

Antique 2 Chic was launched to recreate history with a bespoke modern twist. Owned and run by partners James Pickering and Timothy Warr, the company finds distinctive pieces of antique furniture and carefully restores them; re-captivating their heritage, before reupholstering them with a 21st Century creative eye.

From Vintage to Renaissance, Victorian to Art Deco, they invite customers to create their own piece of history by marrying the heritage of an antique, with a design inspired by their own modern chic. With pieces limited only by the imagination – Marie Antoinette meets Marilyn Monroe; Louis XIV meets Louis Vuitton; Queen Victoria meets Andy Warhol – the possibilities are endless.

"After being told so many times that antique furniture is not everybody's cup of tea, it is our vision to change the way people view antiques" says Tim.

To date Antique 2 Chic has styled a collection of their own modern inspired creations, including a Louis XV walnut canapé (1860), re- upholstered using the Beatles designer fabrics from Andrew Martin, a William IV walnut sofa (1830), re-upholstered using Romo fabrics in the style of the Union Jack flag and a late Edwardian wing chair (1910), re-upholstered in the ace of spades, designed exclusively by Antique 2 Chic, and Joker fabric designed by Andrew Martin. More examples can be viewed at www.antique2chic.co.uk.

"People always hang on to antiques in the belief that they will one day be valuable - and often they will be – however, wouldn't it be better to use them rather than store them. We have found pieces in garages that the dogs have been sleeping on for 10 years and one month later after restoration they are taking pride of place in the owners' sitting rooms!" said Tim.

From modern city apartment to corporate reception, rustic retreat to townhouse boutique, luxury show home to flamboyant film set, their ambition is to offer a range of antique upholstered furniture for hire or sale, individually designed to recapture history with a contemporary charm which could fit into any lifestyle or fictional setting.

"The best thing about the concept of Antique 2 Chic is its timelessness. The quality of restoration, together with the opportunity to re-upholster pieces time and again, means they could be something to pass onto the next generation so that they can create their own piece of history as well", says James.

