

SEIMANDI & LEPRIEUR GALLERY

A Distinctly French Presence in Santa Barbara's Contemporary Art Scene

A little over a year after opening its doors, **Seimandi & Leprieur** has established a distinctive presence in Santa Barbara's contemporary art scene. Located on West Anapamu Street, on the same block as the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and perpendicular to State Street, the gallery is at the heart of the city's Arts District. Its 1,400-square-foot exhibition space features 12-foot ceilings, a dramatic street-facing glass façade, and abundant natural light. With an international contemporary art program, a refined French sensibility, and a growing community of collectors and design professionals, the gallery has quickly become a destination for those looking for something beyond the traditional Santa Barbara aesthetic.

One year after opening, how has the gallery evolved?

Within our first year, we've built a growing community of collectors and art lovers who come back regularly, follow our exhibitions, and often introduce us to new clients. Much of our new clientele comes through word of mouth, which has been one of the most rewarding parts of building the gallery. We also welcome collectors who come specifically to see an artist or exhibition.

Our participation in both the LA Art Show and the Seattle Art Fair this year has also expanded our reach beyond Santa Barbara and brought our artists to collectors across the country.

What distinguishes Seimandi & Leprieur?

From the beginning, we wanted to bring a distinctly French sensibility to Santa Barbara: refined, contemporary, and understated, with the artwork always at the center. Our goal is also to bring a more international perspective to the city's contemporary art scene.

You've also developed strong relationships with interior designers.

Absolutely. Santa Barbara has an exceptionally sophisticated design community, and many designers are looking for contemporary art that feels elevated and distinctive. We work closely with designers and their clients, providing digital mock-ups, coordinating delivery and installation, and handling framing adjustments when needed. For local projects, we offer complimentary delivery and installation, and we arrange shipping throughout the U.S. We want the entire process to feel as straightforward as possible.

Hunt Slonem has been another major highlight of your first year.

Hunt already has a strong collector base in the Santa Barbara area, so the relationship was a natural fit. He was also looking for representation in a contemporary gallery with a clean, sophisticated environment that would allow his work to take center stage.

We were honored to welcome him last May for the opening of his solo exhibition and book signing. Collectors came from throughout California and beyond, and the response was extraordinary. We're especially pleased that our relationship is permanent, with paintings, sculptures available at the gallery year-round.

What's coming up at the gallery this fall?

Our fall program begins with two very different solo exhibitions. From September 3 through 27, we'll present *Another Room*, featuring Los Angeles-based German photographer Michael EB Detto. His photographs and texts explore perception and challenge the way we experience familiar spaces.

From October 1 through November 8, we'll present a solo exhibition by Julie Anderson Mathias, an American multidisciplinary artist and former interior architect. Her large-scale abstract paintings bring together color and structure, combining the discipline of architecture with the freedom of abstract painting. Her work feels like a natural fit for our gallery and Santa Barbara's design community.

There is much more to come, so we encourage readers to visit our website and follow the gallery's latest news and announcements.

33 West Anapamu Street • 805.610.1203 • seimandleprieur.com



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— Owners,
Fanny Seimandi & Julien Leprieur



Dora Vital, *Evening Lights 1*, 2023, Oil Pastel and Acrylic on Canvas, 44 x 33.5 in

