

SEANKELLY

Gerlis, Melanie. "Basquiat and Banksy boost Christie's New York season." *Financial Times*, November 11, 2021.

FINANCIAL TIMES



Lauren, Thomas and Sean Kelly

The longstanding New York gallerist [Sean Kelly](#) is to open a permanent space in Los Angeles — and is keeping it in the family. His son, Thomas Kelly, at the gallery for 10 years, will relocate to the West Coast to run the new premises, due to open in Spring 2022. Both Thomas and his sister Lauren are partners in the gallery. “It’s not just a lateral shift, it’s also a generational shift,” Sean Kelly says, adding that having a family member take on such a responsibility “takes the speculation out of it all”. Thomas Kelly has committed to stay at the LA helm for at least five more years.

Gallery succession does not always run smoothly, particularly via the next generation. Others have yet managed to steer the choppy waters. At Lisson Gallery, Alex Logsdail, son of founder Nicholas Logsdail, also helped the gallery to expand geographically, from London to New York. Staying close but at a distance has its benefits, Thomas Kelly concurs. “I had thought about it more as a great opportunity but it is also a way for me to grow [independently],” he says.

Father and son say the burgeoning number of artists in LA, many of whom have been “priced out of New York”, adds to the appeal of the city. The collector base is also expanding, both within Hollywood and beyond, including technology entrepreneurs, they say. The 10,000 sq ft space, a former yoga studio, is being redesigned on Hollywood’s North Highland Avenue, close to LA stalwarts Regan Projects and Kohn Gallery. The opening show will be of new works by [Idris Khan](#).