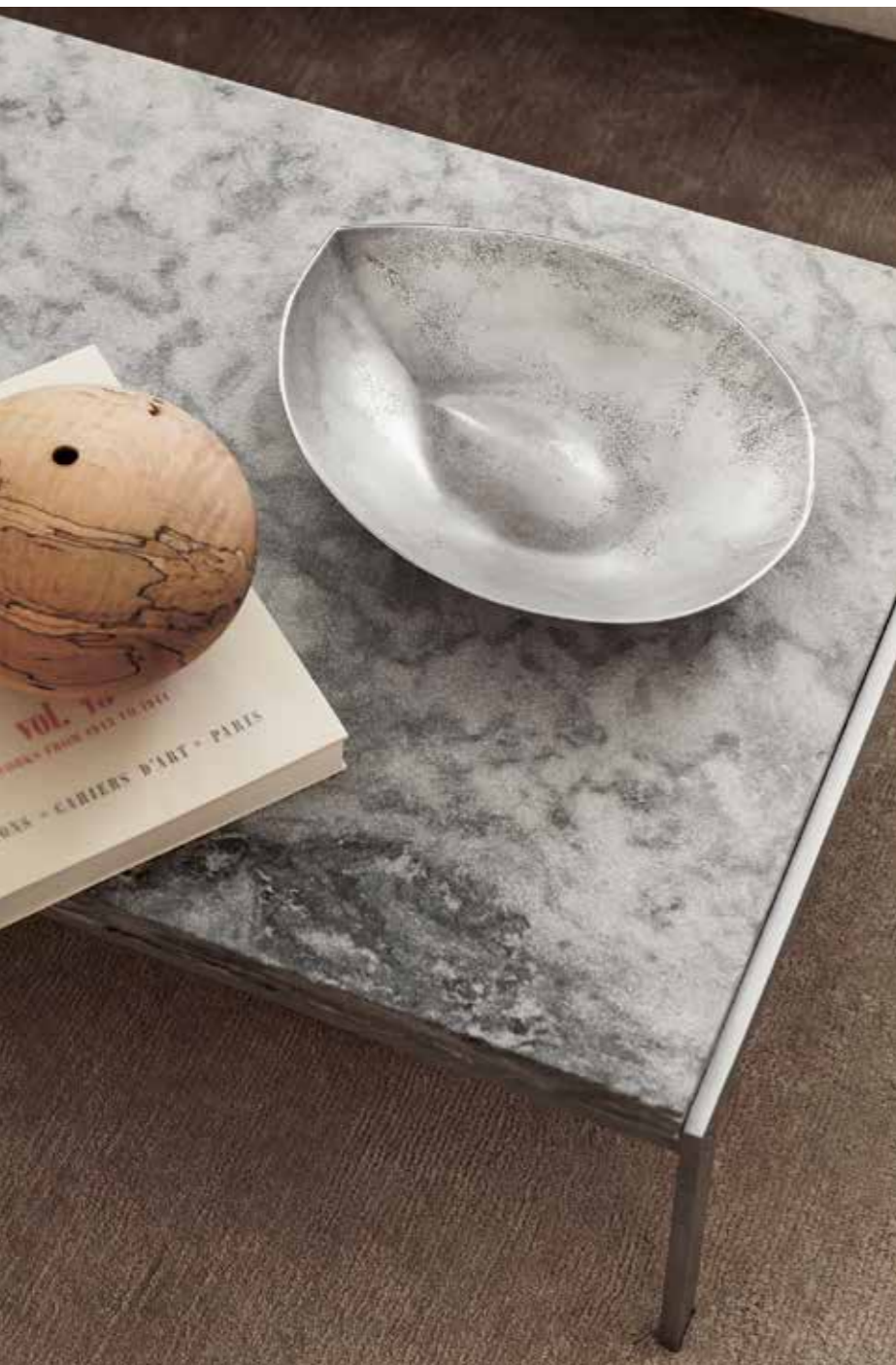
PHOTOGRAPHY: ERIK LEFVANDER STYLING: ANNALEENA LEINO KARLSSON





The drawing in the kitchen is by Erik van Lieshout, the platter is from Hermès, the wooden vessel is by Gordon Browning and the Farstagods vase is by Wilhelm Käge for Gustavsberg. To the left: Painting by Richard Aldrich, hand-crafted bench by Joakim Skovgaard, metal umbrella stand by Fornasetti, and ceiling lamp in brass and smoke-coloured glass.

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Stockholm's McCabe Fine Art, now closed, has featured artists such as Roy Lichtenstein, Robert Mapplethorpe, Damien Hirst and Georg Baselitz. The gallery may pop up again in the future. The platter is from Hermès and the wooden vessel is by Gordon Browning. The painting is by Sylvie Fleury.

around the corner from his home in Östermalm. He decided to give the business five years. “I wanted to get high end art into Sweden, step it up a notch and show what’s really good,” he says, feeling that the Swedish art market had been too narrow-minded. “Previously, people have overpaid for bad Swedish art. Now Stockholm is growing as an art market, its eyes are opening and people are buying more and more art from abroad. I like that mentality. I want an international perspective.”

McCabe makes a comparison between what he wanted to achieve with his gallery and the situation in Sweden in the 1960s, when Moderna Museet was building up its collection with a great deal of foresight. At a cost of five million kronor (around £420,000) in government grants, the museum purchased art that today is worth billions.

McCabe's gallery has breathed new life into the provincial Stockholm art scene, with beautiful exhibitions by the likes of Damien Hirst, Richard Prince, Louise Nevelson, Georg Baselitz, Robert Mapplethorpe and others. But now, in accordance with his five-year plan, he has closed McCabe Fine Art. “The gallery was not entirely profitable, but it shook things up,” he says. “I want to quit while we’re on top. I’d rather have five perfect years than slowly lowering the quality.” Before closing he had just secured a David Hockney show, but the exhibition was put on hold due to the time demands of McCabe's art advisory work.

“I invest in art and spend a lot of time educating collectors and placing works,” says McCabe. “It’s not just about money, but about understanding and being able to get what’s really good. Finding top pieces is extremely difficult, competition is fierce.” Ultimately, he wants to share his passion and open up the world of art to more people. “I want people to be enthusiastic about art. Many people are afraid to buy it, feeling stupid if they do not understand. But people are always smarter than they think. The more you feel, the more you see. You do not need to understand everything – that might be one of the best things about life.”

By Petter Eklund



Dining room with works of art and Danish classics. Painting by Olivier Mosset, Grand Prix chairs by Arne Jacobsen, table by Finn Juhl.
To the left: Living room with artwork by Scott Lyall, two AP16 armchairs by Hans J. Wegner and an Italian marble chess table. The sofa and leather ottoman is by Flexform. The side table by Eero Saarinen and the PK-33 stool by Poul Kjerholm. The ceiling lamp is an MCL-R3, a variation of Serge Mouille's iconic lamp series from 1958.