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THE ART ISSUE

*Advisor
insights,
collector
clients, and
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GOLD COAST**
Winners revealed!

CREATIVE PARTNERS

Let these advisors **TAKE YOU TO ART SCHOOL**, with lessons on guiding clients, building collections, and **COLLABORATING WITH DESIGNERS** to enhance and elevate their work.

this photo
A photograph
from Katherine
Workoff's Deer Beds
series hangs in a
contemporary Darien
living room, sourced
by Trove Art Advisory.

INTERVIEWS WITH
SARAH CETRULO OF TROVE ART ADVISORY and
HEATHER GAUDIO OF HEATHER GAUDIO FINE ART
INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHY BY
JANE BEILES and MB PRODUCTIONS



SARAH CETRULO

Trove Art Advisory

Tell us how you got started and the path that led you to art advisory.

I worked at both Christie's and then Sotheby's auction house in New York for over ten years, and fell in love with the constantly evolving world that surrounds art. The convergence of business and beauty is fascinating to me. I've collected art for as long as I can remember in whatever capacity I was able to, and after I left the auction world, friends asked me to find art for their own homes.

Soon I was collecting art for friends of friends, and Trove grew organically from that space.

How does your process work with clients?

After I've seen the space the art will inhabit, I like to ask clients to show me examples of art they're drawn to. It's also helpful to know how they want to interact with the art and its purpose. Based on my measurements and our discussions, I'll source a number of options for the client to review. Ideally, we can visit galleries together, experience the art first-hand, and speak with the gallerists who represent those artists. In the end, it's exhilarating to see an art placement in a home or business that makes you stop and take notice.



above: An installation in Rowayton includes work by Bradley Sabin. **this photo:** Cetrulo, captured in front of her own selection.

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What is a typical working day for you?

We moved across country this past fall, so I've transitioned my routine now that we are in California. Since moving to Montecito, I've spent time exploring galleries on the West coast and cultivating relationships with galleries and artists previously unknown to me. I follow exhibitions on the East coast and abroad via email and spend much of any working day looking at beautiful art. It really is my dream job!

What are some of your favorite places to discover new art/artists?

Attending art fairs is a great way to see a large amount of art in varied mediums and at multiple price points. Just getting out on the street and visiting galleries is also a wonderful way to stay on top of the evolving market. In recent years, I've found amazing artists through Instagram, which in turn will lead me to a new gallery, which then leads me to discover new artists previously unknown to me.

Has your advisory role changed the way you view interior design?

In my opinion, interior design is its own art form, and I love working in both spaces: design and fine art. I'd like to think Trove is uniquely positioned to know how art and design converge so that they complement each other. Interiors without art lack soul, and art alone in a white room lacks purpose; together, they challenge the viewer, create a story, and leave a lasting impact.



above: Jacinto Moros' sculptural piece is achieved with blind embossing on Arches paper, and was chosen for this client's library.
this photo: Abstractionist Carrin Riley created the work for this Darien kitchen.



PHOTOS: JANE BELLES



above: A creative landscape from the mind of Kevin Paulsen. **right:** Vespers by Julian Jackson found a home in Rowayton.



above: A ceramic installation by Jocelyn Braxton Armstrong flies above this dining area. **this photo:** Nike Schroeder creates soft texture with hanging rayon threads.

What is the best collecting advice you'd give to people just starting out?

Try to expose yourself visually to as much art as possible. Visit galleries, museums, and art openings. Ask questions. Notice how the art makes you feel, and try to experience varied pieces in all mediums, styles, and sizes. Ask more questions. Find an artist whose work all at once challenges you and makes you smile, and try a piece on approval in your home. If you can't let it go, then you know it's found its home.

Do you have a favorite project/piece to date?

All of them! I've never helped a client purchase a piece of art that I wouldn't gladly welcome into my own home. I fall in love with certain pieces of art, and when the client does as well, it makes for a wonderful collaboration.

Which artists are inspiring you these days?

It's easy to be inspired looking at art all day, but it's hard to choose favorites! As far as current exhibitions that caught my eye, I love the work of Yulia Iosilzon on view now at Carvalho Park in Brooklyn. Her large-scale canvases are an explosion of color and movement. They are both whimsical and dramatic, extremely modern but with ancient symbolism. I'd also love to add a piece by Christy Matson to my personal collection. Her abstract textural weavings are incredible, and she's in a group show right now at Philip Martin Gallery in L.A.

PHOTOS: JANE BELLES



above: An antique mirror provides a backdrop for this Mary Didio painting in a Darien home. **left:** Donald Martny manipulates the paint for his pieces to capture a brushstroke's movement, or in this case, to resemble a crashing wave.