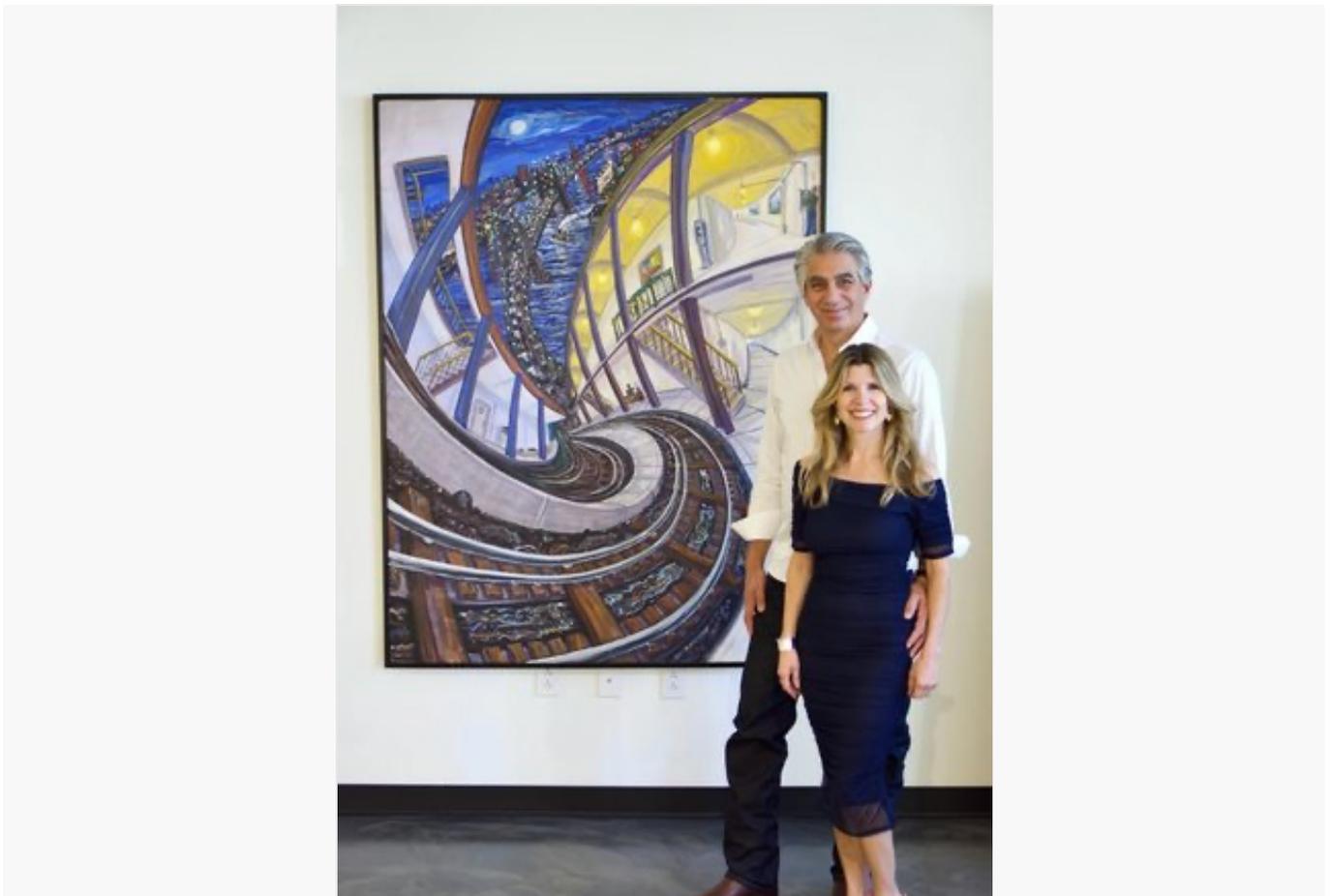


Food & Lifestyle

NYC collectors open fine art gallery inside Cummins Station



Fine art is coming to Cummins Station.

SOULIOS GALLERY



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Story Highlights



- Steven and Ana Soulios open Soulios Gallery in Nashville Nov. 12.
- The gallery showcases postwar art and international contemporary artists.
- Opening exhibition features New York artist Arthur Robins' expressionist works.

Nashville's newest gallery is bringing blue chip art and a community space to Cummins Station.

Longtime art collectors Steven Soulios, managing partner at a Manhattan law firm for 25 years, and Ana Soulios, a dancer, actress and educator, will open Soulios Gallery at 209 10th Ave. S. Ste. 234 on Nov. 12, showcasing postwar artistic movements and performance art that aims to spark dialogue.

“As an artist, I feel like you have to have a perspective and when somebody takes a theory and skill and composition, you still have to regurgitate it in your point of view, that’s what makes it uniquely yours,” Ana Soulios said.

Soulios Gallery's opening exhibition, "City of the Mind," showcases the work of New York-based artist Arthur Robbins, ranging from his expressionist takes on New York City scenes to unseen Biblical pieces and more.

Though a lawyer by trade, Steven Soulios began promoting and managing bands in the early '90's which led him to the art world.

"If you talk to other collectors, there's like a fever, there's something that happens once you get into it. Once you connect with art in a deeper way, more than superficial, it becomes a preoccupation of sorts," Steven Soulios said. "I can almost be addictive. I found myself justifying working these long hours [as a lawyer] because I knew every two weeks I would get a healthy paycheck and I could get a painting."

Steven Soulios met Robbins in 1992 on the corner of 42nd and Fifth in New York City. The former went for a walk to get a break from his office. Robbins was selling his prints on the street, and Soulios was "captivated by every image," inspiring him to become an art dealer.

Upcoming exhibitions include German-American neo-expressionist Mattias Duwel, German modernist Ewald Platte and Chinese painter Ma Kelu.

Though painting will be a core focus for Soulios Gallery, they are interested in short films, multimedia presentations and listening to the needs of community

"This is going to be connecting a lot of parts," Ana Soulios said. "It's really bringing all of our interests together and the people in our community keeps growing here."

After only living in Nashville for a few months, following their children, Steven Soulios stumbled upon Cummins Station and it immediately reminded him of the Puck Building in Manhattan where he and Ana got married.

It'd been the couple's dream to open a gallery for decades and they were encouraged by Nashville's growth and Cummins Station space.

"It's not just country music by any stretch. The city is growing exponentially, it's diversifying demographically, economically, industrially. You've got [Oracle](#), big health care, venture capital firms coming here, there's big law firms coming in here, so I'm like, this could support fine art," Steven Soulios said. "Good fine art is hard to come by and it's worth it. It holds value and it gives back to you so much more."

Though Soulios Gallery will be showcasing fine art, they're also hoping to offer reproductions or prints to make art more accessible.

"We are bringing a high level of art, appreciation, knowledge, culture and international flair. I think it's going to raise the profile of the city to have something that is hopefully going to represent it well in terms of bringing really high-end art," Steven Soulios said.

Unlike some New York City gallery culture, Soulios Gallery will not be stuffy or pretentious.

"Come check it out. This is part of our lives, it can be a part of yours, take a moment and try it," Ana Soulios said.