

Design News

New collections, haute happenings and more

by VALERIE FOSTER and CHRISTY COLASURDO



THE ART OF DESIGN

A design studio and gallery open their ultra-chic doors

Gilles and Aida Clement recognized Fairfield County needed a gallery that offered the contemporary, adventurous art offered in Chelsea—New York City’s premier contemporary art district. They also knew they possessed the pedigrees and knowledge to create such a daring, exciting undertaking. Three years ago, they established the

GILLES CLEMENT GALLERY in Westport, and last December opened its sister at 45 East Putnam Avenue in Greenwich. Most recently they added to the family in July with a new unique design studio located at 120 East Putnam Avenue.

The studio, **GILLES CLEMENT DESIGNS**, specializes in European transitional design that focuses on elegance

left: The new Gilles Clement Designs in Greenwich specializes in European transitional design.

and comfort while pushing artistic boundaries—a style that makes Clement feel most comfortable. Raised in Paris, his artistic parents were always on the move, and the young Clement felt equally at home in Geneva, Switzerland, Monte Carlo, and at their Westport country home. “It was the seventies, and I lived a very extravagant and very sophisticated life surrounded by celebrities, art and artists,” he says. This influence has fostered an aesthetic that is now seen in some of the chicest homes in Fairfield County. His designs are bold, original and creative, incorporating the unexpected into a base of elegance and refinement. “We understand our clients’ vision and carefully guide them through each step in the design process,” he says.

Of the gallery just down the road, Clement says, “We have created spaces featuring an international collection of artists that you would traditionally not find outside of a main city. Our clients are telling us that they have never seen so many pieces in one gallery. We are raising the bar, creating something that is a novelty.” Expect to find an impressive array of pop and street art from up-and-coming and established American and international artists. Clement also works with other galleries to provide works for his clients from artists outside his stable. gcllementdesigns.com; gcllementgallery.com —VF



The Gilles Clement Gallery offers an array of pop and street art.

THREE RULES TO BUY BY

Gilles Clement’s advice to art collectors is simple:

1 BUY WHAT YOU LOVE

“You will never go wrong if you follow this simple advice.”

2 DON’T THINK OF ART AS AN INVESTMENT

“Every time someone makes an amazing investment in art, it is because they love it. It all comes back to love.”

3 DON’T BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR ADVICE

No worries if you can’t make up your mind. Clement says he often goes into a prospective client’s home to understand their style and then points them in the direction of artists he feels are in line with who they are.