



Expert opinion

From **Chris Yeo**, Valuer at Clevedon Salerooms and regular expert on BBC's *Antiques Roadshow*

Are you a Roundhead or a Cavalier?

When it comes to how we live our lives, there's a school of thought which says we Brits divide into two sorts – the austere 'Roundhead' type (sensible shoes, for whom a smile is the exception rather than the norm) and the flamboyant, pleasure-seeking Cavalier kind. These opposing traits, so the theory goes, are key drivers in British life, continually locked in a battle for supremacy like it's 1642 all over again. And a new front has opened up in the eternal tussle between Roundhead and Cavalier: your living room, with the news that 2025 will see maximalism (a Cavalier style par excellence) attempt to consign minimalism to the history books.

Having been assured, for the last decade and a half, that 'less is more' it seems we can now confidently say 'less is a bore'. And with that news

expect to be deafened by the sound of a thousand champagne corks popping as auctioneers up and down the land celebrate the prospect of a return to levels of knick-knackery not seen since Wham! were last on Top of the Pops. Yet, as we know, there is a fine line between an amply furnished and accessorised room, and Channel 5's Hoarder Homes: No Room To Move. So, while less still doesn't appear to be more, sometimes, more needs less, and within the best maximalism there should be areas of quiet.

You won't be at all surprised to know that I've never met an antiques dealer who likes minimalism (or admits to it). That said, a well-proportioned beautifully coloured Georgian chest of drawers can really sing-out in a cool, sparsely furnished interior. What a lot of people don't seem to realise is that minimalism was always meant to be about quality craftsmanship and materials, not bare walls and a 42-inch plasma television. To paraphrase Dolly Parton, it really should cost a lot of money to look this cheap.■

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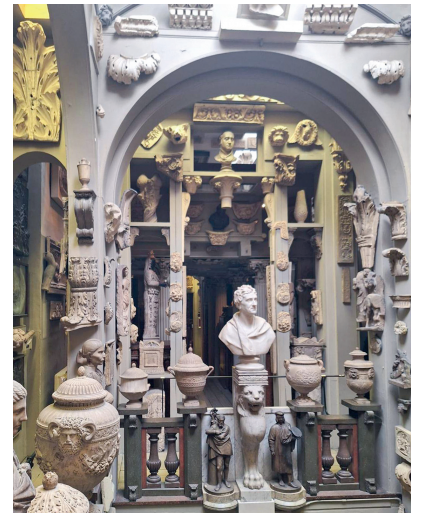


Image Maximalist overdrive. The Sir John Soane Museum courtesy of Chris Yeo