

VIGNETTE STYLING & DECORATIVE CURATION

The Curated Vignette Styling Guide #1

We create beautiful vignettes from the things you already love.



A Curated Vignette Co. kitchen story.

CURATED VIGNETTE CO.

Every vignette has a story. GUIDE 01

Welcome

A beautiful home is not built by filling every surface. It is built through intention—choosing what deserves to be seen, giving everyday objects a little breathing room, and creating small moments that feel like you.

That is what a vignette does. It turns a collection of objects into a visual story.

This guide is the beginning of the Curated Vignette Co. approach: a simple way to style what you already own, layer in meaning, and create spaces that feel collected rather than decorated.



Time in the Kitchen — a study in warm neutrals, texture and quiet contrast.

What you'll learn

- How to choose a base that gives your arrangement structure.
- How to create visual rhythm with varied heights and shapes.
- How to mix materials so a vignette feels rich without feeling busy.
- How to bring personality into the arrangement through meaningful objects.
- How to edit—because restraint is often the final styling step.

The goal is not perfection. The goal is a home that feels considered, personal and lived in.

The Curated Vignette Method

Five moves. One story. Use these five steps as a starting framework—not a rigid formula. The best vignettes have structure, but they still leave room for instinct.

01

START WITH A BASE

Give the collection a visual home. A tray, board, stack of books or slab can quietly define the boundaries.

02

LAYER VARIED HEIGHTS

Build a visual rhythm. Let one piece lead, another support, and smaller pieces fill the spaces between.

03

MIX TEXTURES

Pair smooth with rough, glossy with matte, hard with soft. Contrast gives a quiet arrangement dimension.

04

ADD MEANING

Bring in something that belongs to you: a book, keepsake, inherited piece, travel find or object with a memory attached.

05

LEAVE BREATHING ROOM

Edit. Space is part of the composition. If everything is competing, nothing is being noticed.

01 Start With a Base

The base is the quiet architecture of the vignette. It gives your objects a place to belong and makes a collection feel intentional.



A tray creates a visual boundary and turns separate objects into one story.

Good bases include

- A tray with a defined edge
- A marble, wood or stone board
- A stack of books
- A low pedestal or riser
- A textile layered beneath a smaller grouping

A styling note

Choose a base that supports the story without becoming the story. If the objects are delicate, a quiet neutral base lets them shine. If the objects are very neutral, a warmer wood or patterned base can add character.

Try this: Before adding anything else, place your base and photograph it. Ask: “Does this already create a sense of place?”

02 Layer Varied Heights

A vignette becomes interesting when the eye has somewhere to travel. Think tall, middle, low—not a row of objects lined up at the same level.



The tallest pieces establish the silhouette; smaller pieces create the rhythm.

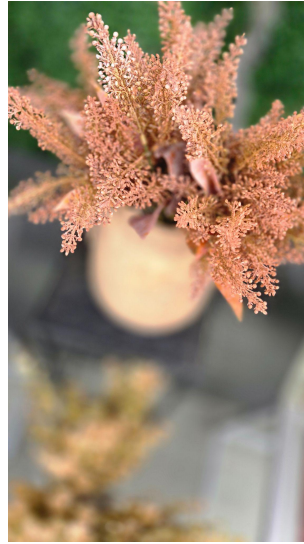
A simple height formula

- Tall: branches, a vessel, lamp, candlestick or plant.
- Middle: a candle, framed object, medium bowl or stacked books.
- Low: a small dish, keepsake, matchbox, bead strand or folded textile.

The secret is not “more.” It is a contrast. A tall object beside a low object creates tension and movement even when the palette is quiet.

03 Mix Textures

Texture is what makes a vignette feel collected rather than flat. When the colour palette is restrained, material contrast becomes even more important.



Ceramic, wood, woven linen, glass and greenery create a layered tactile story.

