

FAIRFIELD COUNTY

H O M E



SECRET SPACES

CELEBRATE LIFE... EXPERIENCE KISMET,

a business that was born in owner Tamson Hamrock's flat in London in the fall of 2000. She moved the business to Westport via Manhattan in 2004, opening a retail shop in Sconset Square specializing in all things Asian. She remains true to the original vision that art in its most elastic sense covers the gambit from the healing arts to the visual and everything in between. The Sconset Square shop has since broadened its reach to include many local artists and has recently opened a holistic health arm run by leading Naturopath, Dr. Mark Romano.

KISMET is Hamrock's second career, having spent many years abroad in Singapore and London with Citibank, she took a leave of absence and completed an advanced degree in Asian Art. A passion that culminated in KISMET, a business that now includes design in its repertoire. Recently completing a renovation of her home in Greens Farms led to a decision to include design as a core KISMET business, as Tamson "we infuse spirit into people's homes." Mid career painters featured include Burma's Min Wae Aung, Mg Aw to Vietnam's Phan Luan to South Africa's Lynette ten Krooden, as well as Manhattan based Hedy Klineman and William Claps, and New England artists, painter Enid Munroe and photographer Kevin Bubriski. Hamrock has formed "partnerships" with local establishments such as Manhattan based designer Tucker Robbins and Asia Imperial located on Post Road in Westport, to help her carry a full range of new and Asian antique furniture in her gallery. Wendy Wong, of Asia Imperial looks at this collaboration as "an opportunity to extend her shop's reach and to show her wares in an 'in home' setting".



In the Sconset Square retail location, KISMET carries artisan designed gift and objects to Tucker Robbins furniture and clothing and jewelry from all over. "I have had the opportunity to live and travel the world. KISMET is simply a reflection of those years of collecting from markets and finding young, new talent." Indeed, Hamrock continues to source new artists and artisans, and a new thrust is local Connecticut artists from Silvermine and the Westport Arts Center, adding to the KISMET network and helping them "follow their artistic passion."

Recent shows include William Claps, a Manhattan based artist who she met at the Westport Arts Center and purchased a



piece featured in the show. This led to the October's KISMET "Autumn Passage" show, which featured his lyrical drawings and powerful abstract paintings which are inspired by Chinese and Japanese landscapes. Spring rotation plans include a multi faceted show called "Two Families of Artists", featuring Hamrock's mother, father and two sisters Susan and Catherine, and Fairfield's Munroe family, Enid, Harry and four daughters.

Hamrock feels strongly about contributing to the community, serving on various local boards and donating regularly to local arts related charities and non-for-profit events. "My parents instilled in us the idea of giving back to the community in which you live and that is one of my mantras."

Tamson's passion for supporting new and upcoming artists and artisans is infectious, and she loves telling the stories behind the material. "Its all about beauty inside and out, when you support KISMET you are supporting young and mid career artists to follow their artistic passion, that is what is exciting to me."

KISMET is located at 9 Sconset Square, Westport, and open Monday to Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 12-4, or by appointment. The Greens Farms location is by appointment only by calling KISMET, 203-222-8880. Our web address is www.kismetspace.com.