

# James Lane

— Art & Jewelry —

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[www.jameslanepost.com](http://www.jameslanepost.com)



One Art Space showcases limited-edition works by Shepard Fairey at the Hamptons Fine Art Fair. "Lennon Peace and Liberty (Red)," Limited Edition 2/6 (2023). Image courtesy Shepard Fairey/One Art Space.

# The Hamptons Fine Art Fair

## Marks Milestone 20th Anniversary & Celebrates America’s 250th

By Karen Amster-Young

Rick Friedman is the founder and director of the Hamptons Fine Art Fair and is about to kick off the 2026 festivities, marking 20 years for this world-renowned show. Catching up with Friedman remains an endless discovery year after year, and one can easily describe the show the same way. His passion for the HFAF and the world of art is magnetic. He perpetually reimagines the show, shaking things up and surprising attendees. This year is no exception. The Hamptons Fine Art Fair is taking place July 9 to 12 in Southampton and is, well, show-stopping.

“It’s undoubtedly our biggest and most exciting show,” said Friedman. “We have 140 exhibitors and, in the end, it’s beyond what I could have imagined as an homage to our milestone year and America’s big birthday.”

Anyone planning to attend should brace themselves: This year’s fair, a tribute to America’s 250th celebration, will be elevated,

inspirational, and awe-inspiring. Of course, patrons will happily find many of the same beloved, jaw-dropping exhibits featuring world-renowned and established artists, all while welcoming exciting newcomers and hosting celebratory special events — taking things to another level.

Friedman sounds exuberant as we review this year’s highlights, reverberating the same excitement as always as we discuss his love of abstract art, established artists, and discovering new talents. He “talks the talk and walks the walk” — as he happens to be one of the largest collectors of abstract art in the country, with over 300 museum pieces in his personal collection, including works by Hamptons artists from the 1950-70 abstract era. This year, 60 pieces from his personal collection are being exhibited at the Nassau County Museum of Art, including works by Jackson Pollock, Lee Krasner, and Willem de Kooning. A prominent baseball exhibit is there, too, marking the first time a national

baseball show has been showcased in a show like this.

Friedman took time to share his excitement about Babe Ruth’s game-used bat, which is front and center and not to be missed.

“I am the largest collector of Hamptons artists from the 1950- 1970’s era,” he said. “It’s a curated selection of my collection and will be shown at HFAF. Attendees should expect to see about 15 key pieces. With an upcoming show so rich, selecting just a handful of standouts feels nearly impossible. However, these highlights represent the undeniable pulse of this year’s must-see stops.”

As the centerpiece of HFAF’s America 250 celebration, the fair’s entrance will feature a striking 10-foot bronze sculpture of Lady Liberty, representing a major part of 19th-century American history. It is from the limited bronze edition of 12 artist proofs of Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi’s original plaster of The Statue of Liberty, from the Musée des Arts et Métiers in Paris.

“It’s priced at \$1M,” said Friedman. “It’s certainly a big coup for the show,” he added. Taking a moment, one thinks about the price tag: it may not sell this summer, although one never knows in the Hamptons. The symbolism does not go unnoticed, however, and it’s clear that this was a colossal undertaking and huge win for this year’s show.

The quick backstory is that on Bartholdi’s return in 1871 from his voyage to America, this incredible sculptor and painter began a work that would become the infamous Statue of Liberty; he finished the final model in 1878. It was enlarged for the statue at Ellis Island and was also used to create the 12 artist proofs, all of which were cast between 2010 and 2021. Friedman’s outreach and work to make this happen was tireless. Yes, it will be Instagram-worthy, but for visitors, it’s clear this exhibition offers a comprehensive retrospective of America’s defining moments.

An opening-night VIP Red, White & Blue Party will be held on July 9 and will benefit the Southampton Arts Center and the Parrish Art Museum. On July 10, they welcome the return of the fair’s Young Collectors Party. A highlight of the show, the Young Collec-



tors Party comprises young members from prestigious New York City museums such as The Whitney, Guggenheim, The Frick, and the Sotheby’s Institute.

