



# Flash Art

Contemporary Art is Alive and Kickin in East Hampton  
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I recently spent a lovely summer weekend in East Hampton. A chilly, rainy Friday that later evolved into a sun filled Saturday, the initial adverse weather didn't put a damper on art viewing. First up was Halsey McKay Gallery a fairly young space showing emergent, contemporary artists located at 79 Newtown Lane in East Hampton. On view on the first floor until August 21st is Joseph Hart – *Angel Error* while on the smaller, second floor mezzanine is Anne-Lise Coste with *Haiku*.

Both artists work in a form of new abstraction, making marks on surfaces that could be considered a calligraphy of sorts, scrawls that document a human presence. Coste has reinterpreted works by Picasso and others putting her own signature twist on the paintings using delicate script gestures in airbrush and a simple palette of black and grey on gessoed canvas. Her paintings contend with an art historical dialogue and also with graffiti culture allowing for cryptic messages to be present with a familiar alphabet deconstructed and rearranged in an unfamiliar way.

Similarly, Joseph Hart uses a linear language however his is more tribal in nature, less about literal recognition and rather stretching toward the sublime. Since Prehistoric times, artists have made decisions to convey an internal musing through an external gesture. Channeling predecessors such as Mark Rothko and Cy Twombly, Hart uses

tools beyond just paint to make a painting, including painted sticks and brass grommets. One work in particular, *Untitled* (A.E. 17), 2013 is composed of a painted stick leaning against the wall. In between the stick and the white wall are a pair of blue soccer shorts. The shorts hang from the end of the stick a symbolic flag in an unnamed match, both a moment of tension and relief mounted, or rather placed in the gallery. This work, along with *Untitled* (A.E. 16), 2013 also containing a leaning painted stick, communicate with painting in a 3-Dimensional way, expanding upon the 2-D markings on a flat surface and extending what could be perceived as a drawing dissecting or intruding upon "real" space.

*Image credit: Angel Error 06, 2013, collaged paper, acrylic, oil crayon and graphite on paper, 50x38" (left). Untitled (Sunset), 2013 collaged paper, acrylic, oil crayon and graphite on paper, 50x38" (right). Both works by Joseph Hart*