

HOLLIS TAGGART

**Hollis Taggart to Open Duo Exhibition,
Bringing Into Dialogue the Works of Irene Monat Stern and Jan Peter Stern**

**On View April 21 – May 21, 2022
Opening Reception: April 21, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

New York—April 6, 2022—This spring, on April 21, Hollis Taggart will open a duo exhibition *Irene Monat Stern and Jan Peter Stern: Lyrical Modernism*, the first in-depth exhibition of abstract painter [Irene Monat Stern](#)'s luminous and ethereal paintings in decades. Presented at Hollis Taggart's Chelsea location at 521 W. 26th, *Lyrical Modernism* also features a focused selection of sculptures by **Jan Peter Stern**, the artist's husband and an abstract sculptor best known for his large-scale public commissions. The Sterns' artistic careers flourished following their move to Southern California in 1965, as they drew inspiration from the landscapes and atmosphere of the region. But while they garnered commercial and critical acclaim during their lives, their disengagement from wider art world circles has resulted in an obscuring of their work in contemporary art dialogues. The forthcoming exhibition, on view through May 21, brings their work back to the fore, highlighting the intricacy and distinct qualities of their practices.

Monat Stern was born in 1932 in Poland and moved to Paris in 1948 after surviving the Holocaust. Six years later, she relocated to New York where she met fellow artist Jan Peter Stern, whose large public commissions such as *Windward*, installed near Grand Central Station, and *Mast-Sculpture*, made for St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church on East 15th Street, remain on view. Both Sterns were initially trained in design and while Jan found early success in applying his industrial design study to the creation of kinetic sculptures, Irene's artistic practice did not take root until the couple's move to the West Coast. Here, Monat Stern found a sense of freedom and a deep connection to the earthy tones of the California landscapes. Employing thinned-out acrylic paint, she flooded her canvases with pigment, creating a sense of lightness and fluidity that is often associated with watercolors. While her paintings have been likened to the stained canvases of contemporaries Helen Frankenthaler and Morris Louis, her vision was distinct in its clear embrace of representational reference—primarily nature. Her rhythmic, billowing color-field compositions call to mind the melding of sky and earth, the tones and light of the landscape, and the emotional and atmospheric sensations felt in the experience of nature.

Following their move, Jan Peter Stern's sculptural works, of both small and monumental scale, also took on an organic quality and the couple often exhibited together, capturing the interplay and dynamism of their individual practices. The forthcoming exhibition at Hollis Taggart recaptures this particular moment in history, bringing their work into dialogue again for the first time in four decades. While the gallery has shown focused presentations of Monat Stern's work previously, this will be the first in-depth examination of her practice and its relationship to the work of her husband. The exhibition is made possible by the Sterns' sons, who have served as guardians of their parents' legacies.

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“Our gallery has always been inspired by untold stories of art and artists. Across our more than 40-year history, we have renewed commercial interest and driven scholarship about numerous artists, including Leon Berkowitz, Audrey Flack, Marjorie Strider, Kay Sage, Idelle Weber, and Michael Corinne West. This spring season captures our ongoing engagement with expanding the narratives of art history by illuminating the voices of those artists that have been lost to time but are so deserving of recognition. It also represents an important solidification of the gallery’s vision and approach—one that we feel is essential to the understanding of contemporary art dialogues. We look forward to engaging visitors with the work of these incredible artists and to furthering new study of their practices,” said Hollis Taggart.

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 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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