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# GOTHAM<sup>BETA</sup>



Melinda Hackett in her Southampton studio. INSET: Her Hamptons cover.

## **Art of the City: Who Are Biggest Artistic Talents in Cities Across America?**

July 1, 2015 | photography by Shane McCauly

Excerpt: In this unique, inaugural Art of The City section, we spotlight and celebrate the freshest, boldest artistic talent from each of the 11 cities in which we publish. From Aspen to Washington, DC; LA to NYC; and for art connoisseurs and enthusiastic voyeurs alike, we're delighted to reveal the diversity and richness of America's emerging artists with in-depth profiles and a rare glimpse into the creation of their portfolios. Be sure to pick up our magazines when you visit our cities for the complete story on each of our featured artists (and how to support them)—together, they make a compelling collection.

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**HAMPTONS - MELINDA HACKETT**

Artist Melinda Hackett creates vibrant layered paintings of biomorphic shapes inspired by a combination of the landscape and light of the East End and 1960s Finnish textiles. Her paintings fuse together the play of interior and exterior spaces in oversize format pieces and represent a state of nonlinear time. Objects move through the picture plane at various speeds and directions, some gliding slowly and others spinning as if in a blender. Forms flirt with the edges of the works, providing the sense that the activity continues outside the borders.

Born and raised on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, Hackett spent her childhood summers in Southampton on Coopers Neck Lane with her parents and grandparents, who have been residents of the area since the 1940s. All three generations of her family have been heavily involved in supporting exhibits at the Parrish Art Museum and were instrumental in the institution's move to its new Herzog & de Meuron space in Water Mill. Hackett was selected by fellow artist Gary Simmons to be a part of the museum's Artists Choose Artists program in 2011.

Before devoting herself to painting full-time, Hackett founded Realart Inc. in the East Village with literary critic Charles Finch, displaying the work of artists such as Phoebe Legere and Anthony Haden-Guest. Hackett earned her MFA from Parsons/The New School while painting and exhibiting at the Charles Cowles Gallery in Chelsea in 2009. She is currently represented by Cade Tompkins Projects in Providence, Rhode Island, and her bold, colorful oils and watercolors are often displayed by interior designers like Jamie Drake, Jeffrey Bilhuber, Todd Alexander Romano, and Ashley Whittaker. She divides her time between her studios in New York City and Southampton. Proceeds from the sale of her work will benefit the Parrish Art Museum's educational initiatives, programs, and artists-in-residence series, which support the talent of emerging artists.