

*In Hartford, An Old Favorite Sprouts New Growth
The Connecticut Spring Antiques Show*



*Previous Page (clockwise from top left);
Dover House Antiques, Louisville, Ky.
Nathan Liverant and Son, Colchester, Conn.
The Hanebergs Antiques, East Lyme, Conn.
Jeffrey Tillou Antiques, Litchfield, Conn.*

Review and Photos By Laura Beach

HARTFORD, CONN. — The other day on Facebook, Jim Bakker posted an early 1970s photo of the Connecticut Antiques Show. Windsor chairs, fireplace brass, hooked rugs, trade signs, stoneware and baskets — literally piled high. It made



Newsom & Berdan Antiques, Thomasville, Penn.



me think of my last visit to Dick Withington's barn antiques shop, not long before the legendary New Hampshire auctioneer died in 2008. Ever the showman, Withington had created the appealing illusion of generational accumulation, even though untouched barns were by then mostly a thing of the past. A four-decade-old bull market in Americana had cleaned them all out.

Greg K. Kramer & Co., Robesonia, Penn.

Next Page; John Keith Russell Antiques Inc, South Salem, N.Y.

The Connecticut Spring Antiques Show is one of the few places where the past lives on in an uncontrived fashion. There is the pre-1840 American past that is the show's claim to fame, but also the past of a

market we remember from its halcyon days in the 1970s. Much has changed, of course. Scholarship has advanced, collectors are more discerning than ever and buyers have more ways to find and buy the material. Yet,





◀ Old Lyme, Conn., fine arts dealer Jeff Cooley with "Spring in Hartford" by Guy C. Wiggins, 1930. The view frames Hartford's landmark Travelers Tower. [Watch Video Here](#)



▲ "Rochelle on the Porch, Gloucester, Mass.," by Robert Philipp, depicts the artist's wife at work with a harbor view in the background. Blue Heron Fine Arts, Cohasset, Mass.

Beverly ▶
Longacre, a.k.a.
Mrs Christmas,
offered this circa
1890–1910
German painted
village meant for
display under the
Christmas tree.



through it all, the Connecticut Spring Antiques Show remains both languorous and vital, with an

unvarnished innocence that marks it of another age.

Managed by Karen DiSaia with an assist from her husband and business partner, Ralph, the March 21–22 show set up at the Hartford Armory, the show’s traditional, much-loved venue. With snow well into the middle

of the day on Saturday, attendance got off to a slow start, but a knowledgeable, determined group of buyers persevered. [\(Continued on page 27 inside the E-edition\)](#)

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