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UPSCALE UPSTATE

Shopping in Hudson, New York

Far enough away from everything but close enough to it all. That's the exact distance from New York City to its favourite upstate getaway, Hudson, NY (translating to 2 hours!).

Founded in 1785 as a whaling town of all things (Yes, there is a reason for there being whales on all of the street signs and repeated motifs around town), Hudson was 'rediscovered' in the mid-1980s, after decades of neglect and economic downturns, by affluent urban antique dealers combing the Hudson River Valley for their next greatest finds at area estate sales.

The small town, whose infamous past also included an era of red-light districts and gambling, became a new seat for art and antique dealers who bought up and renovated the architectural gems on Hudson's historic main commercial drag, Warren Street, and the adjacent, residential Union and Allen streets. The influx of wealthy Manhattanites who chose upstate over the more showy Hamptons then followed, adding to the economic growth of the struggling county seat.



Photo credit: Dan Region



Fern

Hudson has had several starts and stops over the past couple of decades in its reinvention but has now hit its stride as one of the most enviable retail and culinary hubs in the country. It is still an eclectic mix of locals and newbies, rural and urban, creative professionals and tradesmen, but its mile-long Warren Street is no less rewarding for the most sophisticated consumer than any stretch in either of the SOHOs.

Today you'll find a wide range of curated home décor, first rate art galleries, jewellery designers, fashion designers, fragrance houses, and – naturally – antiques. Much has been written, and rewritten, about the even more recent urban migration upstate and the artisanal this and that that it has brought. But there's a different story to tell as well, as Hudson has much more to offer than what you can find at your favourite flea market in Brooklyn. The farm-to-table food scene is bountiful, and features several acclaimed chefs who now call Hudson their home, and new luxury boutique hotels are poised to bring an even higher level of hospitality offering to the area.



source adage



Photo credit: Dan Region



source adage

One of the town's highlights is Hudson-based fragrance brand, **source adage**, launched with the opening of its brick and mortar store in 2015. The stunning, charcoal grey 1830s Greek Revival building was renovated by founders, Christopher Draghi and Robert Dobay, whose brand vision permeates through the curated, gallery-lit space as much as their bold fragrances. Their olfactory compositions are inspired by American geographical regions for both the home (reed diffusers and scented candles) and the body (unisex eau de parfums). In an ever-expanding niche fragrance market, finding makers crowding in the middle, Christopher and Robert aimed high, setting sights on the best in the market from around the world. The attention to detail in the packaging, the quality of the scent compositions, and the sophisticated environment of their flagship store puts them well on track to achieve their ambitions.

As the home of the area's antiques community, Hudson is home to some star emporia. Born and raised in the Hudson River Valley, **Vincent Mulford** has been collecting antiques since age five. In 1980 Mulford became an antiques dealer, exhibiting at shows, and opening his Hudson shop in 1990. His style has been published in a variety of national and international periodicals, newspapers, and books, making him one of the most recognised and admired dealers in Hudson. With a curated, often whimsical storefront, Mulford specialises in furniture and objects of proportion, patina, and scale – bold and beautiful, whether it's formal, country, funky or modern.

Tom Swope Gallery deals in antiquities from around the world, featuring Greek and Roman, Ancient Egyptian, pre-Columbian and Chinese Archaic. While the range is broad, all the objects are carefully chosen for their beauty, authenticity, and all speak to a common past. Formerly focused on classical antiquities, that is art from ancient Greece, Rome, Egypt and the Near East, Swope broadened his scope after moving upstate to Hudson, to include pre-Columbian and Asian antiquities. The gallery currently shows an internationally revered collection of early Chinese Buddhist sculpture from the 6th to 8th Century A.D., and Archaic Chinese jades from the Neolithic period to the Han Dynasty.

Swiss-born antiques dealer Alfons Sutter opened the first Sutter Antiques in London at the prestigious Kings Road Market in 1973. In 1976 he moved his business to the Flatiron district in New York City, where he specialised in Oriental furniture and objects. In 1990, he and his long time business associate, Frank Rosa, relocated to Hudson and in 1995 opened a second shop, 20th Century Gallery. In 2007 both entities were merged as **Sutter Antiques**. Alfons' keen sense of style and eye for beauty, quality and the unusual, along with his passion for acquiring, has yielded a vast collection of decorative objects, lighting and furniture from the Biedermeier Empire and Art Deco periods, as well as the mid-20th century.

