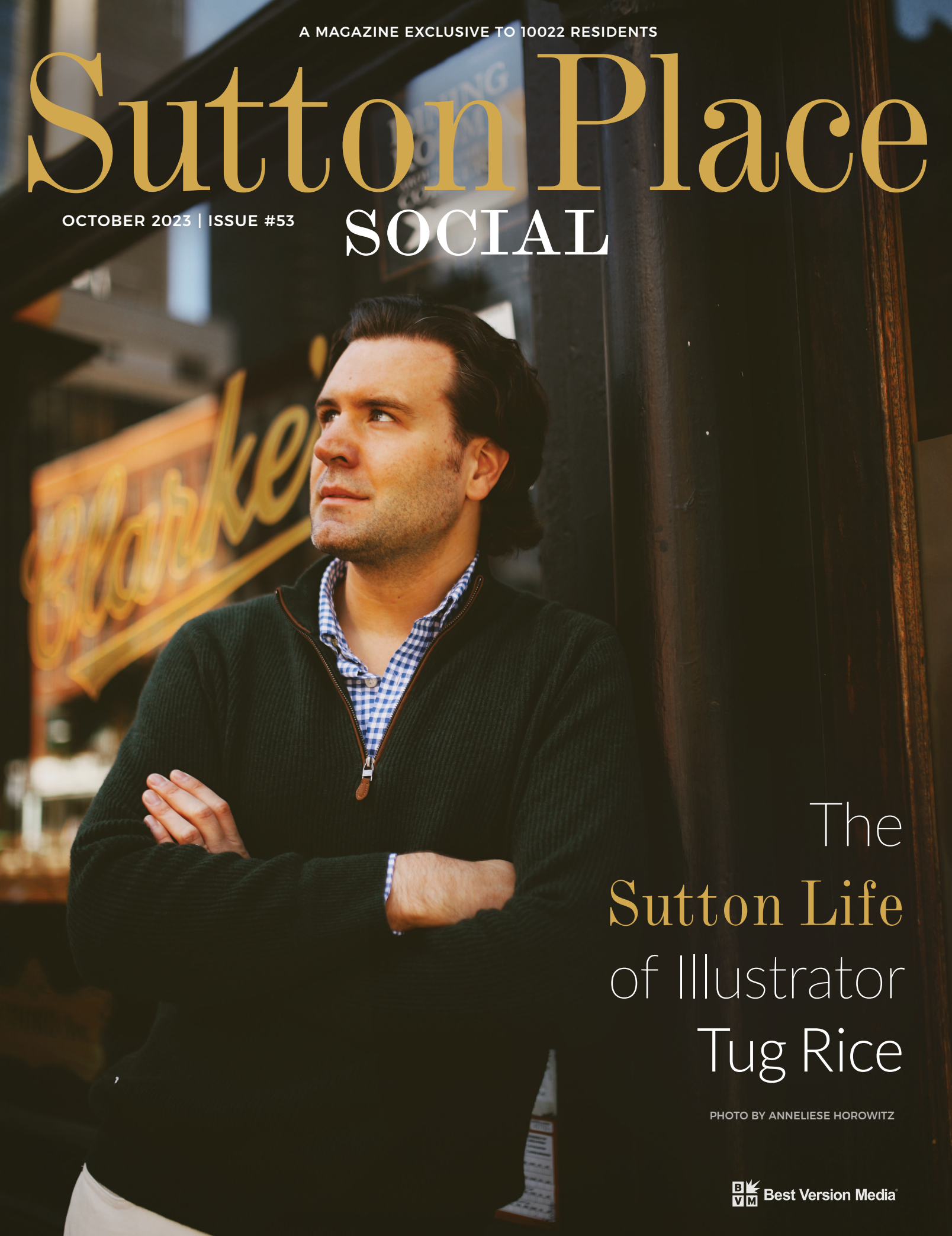


A MAGAZINE EXCLUSIVE TO 10022 RESIDENTS

# Sutton Place

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## SOCIAL



The  
Sutton Life  
of Illustrator  
Tug Rice

PHOTO BY ANNELESE HOROWITZ



## Our October Portrait:

TUG RICE



WRITTEN BY JACLYN OLSEN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANNELIESE HOROWITZ

After posing at PJ Clarke's, Tug Rice discusses his artistic career, culture and his love of the neighborhood.

