

# HOLLIS TAGGART

## Hollis Taggart Now Represents French Artist Thomas Agrinier



Thomas Agrinier. *Dreamers*, 2021.

**New York (October 28, 2021)**—Hollis Taggart is pleased to announce its representation of Thomas Agrinier (Lyon, France; b. 1976), who joins the gallery’s growing contemporary program. A self-taught artist, Agrinier blends the visual vocabularies of figuration and abstraction to create expressive and enigmatic paintings that compel and excite the eye. Regardless of subject or inspiration, Agrinier’s work is filtered through his sense of childhood joy, enthusiasm, and play, inviting the viewer to connect with their own experiences of optimism and freedom. A selection of Agrinier’s works were included in Hollis Taggart’s 2021 group presentation, *A Way of Feeling*, and his painting *L’élú du mercato* (*The chosen one of the mercato*) (2021) is currently

featured in *Game On!*, which remains on view at the gallery’s Southport, Connecticut location through October 30, 2021. A solo exhibition of the artist’s paintings is being planned for 2023.

“The response to Thomas’s works in our prior and current exhibitions has been incredible. There is something special that you can’t quite name about the energy and emotion that his paintings exude, but we’ve seen the way that they immediately draw and engage viewers. The gallery team and I are very much looking forward to deepening our relationship with Thomas and increasing visibility and awareness of his singular style in the U.S.,” said Paul Efstathiou, Director of Contemporary Art at Hollis Taggart.

Agrinier began his career as a musician, working as a composer and performing as a guitarist. His sense of rhythm, tone, and aural composition have informed his approach to painting, which he taught himself over the course of a decade by experimenting with layering color, form, and found imagery. His works are inspired by an incredible range of references, from graphic novels and cartoons to cinema and news media, and to the aesthetics and experience of kitsch objects.

In instances, his paintings function as composites of his inspirations, with exaggerated figures positioned within abstracted and uncertain scenarios. This scene setting stems from his active interest in films, and Agrinier often uses movie stills as source material. At the same time, his engagement with both figuration and abstraction result in paintings that elude clear understanding, with characters poised to act or engage with a situation that is just beyond the viewer’s grasp. The open-ended quality of these scenes captivates audiences and invites individual imagination to fill in the experience.

Agrinier also focuses on solitary figures, examining the emotional expressions of his protagonists. With the painting featured in *Game On!*, Agrinier explores the evocations of fierce competition and the emotional and physical exertion inherent to sport. His soccer players appear mid-action, with bright colors

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and fluid lines blurring the boundaries between body and background. In other paintings, he investigates how sensations of joy, sadness, and contemplation can emanate from the surface plane. In this way, he approaches his work as a visual manifestation of the vast spectrum of human experience, inspiring both familiar and unexpected reactions. It is perhaps this quality of his work that so actively compels audiences—it's incredible ability to draw out feeling and the power of lived experience.

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**Thomas Agrinier** lives and works in Paris. His solo exhibitions include those at Mark Hachem, Paris; Galerie Estace, Paris; and Galerie Dukan, Paris. He has also been included in exhibitions at at BLAM Projects, Los Angeles; the Ostrale Biennial for Contemporary Art Dresden; Scope Basel with Galerie Estace; and at Art Paris Art Fair with Mark Hachem.

## **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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For more information, please contact:

Alina E. Sumajin

PAVE Communications & Consulting

alina@paveconsult.com / 646-369-2050