



AT HOME WITH

Debbie Millman and Roxane Gay

Take a look inside the art-filled home of the powerhouse couple

By Sydney Gore Photographs by Philip Cheung April 15, 2025

A week before Debbie Millman and Roxane Gay officially started dating in 2018, Ms. Gay moved into her first house in Los Angeles.

Ms. Millman, a native New Yorker, never had a desire to live anywhere else, but she began living with Ms. Gay when a planned two-week stay just before the pandemic turned into months. The house would become her home, too.

Over the course of seven years, the now married couple — Ms. Millman, 63, is the host of the award-winning podcast “Design Matters” and Ms. Gay, 50, is a best-selling author and a contributing Opinion writer to The New York Times — have curated a warm and welcoming space that could easily double as a private gallery. The walls are covered with artwork by Jean-Michel Basquiat, Carrie Mae Weems, Barbara Kruger, Lorraine O’Grady, James Maurelle, Mickalene Thomas, Tiona Nekkia McClodden and Sadie Barnette.

Wherever there’s a wall, art can be found on it, including the gym. Ms. Millman has been an art collector for 35 years, and though Ms. Gay has only been acquiring pieces for about seven years, she has caught up.



“I didn’t know that there was a price point between a poster and a Basquiat,” Ms. Gay reflected. “If you want to buy a piece of original art, you can do so whether you have \$100, \$1,000, or \$100,000. That was really eye opening for me, and it really helped me to understand that art is far more accessible than the art world makes it seem.”

While Ms. Millman is most passionate about typographical work, Ms. Gay connects with works from Black artists, queer artists, women artists and “people that inhabit the intersections of those identities.” The first piece that the “Bad Feminist” author purchased was “School Bois” by Wells Chandler, which she first encountered while strolling the streets of Paris with Ms. Millman on vacation a few years ago.

Ms. Gay is looking forward to curating a work space like Ms. Millman’s for herself in their next house, which the couple is already on the hunt for.

But their biggest motivator to upsize is the art; they don’t currently have enough room for anything else to be displayed, so a number of pieces are sitting in storage.

As Ms. Gay pointed out, “Do we have any empty wall space?”

Produced by Nico Chilla, Gabriel Gianordoli and Jessie Schwartz.

Correction: April 15, 2025

An earlier version of this article misidentified the gift from Roxane Gay's parents. An elephant from them is on the kitchen island, not on a coffee table in the living room.