

Inspiring Conversations with Tonya Turner Carroll and Michael Carroll of Turner Carroll Gallery



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Today we'd like to introduce you to Tonya Turner Carroll and Michael Carroll. They and their team shared their story with us below:

In 1991, Tonya Turner Carroll and her husband, Michael Carroll, set out for Santa Fe and opened a Turner Carroll Gallery on historic Canyon Road. Since then, the couple and their team of art historians and advisors have had the pleasure of collaborating with artists and friends to build a space where art lovers can come and celebrate the work of important contemporary artists. Their passion for what they do fuels the gallery team's incredible work over the past 30 years. The gallery represents a roster of dedicated and talented artists whose work, Tonya and Michael, have placed in numerous prestigious museums and private collections around the globe.

The success of TCG is measured in the strong relationships that the couple has made with their artists and collectors. One such artist and friend, Hung Liu, died of pancreatic cancer two years ago. In the face of grief and crisis, Tonya and Michael committed to honoring Hung's legacy with a project matching the warmth and love for art that she brought to the world. In October of 2022, they launched CONTAINER, a community-oriented institutional space that empowers artists, curators, collectors, and students who believe in the transformative power of art.

With 4,000 square feet of exhibition space, CONTAINER has given Turner Carroll Gallery limitless potential to turn big ideas into reality. The project's reach extends far beyond the building – made entirely out of recycled shipping containers – and if the first 6 months are any indicator, CONTAINER is set to be a wild success.

– Rebecca Torrez

Alright, let's dig a little deeper into the story – has it been an easy path overall, and if not, what challenges have you had to overcome?

Opening CONTAINER was challenging. It was all hands on deck for several months while we finished renovations and put the space together for the Grand Opening. We welcome these difficulties, though – it helps us grow as a business and family. It's tough to embark on a project like this when you don't know the outcome, and we put all our weight behind CONTAINER. The challenge keeps our work exciting, showing that we are pushing ourselves

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CONTAINER. The challenge keeps our work exciting, showing that we are pushing ourselves toward higher excellence.

Great, so let's talk business. Can you tell our readers more about what you do and what you think sets you apart from others?

Turner Carroll Gallery + Art Advisors is committed to exhibiting emerging to established museum-collected artists worldwide. Turner Carroll was founded in 1991 by Tonya Turner Carroll and Michael Carroll, both of whom have extensive experience in galleries, museums, and auction houses and degrees in art history. Turner Carroll and Carroll have handled artist estates, written artist monographs, served on boards of art museums and foundations, and served as independent curators and art advisors for corporations, hotels, and art museums.

The gallery's vision since its inception is to source significant artwork of our era from diverse areas of the world. The gallery is constantly considering the new international art movements/developments which presuppose historical significance, and the gallery owners travel extensively to curate exhibitions for the gallery from other parts of the world. Thus far, the gallery has featured important contemporary exhibitions from Romania, Ireland, France, Russia, and Mexico. From its opening 31 years ago, Turner Carroll Gallery has dedicated its program to showing gender and a racially-diverse group of museum-collected artists who address the most relevant issues of our time. In recent years, TCG has curated exhibitions by artists whose prescient work considers immigration, women's contributions to the art historical canon, BIPOC realities, and what it means to live in this world.

How do you define success?

Day-to-day, success is about rising to the demands of the job. In a practical sense, success is getting Turner Carroll artists into reputable museums and private collections. We want to expand the reach of our artists and help them solidify their place in the canon of Contemporary art history. There's an endless list of things to do, so over the years, we've realized how important it is to balance the work of executing all of our new ideas and taking the time to appreciate our family by spending time together.

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