Collecting

My collection is an instrument of education

Joan Claude Gaudier | The Swiss entrepreneur and collector consults Georgette Adour about his quest to find a museum to house his vast array of historic art

T
t he collector is only one moment in the history of a collection.” So says the Swiss entrepreneur, philanthropist and collector Joan Claude Gaudier. For the last 50 years, he has been amassing works of art for his fields—archaeology, the decorative arts, modern painting, ethnology and African contemporary art—to the point that it seems only a matter of time before a foundation to ensure they remain available to the public even after he is no more. “I did not spend my life collecting, for the works to be dispersed after my death,” he explains. “I wanted to be able to show to the world my collection and to ensure that the public can enjoy the beauty of these objects. My collection is not just a collection of objects, but it is also a collection of history.”

Gaudier grew up in a small town in Switzerland, surrounded by nature and his mother’s passion for art. “I was born in a small village near Geneva, where my mother was an avid art collector. From a young age, I was exposed to the beauty of art and was fascinated by the stories behind it.”

Gaudier started his collection by acquiring works of art while traveling. “I have always been interested in history and culture, and I believe that art is a powerful tool to educate people about the past.”

Gaudier’s collection includes Egyptian, Greek, Chinese, and African art, as well as Roman, Etruscan, and Classical art. “I believe that art has the power to connect people across time and cultures, and I want to share this passion with others.”

Gaudier’s collection is not just for the wealthy, but for everyone. “I want my collection to be accessible to everyone, to inspire people to learn more about the world and to appreciate its beauty.”

Gaudier’s quest to find a museum to house his collection is not just about his passion for art, but also about preserving history for future generations. “I want my collection to be a part of the history of the world, to be passed down from generation to generation.”

Gaudier’s journey to find the right museum has been long and challenging, but he remains optimistic. “I have visited many museums around the world, but I have not found the perfect fit yet. I believe that the right place will be found, and I will continue to search until I find it.”

Gaudier’s dedication to his collection is a testament to his love for art and history. “I believe that art has the power to educate, inspire, and connect people. I want my collection to be a symbol of this power.”

In the meantime, Gaudier continues to expand his collection and share his passion for art with others. “I believe that art is a universal language that can bring people together. I want my collection to be a part of this universal language.”

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