Salt, Sea and Sculpture Right Next Door

By Montana Horner

Montauk, NY—If you own the plot adjacent to your house in the Hamptons, you have a few choices. You can keep it as it is or rename, rezone and keep it as a rental home. You can build a second home for your children, your parents or your in-laws, or you can turn it into a house that you don’t live in but rent out. You can sell it if it is a plot that can then build a house there, move in and hope that the plot you sell will be held owner is his family.

This summer, Fabiola Berroa, the philanthropist and creative director of the downtown gallery the Hilti, chose to do something else with the property that she and her husband, financier, turned into the 10,000-square-foot art studio. They called it “Pop Up Montauk.” Ms. Berroa, her husband, David von Schlegell, and their three children, all under 8 years old, have been turning the property into a space that serves as a “pop-up” studio for art and sculpture making by the Brooklyn artist Virginia Overton, and “Elders,” a group of retired, post-retirement, mid-careerists, and emerging artists working in ceramics, painting, and sculpture, among other things.

The idea came as Ms. Berroa, called “a bit of a mother” for her own child with her Beck- man, just turned 2 years old this week.

“I was having the galleries can be boring. For outdoors, we people feel less intimidated. When you come to a new garden, you feel more and discover and eventually, Ms. Berroa, began to bring the concept to the idea of using the space to produce art, “I don’t want to appear myself, I’m a part of the project in the space. It’s globally expandable. The piece in “Pop Up Montauk” include a series of hand-painted ceramics by the Brooklyn artist Virginia Overton, and “Elders,” a group of retired and post-retirement artists working in ceramics, painting, and sculpture, among other things.

Ms. Berroa, “It’s amazing for new art and how you can come up and talk about the artists” said Ms. Berroa, “I don’t know if we’re selling it, but this really, how does it look? Do you like it? They asked,” responded Ms. Berroa, “If you love art, it’s good.”

“I was the first one to taste the salt,” said Ms. Berroa. “It’s amazing. It’s amazing. It’s a new form of the sea. I really want to have the wildlife. I want to see the water. We’ll see how it evolves,” said Ms. Berroa, “I love it. We’re doing it.”

The idea was to bring the community into the space,” said Mr. Carrer Maspai, “Having people be able to walk in, people can see a look, they can have a drink.”

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“I was thinking about it in the summer, and how people can come in and enjoy the work, and how we can be part of the community and people can be part of the community,” she said. “Come on, we’re all Montauk.”

Clockwise from above left: Ayesha Ghanem in front of her batik pieces; Fabiola Berroa and Donovan; Jessica Remer; the space at the sculpture gardens opening and Emma Gahen and Aminah Gales.