Another highlight is “Marilyn @ 100: The Hamptons Marilyn Monroe Centennial Tribute — The Last Sitting.” Unknown to many, early in her career, Monroe was mentored by actor Michael Chekov, who introduced her to the masters of the Italian Renaissance. She always expressed her joy about art and had a deep lifelong passion for visual arts. This not-to-be-missed exhibit is being presented by The Trust of Bert Stern, the father of media personality Howard Stern. Monroe remains one of the most recognizable figures in modern history, and as part of its celebration of America’s 250th anniversary, HFAF will be honoring the legendary screen siren on the centennial of her birth with a historic exhibition of iconic photographs from Stern’s “The Last Sitting,” photographed over three days at the Hotel Bel-Air for Vogue in June 1962.

The British are Coming...Again! Talking with Friedman led to a chat about the impact of the British on this year’s show. Including an invited selection of top UK contemporary galleries. “This showcase is all about artists featuring their own interpretation of America’s heritage, the flag, and other iconography,” added Friedman.

Trailblazers of Hamptons Abstraction will showcase prominent artists from the 1950s to 1970s, all about saluting the Hamptons art era that pioneered and championed the Abstract Expressionism movement. This year’s HFAF will again highlight the East End’s huge selection of important primary and secondary market art. “All mediums are on display at the fair, from paintings, works on paper, and photography, to prints, glassworks, ceramics, wood turning, and a special focus on indoor & outdoor sculptures,” explained Friedman.

Another highlight of this year’s show includes Julien Lennon’s photography. After photographing his half-brother Sean’s music tour in 2007, Julien Lennon developed a serious interest in photography. He has been featured in six solo photography exhibitions. In addition to his visual art career, Julian is a Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter who has released seven albums and 38 singles since 1984, including the chart-topping hit “Too Late for Goodbyes.” Any proceeds from his work on display at this year’s show will be donated to charity.

Culinary offerings will be in no short supply. Next to the fair’s Outdoor Sculpture Garden, guests can enjoy delicious local dining options throughout the day, with the VIP Lounge and two large indoor bars offering diverse wine and spirit selections.



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# Hamptons Jewelry Show

## Returns To Southampton



Maria Rzewuska Designs

Returning this year is the Hamptons Jewelry Show, which takes place from July 23 to 26 at the Southampton Fairgrounds. It features an exceptional selection of iconic brands, contemporary designers, unique artisan-made and rare pieces, and signed estate jewelry. Last year, the event displayed hundreds of exquisite items from Buccellati, Boucheron, Bulgari, Cartier, Chanel, David Webb, Graff, Harry Winston, Hermes, Piaget, Tiffany, Van Cleef and Arpels, along with top luxury watches from brands like Rolex, Patek Philippe, Cartier, Audemars Piguet, and Vacheron Constantin. This year’s additions include Piazza Italia’s Italian Designer Pavilion, a special section spotlighting prestigious and emerging Italian brands, offering guests a rare chance to meet and purchase directly from Italy-based jewelers.

The Studio Artists Galleria will showcase a stellar group of today’s most inventive jewelry artisans and goldsmiths worldwide, known for their exceptional craftsmanship and materials. Here are some of the highlights.

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Each creation is handcrafted in silver or gold and often features carefully selected gemstones, resulting in jewelry that is distinctive, elegant, and timeless. Influenced by art, architecture, nature, and cultures from around the world, his collections celebrate individuality and personal expression.

At Ricardo Moran Creations, jewelry is more than an accessory — it is a statement of identity. Every design reflects a commitment to originality, quality, and artistic excellence, offering collectors and jewelry lovers pieces that are as unique as the people who wear them. Discover the extraordinary. Wear your uniqueness.



Ricardo Moran

### Claudine.

Claudine. is a fine jewelry studio rooted in contrast, where softness meets strength, romance meets edge, and intention meets ease. Each piece is designed to feel instinctive yet considered, elevating everyday dressing while allowing personal style to lead. Influenced by the ease of Los Angeles and the attitude of New York, Claudine. jewelry is meant to be worn every day, not saved for special occasions. Each design is created to layer naturally into your life, adding presence without overpowering it.

“I believe jewelry is more than an accessory. It reflects who we are, how we move through the world, and the stories we carry with us. My love of jewelry began with my mother. She wore each piece with confidence and ease. She never followed trends or questioned what she loved. That lesson stayed with me: true style comes from trusting your own instincts. When I founded Claudine. I wanted to design jewelry that feels both powerful and beautiful — pieces that balance femininity with strength, and effortless allure with a rebellious spirit — becoming a natural part of a woman’s everyday life. Every piece is



Claudine.

thoughtfully designed to be worn often, layered effortlessly, and cherished for years to come. The most beautiful jewelry isn’t saved for special occasions. It’s worn while creating them,” said founder Claudine Lilien.

