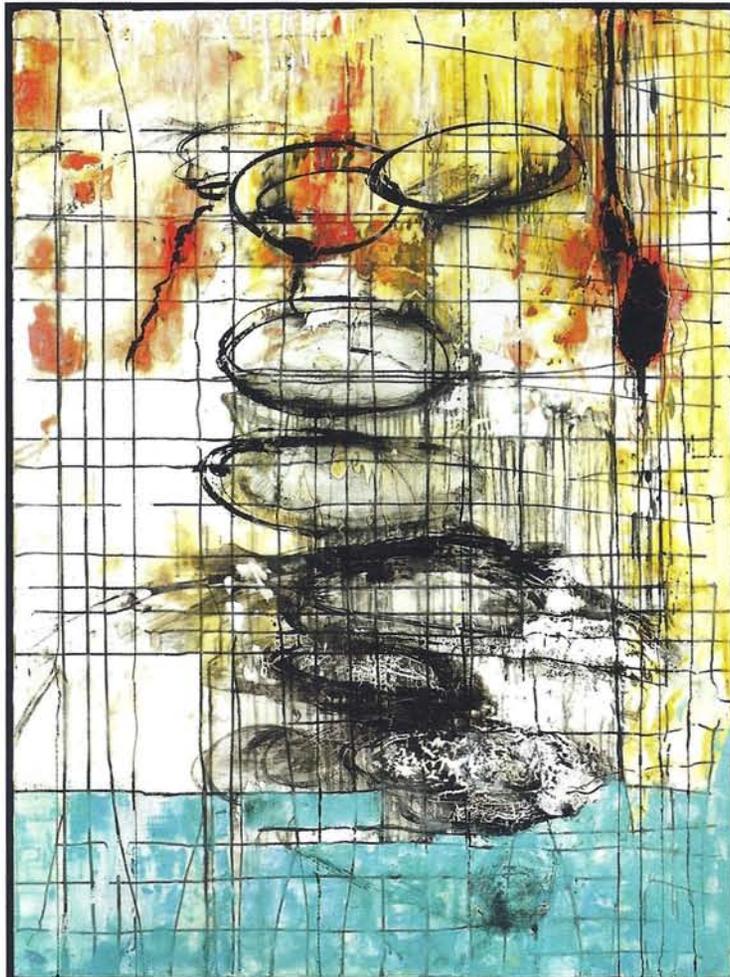


Global Contemporary Art Finds a Home at

# AMY SIMON FINE ART GALLERY



**"What Lies  
Beneath - Pool,  
2012"** Encaustic,  
India ink and oil  
stick on panel 48  
x 36 inches by  
Binnie Birstein.  
Contributed  
photos

By Mike Lauterborn

**I**N HER SUNNY, historic Westport gallery space, Amy Simon watches the world whiz by, surrounded by the kind of fine art for which she has had a lifelong interest and, with FCL at her side, reflects on the journey that has led her here.

Simon was born in Philadelphia, raised in Long Island and lived as a young adult in New York. She earned a B.F.A. in Art History from Ohio University and a Masters Degree from Syracuse University. She also studied abroad in Italy, London and France.

Upon earning her B.F.A., she launched her art career working as an intern at the famed Guggenheim Museum, a foot in the door that led to a full-time job as a curatorial assistant.

Her next stop was the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where she worked for Director Tom Hoving, followed by several different stints at the Marlborough Gallery, one of the most prominent art spaces in the world.

Craving independence, she went solo to support such artists as Larry Rivers, Beverly Pepper, Lee Krasner and the estate of Jackson Pollack. At the same time, she taught art history at Adelphi University.

In the late 1980s, she became a full-fledged private art dealer, to many big corporations and private collectors, marrying during the same period and moving to Weston in 1989.

“With a mission of bringing a global contemporary art venue to Westport, I opened a gallery space in 2005, on the



**ABOVE:** Jeri Eisenberg  
“Dogwood (White/Red Tips),  
No. 2, 2012  
Archival Pigment Ink on Kozo  
Paper infused with Encaustic  
Medium. Contributed Photo  
**LEFT:** Amy Simon works away  
at her sunny gallery space,  
surrounded by fine art and  
beside a window looking out  
on the busy Post Road.  
Photo by Mike Lauterborn





**Amy Simon Fine Art Gallery is a portrait in contrasts: contemporary masterpieces housed in a 200-year-old building with its original wood flooring.**

Photos by Mike Lauterborn



**ABOVE: Lisa Pressman "Transparent Thinking."** Contributed photo

**BELOW: The familiar landmark exterior of Amy Simon Fine Art Gallery, housed in the Old Sasco Mill, at 1869 Post Road East, Westport.**

Post Road near the old post office, then at Playhouse Square and finally to my current location at 1869 Post Road East, in 2009," Simon detailed.

The gallery, located in the Old Sasco Mill, a Westport landmark, has three concentrations. "We feature young emerging talent, many of whom are Brooklyn-based, where many artists are currently living," Simon began. "Another specialty is Asian contemporary art, and then blue chip, such as Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg, Helen Frankenthaler and Alex Katz."

Simon's interest in art began at a very young age. "Since I was a kid, I had a passion for art," she said. "I would read in bed at night under the covers about Gauguin and Van Gogh,



**Gallery Owner Amy Simon, standing beside "Blue Green", an oil painting by Daru-Jung Hyang Kim, and "Goddess in White" sculpture by Kevin Kelly.**

and went to a lot of museums as a student. But I've always just liked to look at it, not make it. I marvel at people who can do it."

The gallery reflects her fortes. "I show what I know and what I enjoy," she said. "It's important to have a point of view and to stay focused on one specialty. It takes a lifetime to learn and I like to advise people on how to collect and buy. You can collect on any budget. It can be daunting – there are so many choices, so many styles. I simplify things for people. I do a lot of house calls, assessing a home or business space to help people determine what fits best."

The gallery changes exhibits every six weeks, but always has a constant inventory of artwork from various artists. "Wax Is Hot" is the current exhibit, showing through Feb. 16 and featuring the encaustic artworks of five different artists.

*Amy Simon Fine Art Gallery is located at 1869 Post Road East, Westport. Phone: 203-259-1500. Online: [www.amysimon-fineart.com](http://www.amysimon-fineart.com) Hours: 11am to 5:30pm, Tuesday through Saturday and by appointment.*

