

# Connecticut COTTAGES & GARDENS

COTTAGES-GARDENS.COM | HOLIDAY 2011



## Christmas in Connecticut

FASHIONABLE TABLES | GIFT IDEAS | SEASON'S GREENINGS





CONTRIBUTORS

## CTC&G Faces



### SUSAN BEDNAR LONG

Interior designer Susan Bednar Long, owner of Greenwich-based S.B. Long Interiors, Inc., designed the living room in the Connecticut Governor's Residence, as part of the People's Project. She writes *CTC&G's* Design Beat column, this month on "Art Essentials" (page 30). Her favorite holiday tradition: "Making gingerbread houses with my son. He enjoys building the structure and I love decorating it—we are the perfect team!"

### MORTEN SMIDT

Morten Smidt, photographer of "Christmas in Connecticut" (page 60), is a native of Denmark who studied design and photography in England before shooting advertising campaigns for Carlsberg and Saatchi & Saatchi. He then worked for photography legend Richard Avedon until 2004. Smidt is currently working on creative portrait projects, and his commercial clients include Asics and Footlocker. He lives in Darien.



### SUSAN OSTER

A graduate of UCLA School of Interior Design, interior designer Susan Oster worked for Barbara Barry in Los Angeles before starting her own design firm in 1998. Oster's New Canaan home is featured in "Christmas in Connecticut" (page 60). "Decorating for the holidays gives me an excuse to focus and care for my own home each year," she says. "It's like sitting down for a long winter chat with an old friend."

### MARIA LAPIANA

*CTC&G* Managing Editor Maria LaPiana has had a passion for creating tablescapes for as long as she can remember. So, taking in the New York Tabletop Show and making selections for this issue's feature "Fashion Plates" (page 84) was pure pleasure for her. "There is so much beautiful china and crystal out there, not to mention linens and serving pieces ... the challenge was narrowing it down to fit the themes we chose," she says.



SUSAN OSTER: BETSY ANNAS, MARIA LAPIANA: PATRICK BARRIETO



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DESIGN BEAT

# Art Essentials

by Susan Bednar Long

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS THAT SAVVY DESIGNERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



On View A few of the works on exhibit through Jan. 15 at the Kehler Liddell Gallery in New Haven.

## ART HAVEN

I discovered this gallery by chance and was thrilled to note its commitment to home-grown talent. Founded by local artists in 2003, Kehler Liddell now represents 25 of Connecticut's most dynamic mid-career artists. From November 17 through January 15, the New Haven gallery will showcase small works from its roster of artists, including paintings, photographs, sculptures and drawings, all at accessible price points. *Kehler Liddell Gallery, New Haven, 203-389-9555, keblerliddell.com.*

## WORKS ON PAPER

NYC watercolorist Anne Watkins has translated several of my interiors into exquisite paintings, creating a timeless rendering of a design, as well as a stunning keepsake for my clients. Anne excels equally at interiors, portraits and landscapes and in quick gestural strokes, captures the essence of every subject, offering a unique alternative to photography. *Anne Watkins, 212-866-0057, annewatkins.com.*

## MASTER BUILDER

A true artisan, Robert Van Loan crafts each frame by hand with an attention to detail that befits his discerning clientele. I recently collaborated with Robert on a signature White Gold collection that has become one of his most popular designs. Clients can

choose from a selection of custom and semi-custom frame styles ranging from traditional woods to vibrant Lucite at his Greenwich atelier. *Robert Van Loan Custom Framing, Greenwich, 203-422-2881.*

## PHOTO SHOP

Gallerist Kathryn McCarver Root has a passion for bringing fine art photography into the wider sphere. A veteran photo editor (*Esquire, Harper's Bazaar, InStyle*), she now curates an impeccable collection of vintage and contemporary works in her always-inviting Litchfield County gallery, KMR Arts. I've discovered some of my favorite photographers through Kathy and am always amazed by her breadth of knowledge. This enthusiasm extends to her client services. *KMR Arts, Washington Depot, 860-868-7533, kmnarts.com.*

## SNAP APP

The ArtCapture app has streamlined the process of cultivating a client's art collection. Now a click of my iPhone camera will yield instant pertinent information about a work of art—including artist, gallery and past exhibitions—which I can easily organize and email to a client or share on Facebook and Twitter. Best thing is, it's free at the iTunes App store. *ArtCapture App by Collectrium, itunes.apple.com/us/app/artcapture-by-collectrium/id377459865?mt=8.*