

THE **BEST OF** ISSUE

WESTPORT

weston&wilton

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\$5.95

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BEST

of the

GOLD COAST
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Best Summer!

GUIDE TO TOP PICKS, FROM SOFT LINENS TO SUNSET COCKTAILS

Winners Revealed!

175+ categories along the **GOLD COAST** and **CLOSE TO HOME**

Enjoy the Moment
Serena & Lily
linen throw,
botanical-print
pillows and
soft area rug

PLUS:

- › Shopping finds › Summer skincare
- › Movie night at home goes big › Hot beach reads
- › Beat the heat with Chloe's Pops › Education Guide



left: The opening exhibition, *Look Again: A Survey of Contemporary Paintings* **right:** Director of Contemporary Art Paul Efstathiou; artist John Knuth; President Hollis Taggart

SCENE IT

**THE HOLLIS TAGGART ART GALLERY
MAKES ITS MARK IN SOUTHPORT**
BY MALIA MCKINNON FRAME

In case you didn't know, the charming town of Southport now has another amazing reason to visit. Hollis Taggart art gallery, open since 1979 in New York City, has ventured north and offers an excellent selection of emerging and established artists' work in a relaxed, yet vibrant setting. Hollis Taggart is known for specializing in American Modernism and post-war works with a recent focus on contemporary art. "The opening of our Southport location allows us to expand support networks for our artists and more actively engage with an audience and collector base that we have been cultivating for some time," explains Taggart, noting that the Southport space is the only Chelsea-based art gallery located in Connecticut.

Paul Efstathiou, a second-generation art dealer who's been in the business for over twenty years, became Taggart's director of contemporary art in June 2019. As a resident of Southport, he recognized the need for a well-established gallery in his neck of the woods. "We're so excited to bring high-caliber, emerging artists to our local community, many who are internationally recognized," he explains.

"In opening the gallery here, we also wanted to be part of the thread of a town that would appreciate a cultural experience."

Taggart's satellite location opened last summer, and the first show entitled *Look Again* featured thirteen contemporary artists from Brooklyn, Denver, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Vienna and Westport. "This was a very strong show, similar to one you'd see in New York, L.A. or London," notes Eleanor de Ropp Flatow, assistant director at Hollis Taggart. After the opening, Taggart's team got such a positive response that they extended their lease for a year and now plan to stay until at least March 2022.

Taggart's foray into the suburbs is one that feels right on track with the robust turnover of heavy-hitting curators in our area. New director hires at the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, the Katonah Art Museum, the Aldrich Museum in Ridgefield, and the Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA) Westport all point to an exciting new revival and awakening within the art world that extends beyond urban centers. "I sense a movement for something different, new and fresh for galleries, art institutions and artists in

our area as well as an opportunity for all to really engage with the community," Efstathiou says. "It's so exciting that Hollis Taggart can be part of this expansion as well as the DNA of Southport."

In addition to bringing world-reknowned works to this tight-knit town, Efstathiou and Flatow are focusing on community outreach. So far, they've offered virtual tours of the gallery for Southport School students and aired Instagram Live studio visits with artists, and future plans include kids' art shows, interactive artist talks and guided tours. This summer, they'll feature a group art exhibition following their current show, which highlights John Knuth, a conceptual artist who creates paintings from house fly secretions.

The gallery is conveniently located on Pequot Avenue and offers a wide range of price points for new and existing collectors. "The energy here is so fun and a celebration of life after a tough year for everyone," notes Efstathiou. "At our gallery it's all about the art, community, a family vibe and making people feel good."

Check them out at hollistaggart.com and on Instagram [@hollistaggart](https://www.instagram.com/hollistaggart).

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF HOLLIS TAGGART.