

HOLLIS TAGGART

Alan Wolfson: Brooklyn Elevated and Highlights from our New Acquisitions **To Open Virtually at Hollis Taggart on March 23, 2020**

On March 23, Hollis Taggart will launch *Alan Wolfson: Brooklyn Elevated and Highlights from our New Acquisitions*, an exhibition that will be available in the gallery's website and onsite at 521 W. 26th Street by appointment only. The presentation includes a selection of artist Alan Wolfson's detailed miniature constructions of scenes from the New York City of the 1970s and 1980s, including a new commission completed in 2020 that marks the artist's most intricate work to-date. Wolfson's works vividly capture his memories of the city, mixing real-life scenes with his own imaginings of the place where he grew up. The exhibition will also feature works recently added to the gallery's collection, including paintings by Karen Appel, Norman Bluhm, Gene Davis, Hans Hofmann, Jacob Kainen, Kenzo Okada, and Michael (Corinne) West, among others.

Wolfson's vignettes of street scenes, subway stations, diners, and other everyday locales are meticulously fabricated and assembled by hand, with every element thoughtfully developed and placed to evoke a particular feeling or moment. Within these scenes, remnants of human activity, such as graffiti, trash, uneaten food, or empty plates, offer clues to untold and open-ended narratives—ones that are left to the viewer to create and interpret. In this way, Wolfson draws on his background studying and working in both theater and film to produce spaces and circumstances for others to activate with personal and communal stories. At the same time, these small views into New York City are deeply intimate, inspired by Wolfson's memories of a city that, in his lifetime, has been largely transformed by gentrification and rapid commercial construction.

In his most recent commission, *Brooklyn Elevated*, which took three years to conceptualize and complete, Wolfson creates an imagined scene of Williamsburg inspired by a childhood moment. Of the work, he said, "I remember watching television in my grandmother's living room as a small child. In an instant, I saw something flash in the window. It was a train passing by. It's a moment that has stuck with me, and one that has been shaped by both my youthful recollection and a greater passage of time." *Brooklyn Elevated* features a series of miniature brick buildings as well as an elevated train track and subway train. The apartment windows appear aglow, the interior happenings unseen to the viewers. A pizza place, luncheonette, bar, and pool hall offer the attributes of neighborhood life, while fine details, like a billboard and lawn chairs positioned on the roof, further imbue the scene with a sense of human presence.

Brooklyn Elevated will be presented alongside a selection of prior works by Wolfson, including *Brooklyn Bridge Station* (2008), *Subway Series (#5)* (1993), and *IRT Lexington Avenue Line* (1981), among others. Together, these works highlight how Wolfson fuses real and imagined architecture and also uses lighting and detail to evoke the gritty history of New York City, shining a light on the forgotten corners of a bygone era.

The presentation, *Alan Wolfson: Brooklyn Elevated and Highlights from our New Acquisitions*, also includes a wide selection of paintings that emphasize Hollis Taggart's expansive collection of Post-War American art. While Hollis Taggart remains temporarily closed in response to the outbreak of COVID-19, all of the works in the presentation are viewable on Hollis Taggart's website:

<https://www.hollistaggart.com/exhibitions/95-alan-wolfson-brooklyn-elevated-and-highlights-from-our-new-acquisitions/>

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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, operating under Hollis Taggart Contemporary. The gallery's flagship space is located on W. 26th Street and its contemporary division is based at secondary location on W. 25th Street. The gallery also has a private viewing and storage facility in the neighborhood. With 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.

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