

HOW-TO STYLE *shelves*



FIRST THINGS FIRST :

WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF STYLED SHELVES?

functionality

Ask yourself : how do you need your shelves to function? Do they need to hold tons of books? Are they acting as storage for toys? Maybe you want to use them to display something sentimental? Whatever it is... use it as your foundation. Everything else will fill in the gaps.

Scale

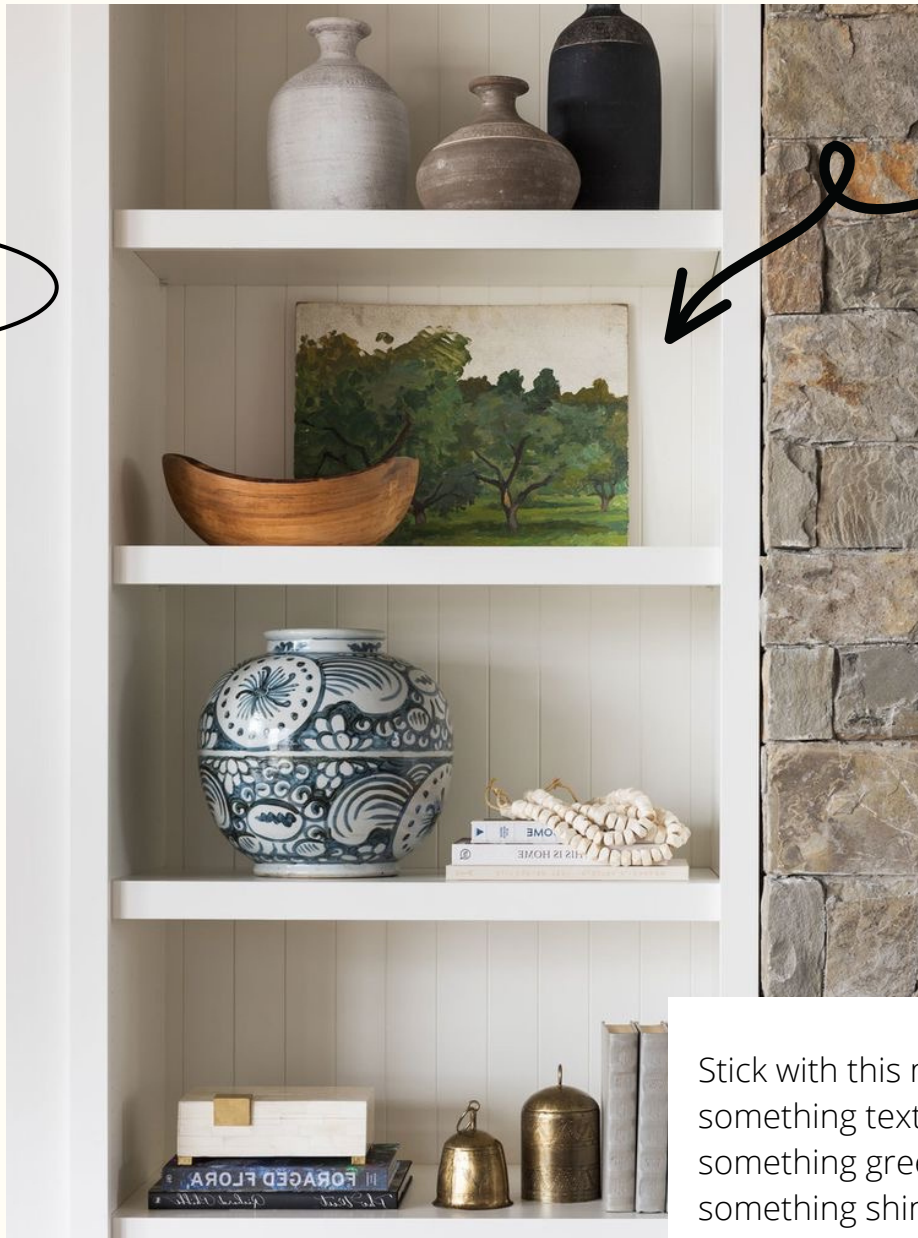
The last thing you want is for your shelves to feel empty. Scale becomes really important here. You don't need to fill all negative space, but take advantage of height. Instead of sitting a potted plant directly on your shelf, sit it on top of a stack of books. Or find a larger piece of artwork to layer behind something small.

symmetry

This may be the most important element to consider. Stand back and look at your shelves - do you see similar shapes and sizes that are side by side? Move them. If you have a framed photo on one shelf, skip down a couple of shelves before adding another one. Asymmetry is what creates a lived in, collected look.

HOW-TO STYLE

Use layered artwork (or family photos) to create depth. The larger the frame, the better!



PRO TIP

Check your local thrift shops to find styling pieces that don't cost a fortune. Look for pottery, small art pieces and brass decor.

Create a few stacks of your coffee table books. See a round up of my favorites [here](#).

Stick with this motto : something textured, something green and something shiny. Just trust me.