It's autumn in Sutton Place, and we're greeting October with a fresh face. Tug Rice, a talented 33-year-old illustrator, grew up in the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania. He moved to New York in 2012, upon graduating Carnegie Mellon's School of Drama. Something about his first few months in NY rekindled a lifelong passion: drawing. He elaborates, confessing, "Although I have enjoyed drawing since I was a kid, I never formally studied the subject and only later did it dawn on me to consider pursuing it professionally." Just for fun, Tug began to share his work with some friends. "Once I started to show people what I was working on, I was encouraged to take drawing beyond a hobby. Commissions from friends, then strangers, soon followed. The idea bloomed organically into a career." He later signed with an illustration agent, a fellow Suttonite, Stephanie Pesakoff, with whom he works commercially and privately.

Tug's career has certainly been fruitful thus far. Just look at the pieces we've included. "I travel quite a bit to meet with clients or see projects in person." With a handful of ongoing projects across the pond, lately, Tug has been sojourning in London. "I love London and it amuses me that Sutton Place is called 'Little London.'" Tug's recent travels have brought him to France, as well. "I enjoy exploring the country. Just this year I have been there four times, in part because I was shooting a short film in the Loire Valley. The script was bilingual and I played an American, so my mistakes were permissible — thankfully!"

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## RESIDENT FEATURE

In collaboration with Bergdorf Goodman and Chairish.



For the Coronation of King Charles III at Westminster Abbey. Designed for Halcyon Days in London.



A commissioned illustration for Afternoon Tea Week at The Ritz London.



Tug's ties to Sutton Place precede his relocation to the neighborhood in 2020. He explains, "Not long after I had moved to NYC, I was hired by a Sutton Place resident, Geoffrey Johnson, to do some archival work." Johnson was the American representative of the prolific English playwright Noël Coward. He had enlisted Tug to catalog his collection of Coward's things. Tug reflects, "For someone fond of history and the arts, it was the ideal job." After the commute to Johnson's apartment, the pair would review which items Tug would collate and send to the Coward Estate in London. "Then, Geoff and I would have lunch," he resumes, "usually at Madison Restaurant on 1st Avenue and 53rd Street, which, since living here, has become almost my kitchen because I don't cook. I'm not ashamed to say I've even been there more than once in the same day." While working on the Estate, Tug became involved with the Noël Coward Foundation and is now an active member.

As a frequent restaurant-goer, Tug has curated a list of favorites and the scenes fit for them. "There are many places I enjoy here. Though I'm still mourning the loss of Jubilee. Deux Amis is a great place to linger over drinks after dinner, Kati Shop is my go-to for a quick lunch, Neary's is classic NY — and is there anything better than meeting friends at PJ Clarke's for burgers and beers on a rainy city evening?" It seems that PJ's also makes the perfect place for a photoshoot.

The discretion of Sutton Place and its cinematic charm are two qualities Tug esteems most about the neighborhood. "From the time I began coming here, I have loved it. In my view, Sutton Place is NYC out of a black-and-white film." He's got that right! Sutton Place has appeared as the setting in some major films, for example, Woody Allen's "Manhattan."

"I think the Sutton area has always attracted creative people, but not outlandish types who require a lot of attention. People here value their privacy. Naturally, when an apartment popped up for rent in the very same building where I had worked and had these great memories, I knew I had to take it. In situations like that, I often find myself repeating, 'You never know,' ad nauseam. Sutton Place is an understated, sophisticated neighborhood. I'm very glad to be part of it."

In his spare time, the artist plays piano and enjoys reading, currently a biography of the illustrator Peter Arno, "who resided here briefly," Tug adds.