

HOLLIS TAGGART

Hollis Taggart Southport to Open *The Art of the Discovery: Post-War Selections*

A Group Exhibition Featuring Works by Twenty-One Post-War Artists On View February 18th - March 27th, 2021

Southport, CT—On February 18th, Hollis Taggart Southport is pleased to present *The Art of the Discovery*, a group exhibition featuring paintings and sculpture from our post-war inventory with a focus on the development of Abstract Expressionism and its continued influence throughout the second half of the twentieth century. The exhibition showcases some of the familiar icons of this period, Hans Hofmann, Richard Pousette-Dart, and Theodoros Stamos, while spotlighting the works by influential artists that defined the era including, James Brooks, Nell Blaine, Friedel Dzubas, John Ferren, Perle Fine, Audrey Flack, Peter Halley, Knox Martin, William Scharf and Yvonne Thomas. The exhibition will open in our Southport, CT location (330 Pequot Avenue) and will be on view through March 27th. An opening reception will take place on February 18th, 5pm-8pm. Masks will be required and all COVID protocols will be followed.

New York City was the center of creative artistic activity after World War II. Displaced European and American artists debated and examined different philosophies, techniques, and expressions. Some artists held onto the tenets of the past, Surrealism, Cubism and Modernism. Others used the past as a springboard to probe new styles. They exploited the physical quality of their mediums to express emotions of desire, mystery, passion, and rhythm while abandoning conventional structured compositions and depictions of forms. No single school, style, theory, nor technique dominated. In 1958, the artist John Ferren, one of our exhibiting artists, stated in his essay titled *Epitaph for an Avant-Garde*, “We discovered instead that searching was itself a way of art.” He continued, “Our new arrangement was, quite simply, no arrangement. We kept all the elements of painting—those that we knew or felt—suspended, as it were. We faced the canvas with the Self, whatever that was, and we painted.” This exhibition featuring twenty-one artists is a visual experience that highlights this extraordinary post-war period of exploration of differing styles, themes, and techniques.

“We are thrilled to present an exemplarily collection of post-war works by distinguished artists that together illustrate the diversity and development of the Abstract Expressionist movement,” said Paul Efstathiou. “This exhibition, a study of historical works executed in second half of the twentieth century, also highlights the exceptional quality and scholarly themes that Hollis Taggart continues to bring to Fairfield County.”

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About Hollis Taggart

Founded in 1979, Hollis Taggart presents significant works of American art, showcasing the trajectory of American art movements from the Hudson River School to American Modernism and the Post-War and Contemporary eras. Its program is characterized by a deep commitment to scholarship and bringing to the fore the work of under-recognized artists. The gallery has sponsored several catalogue raisonné projects, most recently for the American Surrealist artist Kay Sage, and has been instrumental in advancing knowledge of such compelling artists as Alfred Maurer, Arthur B. Carles, and more recently, Theodoros Stamos, Marjorie Strider and Michael (Corinne) West. In the summer of 2019, the gallery announced the formal expansion of its primary market business and focus on the presentation of contemporary work. It continues to expand its roster of contemporary artists, focusing on emerging and mid-career talents. With more than 40 years of experience, Hollis Taggart is widely recognized by collectors and curators for its leadership, expertise, and openness, on matters of art history, and market trends and opportunities. The gallery's flagship location is in Chelsea, and it also operates a space in Southport, Connecticut.

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