Look for contrast

- Matte ceramic + polished glass
- Warm wood + cool stone
- Woven linen + smooth metal
- Fresh greenery + hard architectural surfaces
- Glossy details + handmade or imperfect textures

A useful rule: if everything feels smooth, add something tactile. If everything feels rustic, add one refined element to sharpen the composition.

04 Add Meaning

This is where styling becomes personal. A home should not look as though it came from one showroom. The most memorable spaces have evidence of a life being lived.



Meaning can be small

- A favourite book
- A piece found while travelling
- A family object
- A handmade ceramic
- A photograph or framed note
- A seasonal object that marks a moment

Ask yourself: “What is one object here that could not belong to just anyone?”

That object is often the beginning of the story.

An entertaining vignette can tell a story through objects, colour and occasion.

05 Leave Breathing Room

Editing is styling. The last thing you place may not be the thing that completes the vignette. Sometimes the final move is removing something.



Breathing room gives the eye a place to rest.

The edit test

- Step back and look at the vignette from across the room.
- Remove one small object.
- Take another photo.
- Compare the two images.
- Keep the version that feels calmer and clearer.

When in doubt, take one thing away.

Where to Create a Vignette

Vignettes are not limited to coffee tables. They can mark transitions, create focal points and make functional spaces feel intentional.

Kitchen/Pantry Utensil crocks, cutting boards, a small plant, a dish and linen can turn a working counter into a warm focal point.

Entryway Use a tray, lamp, bowl and one meaningful object to create an arrival moment.

Dining Room Layer a centrepiece with candlelight, a low vessel, books or seasonal branches.

Bar / Lounge Decanters, glassware, a book, citrus and a textile can create an entertaining story.

Bedroom Keep it quieter: a lamp, books, a small vessel, and something personal.

Bathroom A tray, folded towel, small vessel and greenery can create a spa-like pause.



An example of how a vignette can support the mood of an entire coffee bar in a pantry.

Before You Buy Anything.....

Shop your home first.

The fastest way to develop a more personal style is to stop treating every styling problem as a shopping problem.

Go on a 15-minute styling hunt

- Find one tray, board or stack of books.
- Find one tall object.
- Find one medium object.
- Find one small object.
- Find one textile or natural element.
- Find one object with a story.

Now build three versions. Photograph each one. Keep the arrangement that feels most like you—not the one with the most objects.



The same styling principles can be recreated with pieces you already own.

Your Vignette Checklist

Before you call it finished, ask:

- ☐ Does the arrangement have a clear base?
- ☐ Is there a noticeable high / middle / low rhythm?
- ☐ Do at least three different textures appear?
- ☐ Is there one object that feels personal?
- ☐ Is there enough negative space?
- ☐ Does one piece act as the visual anchor?
- ☐ Do the colours repeat rather than compete?
- ☐ Can the arrangement be understood at a glance?
- ☐ Does it feel like your home?

Photograph it

Natural light, a clean lens, and a little negative space around the arrangement will usually do more for your photograph than a complicated setup. Take one wide frame, one closer detail and one vertical frame for social media.

A Vignette Tells a Story

The most compelling styling is not just visual. It creates a feeling. Before you build a vignette, choose the moment you want someone to imagine.

Time in the Kitchen

Slow sips. Soft light. A few beautiful things within reach.

The Weekend Table

An easy gathering, something chilled, a little citrus and nowhere else to be.

The Collected Kitchen

Functional pieces made beautiful through texture, repetition and everyday ritual.

The Evening Pour

Glass, candlelight, warm wood and a mood that invites people to stay a little longer.

The Sunday Reset

Fresh greenery, folded linen and a calmer counter waiting for the week ahead.

Your assignment: Create one vignette this week around a feeling rather than a room.

Keep Curating

Start with what you love. Edit with intention. Let the story emerge.

Curated Vignette Co. is about more than decorating a surface. It is about noticing the beauty in ordinary objects, arranging them with intention, and creating a home that feels collected, personal and alive.

Start small. Style one corner. Tell one story.



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