It may have started with antiques, but Hudson is also a hub for contemporary furniture and interior design. Born from interior designer Andy Goldsborough and art dealer, Elizabeth Moore, **The Gilded Owl** marries art and décor, and has become a vivid example of Hudson as an attraction for collectors and the curious in search of high design. In 2017, further expanding their vision, they opened a second gallery space offering jewellery, objects and the full line of Chiavari chairs from Fratelli Levaggi. For the first time the chairs from the family owned factory in Liguria have been offered for sale in the US alongside other modern Italian vintage furniture by Giò Ponti, Vittorio Valabrega, Paolo Buffa and other master architects and craftsmen.

Fern furniture operates a design and fabrication studio and a retail showroom in Hudson. It was founded in Brooklyn, New York by Jason Roskey and Maggie Goudsmit in 2009 and is currently based in New York's Hudson River Valley, where they continue to build upon the region's long furniture tradition. Fern designs and makes bench-crafted studio furniture. Their focus is furniture designs with an emphasis on customisation for their clients. With access to some of the country's finest hardwoods and a growing creative community, Hudson has allowed them to realise their goal of designing and making contemporary, timeless furniture using sustainable practices.



The Gilded Owl



The Gilded Owl

A recent addition to Hudson's eclectic gallery scene, **September Gallery**, founded by Kristen Dodge in 2016, is an evolving platform for artists of diverse and committed disciplines with no preference towards artists of particular career levels, and with a particular interest in supporting sculpture. The gallery is committed to engaging the upstate community, while hosting artists predominantly from Brooklyn to Boston. In the first year, 194 artists will have exhibited at the gallery, many of whom have recognisable and successful careers, and others who work through varying degrees of obscurity. September's spirited ethos and activities include performance events with academics, activists, chefs, curators and writers.

Stair Galleries has established itself as an invaluable resource for art collectors, antique dealers and individual buyers in Hudson since it was founded in 2001. They are experts in handling everything from a single item to an entire estate, with sophistication, integrity and a rare personal attention. Auctions are held throughout the year, among them world-renowned private collections, English, Continental and American Fine and Decorative Arts Sales, 20th Century Fine Art Sales, as well as Asian and Ethnographic Sales. There are approximately seven Fine Sales yearly and ten to twelve Exposition Sales are held each year, drawing dealers and aficionados from around the world.



September Gallery



Stair Gallery



Geoffrey Good



Kasuri

Hudson is also renowned as a destination for fashion and jewellery boutiques and studios. After dedicating years on Madison Avenue to refine his skills, jewellery designer **Geoffrey Good** founded his own workshop in Hudson, NY. Geoffrey's eclectic aesthetic fuses rebellious creativity with unbridled artistry and unparalleled craftsmanship. He is the rare designer-craftsman with the ability to personally execute his vision. Geoffrey has been featured in publications such as Vogue, Cosmopolitan and The New York Times. Other credits include celebrity commissions for Grammy™ and Academy Awards™, and runway accessories and hardware development for fashion designers such as Alexander Wang.

Located at the beginning of Warren Street, **Kasuri** clothing store brings the latest in cutting-edge, directional fashion to Hudson and upstate. The boutique offers a finely curated selection of Japanese, European, and American labels housed in an exquisitely renovated space where the historical and contemporary collide with exuberance. Kasuri's sensibility is firmly rooted in the avant-garde with a team passionately devoted to fashion and an environment where experimentation and tradition integrate and are ever-evolving.

Behida Dolić is a Bosnian-born milliner and designer based in New York. In the small village of kilim weavers and furniture builders where she grew up, 'handmade' was a way of life. After fleeing the Bosnian War in 1998, Dolić studied art in San Francisco and Florence before discovering millinery. Entirely self-taught, she began her millinery business with one hat block and was propelled by its limitations to build her successful business. Now she operates her own hat shop in Hudson. Each unique hat is made by hand and to measure, with care and a lot of love. Her hats, praised as wearable works of art, are sold worldwide.

All in all, Hudson is an anomaly for 'small town USA'. There's something for everyone, but there is, at its heart, a level of retail and design thriving here that is rarely seen outside of major urban destinations.

Behida Dolić
715 Warren Street
www.behidadolic.com

Fern
243 Warren Street
www.fernnyc.com

Geoffrey Good
251 Warren Street
www.geoffreygood.com

Hudson Antiques
419 Warren Street
www.hudsonantiques.net/category/vincent-mulford/

Kasuri
1 Warren Street
www.kasuri.com

September Gallery
449 Warren Street
www.septembergallery.com

source adage
314 Warren Street
www.sourceadage.com

Stair Galleries
549 Warren Street
www.stairgalleries.com

Sutter Antiques
556 Warren Street
www.sutterantiques.com

The Gilded Owl
318 Warren Street,
Gallery: 105 Warren Street
www.thegildedowl.com

Tom Swope
307 Warren Street
www.tomswope.com