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FRAMES

The Usual Number of Corners, Making a Quieter Point

White-rubbed wood frames — popular since the 1980's — have quietly become the art-world equivalent of dowdy pleated jeans. The vogue is opaque lacquered frames (no distracting wood grain) in a white that matches the matting board or the artwork paper. Karl Lagerfeld ordered the frames for an exhibition of Chanel drawings at the Visionaire Gallery in New York. His framer, Elizabeth Goldfeder, an owner of GK Framing in New York, also used opaques for clients with works by David Hockney (far left) and Jim Dine (left). “With their flawless, seamless finish,” she said, “they’re an elegant answer to the staid whitewash gallery frame that’s been hanging on like an old maiden aunt for 20 years.”

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