



HOUSTON'S

MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN OF 2020-2021

Houston **W**OMAN
magazine



“Deborah Colton’s enthusiasm for creating an awareness of Houston’s art history coincides with helping the University of Houston with its Special Collections in Visual and Performing Arts.”

Deborah Colton is a patron of the arts in the United States and internationally. Over the past decade, she has served as a board member of Exit Art, New York; the Advisory Board of Artadia in New York; and the McKinney Art Contemporary (MAC) in Dallas. She currently serves on the advisory board of Anthology Films Archives in New York and is on the Dean’s Cabinet of the University of Houston Libraries, representing the Visual and Performing Arts Special Collections.

In Houston, in addition to support-

Deborah Colton

Patron of the Arts
Owner, Deborah Colton Gallery

ing many performing and visual art nonprofits over the years by chairing their fundraisers and making donations, Colton continues her mission through various endeavors to help make Houston a destination city for the arts.

As part of this mission, Colton opened Deborah Colton Gallery in Houston in 2000, shortly after she and her family moved back from Asia. Over the years, Deborah Colton Gallery has sponsored numerous exhibitions featuring artists from Asia, the Middle East - Arab World, Russia, Canada, Latin America and Europe. Additionally, a strong part of the gallery’s programming is to promote Houston artists and provide a forum to connect Texas, national and international artists to create active dialogue for positive change.

The gallery’s FOUNDATIONS Projects focus on the importance of revering Houston’s artist and art history.

Colton is also co-founder of OUTPOST NYC DCG, the Deborah Colton Gallery virtual arts initiative.

Colton’s enthusiasm for creating an awareness of Houston’s art history coincides with helping the University of Houston with its Special Collections in Visual & Performing Arts. Some of the most noteworthy archives Colton has

gained for the Special Collections include the acclaimed Texas artist, Dorothy Hood’s archives, and Texas art book author and long-time art writer for *the Houston Chronicle*, Patricia Covo Johnson’s archives. Additionally, Colton has recently helped start the new Houston Gallery Association these past few years, named the Houston Art Gallery Association (HAGA), and has been serving as vice president since it began.

Raised in Essex Fells and Summit, New Jersey, Colton has lived and worked in Tokyo, Bangkok, New York, Miami, New Haven, Houston and Dallas. She became an active patron of the arts after she and her family moved to Tokyo due to her husband’s career.

Colton has received numerous recognitions, including the YWCA Women in Leadership and Texas Women of the Arts awards. Through both chairing and donating her gallery space to worthy nonprofits the past two decades, she has helped raise over \$15 million that has helped children in Houston and worldwide.

The mother of two grown daughters with children of their own, Colton, along with her husband, recognizes and values the importance of nurturing the next generations.