### Maria Rzewuska Designs

“We represent high-quality and exclusive design silver jewelry. Clear and elegant shapes are characteristic for our collection,” said

Maria Rzewuska. The design is fashionable and extravagant; it captivates with individuality within an enormous, varied selection. Since 1998, Maria Rzewuska has successfully represented high-quality jewelry. Their collaboration with many different designers allows them to offer a wide range of distinguished jewelry lines.

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# Hamptons Fine Art Fair

**JULY 9-12, 2026**

**VIP OPENING PREVIEW – JULY 9**

**Southampton Fairgrounds, 605 County Rd. 39**

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Pablo Picasso, Courtesy of:  
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Wolf Kahn, Courtesy of:  
Shamniski Gallery



## Special Events & Features:

**Celebrating America 250** with the original bronze model of the Statue of Liberty, Presented by Modern Fine Art

**The Trailblazers of Hamptons’ Abstraction:** Welcome to “ground-zero” of AbEx

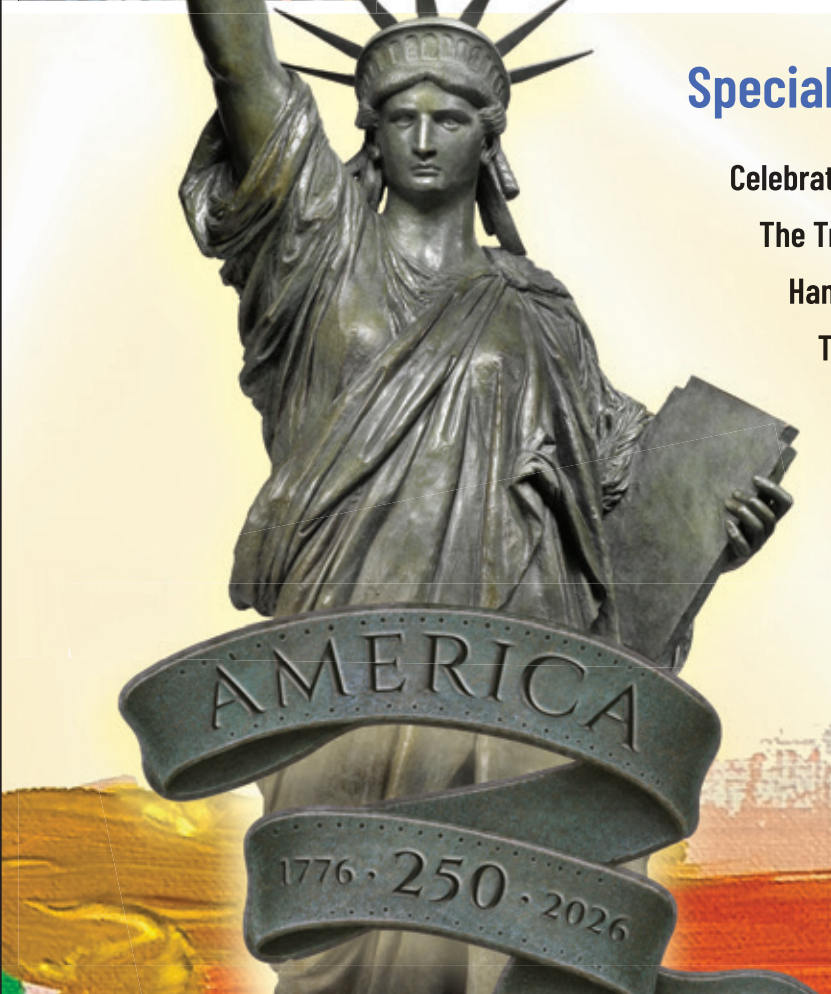
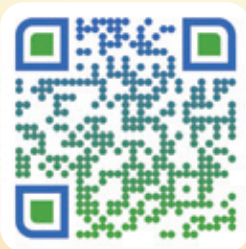
**Hamptons Artists Hall of Fame:** 4th Annual Induction Ceremony

**The British Are Coming...again:** This time its about stunning art

**Marilyn at 100: The Hamptons Marilyn Monroe Centennial Tribute:** The Last Sitting™ Presented by the Estate of Bert Stern™

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