

## Inaugural Exhibition in our new location in FAIRFIELD, CT, 1700 Post Road

January 12 – February 25, 2023

Inaugural Opening Reception on Thursday, January 12 from 5-8PM

JEFFREY VAUGHN • LESLIE LEWIS SIGLER • JOHN AQUILINO

### GEORGE BILLIS GALLERY

1700 Post Road  
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203.557.9130



Jeffrey Vaughn



Leslie Lewis Sigler



John Aquilino

We are pleased to announce our inaugural Fairfield CT exhibition featuring 3 realist painters at George Billis Gallery at 1700 Post Road in Fairfield from January 12 – February 25, 2023. Free and open to the public during regular business hours. A reception for the artists will be held on Thursday, January 12 from 5-8PM, no reservations required.

**Jeffrey Vaughn** There is a sense of freedom that I experience when painting landscape. The quality of these kinds of images allows for expression and interpretation, yet they can still be viewed as landscape. I generally choose to depict the quiet, peaceful aspect of the natural world as opposed to its threatening or volatile side. The decisions made about what images to paint are intuitive and develop slowly over time with a large body of work. There is a contemplative manner to the approach that I take when studying and painting from the land: As one delves more deeply into the act of painting, the image evolves as a work about painting itself. When one looks more closely at the painting, there is a feeling of departure from the image of nature as seen with our own eyes.

In the studio, the painting develops with a grisaille style under-painting followed by a finished layering of blended colors. I work from photographs that are made typically with a medium format camera and choose images that have an attractive quality of light and abundant detail. Dramatic light enhances the translucent interplay of light and shadow on blossoms and leaves. Soft light allows for purer color and subtle explorations of shadow. Through these abstract concerns, I hope to convey the quiet beauty of nature.

**Leslie Lewis Sigler** In my work I explore family objects as “families” of objects—individual silver heirlooms that are related to one another in a single collection and, collectively, to the individual families that put them into domestic practice and social circulation. I’m interested in the histories and lifespans of these objects, their ability to reflect our own personal life stories and family histories, and the way they continue to connect us to one another in time and space in an increasingly digitally mediated and disconnected world.

Silver family heirlooms, such as flatware and vessels, intrigue me because they seem to have an eternal life: although they may tarnish and age beyond recognition, polishing them quickly returns their original luster. Such items pass through family generations as cherished heirlooms, survive the purgatory of antique markets, or perhaps find new life at estate sales. As their stories evolve, they form a lineage that connects us to one another, across generations and geographies.

By composing individual portraits of silver heirlooms, I explore the character evident in their inherent design and ever-changing patina. Each singular object’s form, condition, and character transform an otherwise functional object into something rich with history and artistic beauty, with the power to reflect our own life stories and family histories in the process.

**John Aquilino** In exploring the cityscape theme, I am intrigued by the endless patterns of colors and shadows produced by the changing light throughout the day and even at different times of the year. My goal is not to document a particular city or view, but rather I manipulate shapes and shadows to create striking compositions. The colors are exaggerated, the surfaces are simplified, and architectural features are rearranged or eliminated. My work often combines realistic and abstract elements, and I find this contrast really interesting.

My preferred medium is oil, but I also use gouache to create many paintings.

For additional information or high resolution images, please visit the gallery’s website at [GeorgeBillis.com](http://GeorgeBillis.com) or contact the gallery at [gallery@georgebillis.com](mailto:gallery@georgebillis.com) or 203.557.9130

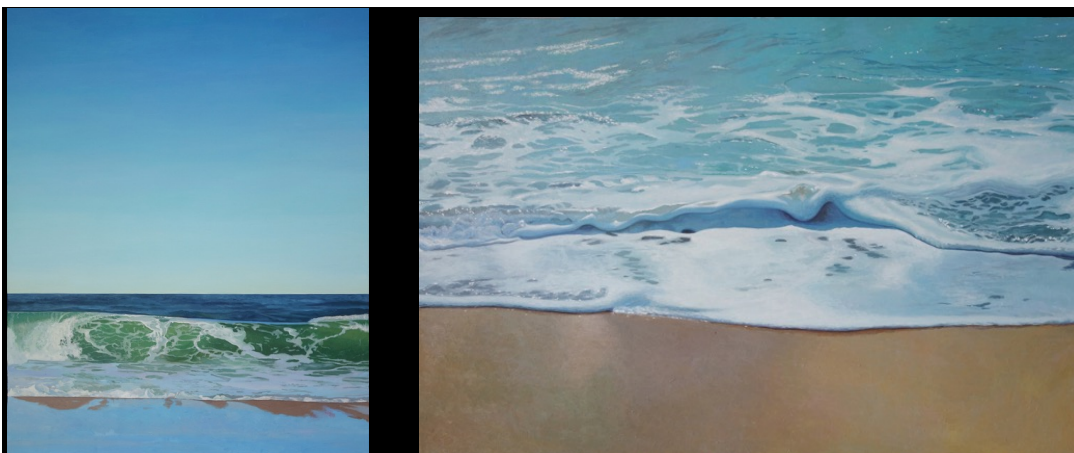
Jeffrey Vaughn – floral photorealism



Leslie Lewis Sigler – silverware photorealism



John Aquilino – seascape photorealism



List of work on this Press Release:

**Jeffrey Vaughn:**

Jeffrey Vaughn, Morning Light, oil and acrylic on canvas, 40x60"

Jeffrey Vaughn, Red Crabapple, oil on canvas, 36x36"

Jeffrey Vaughn, A Backlit Rose, 2021, oil on panel, 18x18"

**Leslie Lewis Sigler:**

Leslie Lewis Sigler, The Thanksgivers, oil on panel, 16x12"

**Leslie Lewis Sigler, The Vigil, oil on panel, 16x12"**

**Leslie Lewis Sigler, installation Detail, oil on panel, 12x5" each**

**Leslie Lewis Sigler, Silver Pair #25, The Traitor and The Copycat, oil on panel, 12x5"**

**John Aquilino:**

**John Aquilino, The Seventh Wave, oil on canvas, 20x20"**

**John Aquilino, Blue Sky, oil on canvas, 30x24"**

**John Aquilino, Ripple, oil on canvas, 24x36"**



**For high resolution images & additional information please contact George Billis Gallery at: [gallery@georgebillis.com](mailto:gallery@georgebillis.com)**