

fitz and floyd collectors guide

Fitz and Floyd Collectors Guide

Fitz and Floyd is a name synonymous with exquisite craftsmanship, innovative designs, and timeless elegance. Founded in 1960, the company has carved out a niche in the world of collectible ceramics and decorative items, making it a beloved choice for collectors. This guide aims to provide a comprehensive overview of Fitz and Floyd, detailing its history, popular collections, tips for collectors, and how to care for these beautiful pieces.

History of Fitz and Floyd

Fitz and Floyd began its journey in 1960 when artists and designers George and Patricia Fitzgibbons partnered with ceramic manufacturer William Floyd. Based in Dallas, Texas, the company quickly gained recognition for its imaginative designs and high-quality ceramics. Fitz and Floyd's pieces often feature whimsical themes, vibrant colors, and intricate details, making them highly sought after by collectors around the world.

Over the decades, the brand has expanded its offerings, introducing new collections that reflect changing trends and tastes. Today, Fitz and Floyd is renowned for its holiday-themed items, dinnerware, and home decor, each piece embodying a unique blend of artistry and functionality.

Popular Fitz and Floyd Collections

Fitz and Floyd has produced numerous iconic collections, each showcasing distinctive themes and designs. Some of the most popular collections among collectors include:

1. The Holiday Collection

The holiday collection is one of the brand's most beloved lines, featuring festive pieces that celebrate various holidays throughout the year. Notable items in this collection include:

- Christmas Figurines: Adorned with festive motifs, these figurines often depict Santa Claus, snowmen, and other seasonal characters.
- Easter Decor: This includes charming bunnies, eggs, and spring-themed items perfect for Easter celebrations.
- Halloween Decor: Featuring spooky designs, this collection adds a whimsical touch to Halloween festivities.

2. The Dinnerware Collection

Fitz and Floyd's dinnerware collection is known for its durability and elegance. Popular patterns include:

- Jardin: A floral design characterized by vibrant colors and intricate details.
- Wildlife: Featuring animals and nature-inspired motifs, this collection appeals to those who appreciate the great outdoors.
- Classic White: Timeless and versatile, classic white dinnerware is perfect for both casual and formal dining.

3. The Figurine Collection

Fitz and Floyd figurines are highly collectible, often reflecting seasonal themes or whimsical characters. Some notable categories include:

- **Animal Figurines:** Ranging from farm animals to exotic wildlife, these pieces often showcase playful expressions and intricate details.
- **Seasonal Characters:** These figurines capture the spirit of various holidays and seasons, making them perfect for display throughout the year.

4. The Serveware Collection

This collection includes a range of serving platters, bowls, and other items designed to elevate your dining experience. Key features include:

- **Unique Shapes:** Many pieces boast unusual shapes that add visual interest to any table setting.
- **Artistic Designs:** Serveware often features the same intricate details and vibrant colors found in Fitz and Floyd's dinnerware.

Tips for Collecting Fitz and Floyd

For both novice and experienced collectors, here are some essential tips to enhance your Fitz and Floyd collecting experience:

1. Research and Educate Yourself

Familiarize yourself with the various collections, patterns, and styles produced by Fitz and Floyd. Books, online forums, and collector groups can provide valuable insights into the brand's history and the significance of specific pieces. Resources like the Fitz and Floyd website and dedicated collector websites can also offer information on current trends and valuations.

2. Attend Collectors' Shows and Expos

Collectors' shows and expos are excellent opportunities to discover rare pieces, meet fellow collectors, and learn more about Fitz and Floyd. These events often feature knowledgeable vendors who can provide insights into the history and value of specific items.

3. Join Collector Groups

Consider joining collector groups or forums, both online and offline. Engaging with other Fitz and Floyd enthusiasts can provide valuable information about collecting, preserving, and valuing your pieces. Social media platforms like Facebook often have dedicated groups for Fitz and Floyd collectors.

4. Focus on Condition and Authenticity

When purchasing Fitz and Floyd pieces, always prioritize condition. Look for signs of wear, chips, or cracks, which can significantly affect the value of an item. Additionally, ensure the authenticity of pieces, especially when buying from second-hand sources. Authentic Fitz and Floyd items typically have a backstamp indicating the year of production.

5. Keep an Eye on Trends

The value of collectibles can fluctuate based on trends and market demand. Stay informed about current trends in the collecting community, which can help you make informed decisions about buying or selling your Fitz and Floyd pieces.

Caring for Your Fitz and Floyd Collection

Proper care is essential for maintaining the beauty and integrity of your Fitz and Floyd items. Here are some tips to ensure your collection remains in excellent condition:

1. Cleaning

When cleaning Fitz and Floyd pieces, follow these guidelines:

- Hand Wash: Many items are best cleaned by hand using mild soap and warm water. Avoid harsh chemicals that can damage the finish.
- Dry Immediately: After washing, dry pieces immediately with a soft cloth to avoid water spots.

2. Displaying

How you display your Fitz and Floyd items can greatly impact their longevity:

- Avoid Direct Sunlight: Prolonged exposure to sunlight can cause colors to fade. Display items in a shaded area or use UV-protective glass for cabinet displays.
- Use Display Cases: Consider using display cabinets with glass doors to protect your collection from dust and damage.

3. Storage

If you need to store Fitz and Floyd items, follow these tips:

- Wrap Carefully: Use bubble wrap or soft cloths to wrap each piece, preventing scratches and

breakage.

- Choose a Safe Location: Store items in a cool, dry place away from extreme temperatures and humidity.

Conclusion

Fitz and Floyd has established itself as a premier name in the world of collectible ceramics and home decor. With a rich history, diverse collections, and a dedicated community of collectors, Fitz and Floyd items are not only beautiful but also valuable. By following the tips outlined in this guide, you can enhance your collecting experience, ensure the longevity of your pieces, and enjoy the timeless artistry that Fitz and Floyd has to offer. Whether you're just starting to build your collection or are a seasoned collector, Fitz and Floyd pieces can bring joy and elegance to your home for years to come.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the history behind Fitz and Floyd collectibles?

Fitz and Floyd was founded in 1960 and became known for its hand-painted ceramic figurines and dinnerware. The brand gained popularity in the 1970s and 1980s, especially for its whimsical designs and intricate detailing, making it a favorite among collectors.

How can I determine the value of my Fitz and Floyd pieces?

The value of Fitz and Floyd collectibles is determined by factors such as rarity, condition, age, and demand. Collectors can refer to price guides, auction results, and online marketplaces to gauge current market values.

What are some tips for caring for Fitz and Floyd collectibles?

To care for Fitz and Floyd collectibles, avoid using abrasive cleaners, and instead use a soft cloth and mild soap for cleaning. Keep items out of direct sunlight to prevent fading, and store them in a climate-controlled environment to avoid damage.

Are there specific themes or collections within Fitz and Floyd that are more sought after?

Yes, certain themes like holiday collections, seasonal motifs, and specific series such as 'The Garden Collection' or 'Christmas' editions tend to be more sought after. Limited edition pieces and those featuring unique designs often have higher collector value.

Where can I find a comprehensive Fitz and Floyd collectors guide?

A comprehensive Fitz and Floyd collectors guide can be found in books dedicated to ceramic collectibles, online forums, and websites specializing in vintage collectibles. Additionally, some online retailers and auction sites offer detailed descriptions and historical context for specific pieces.

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