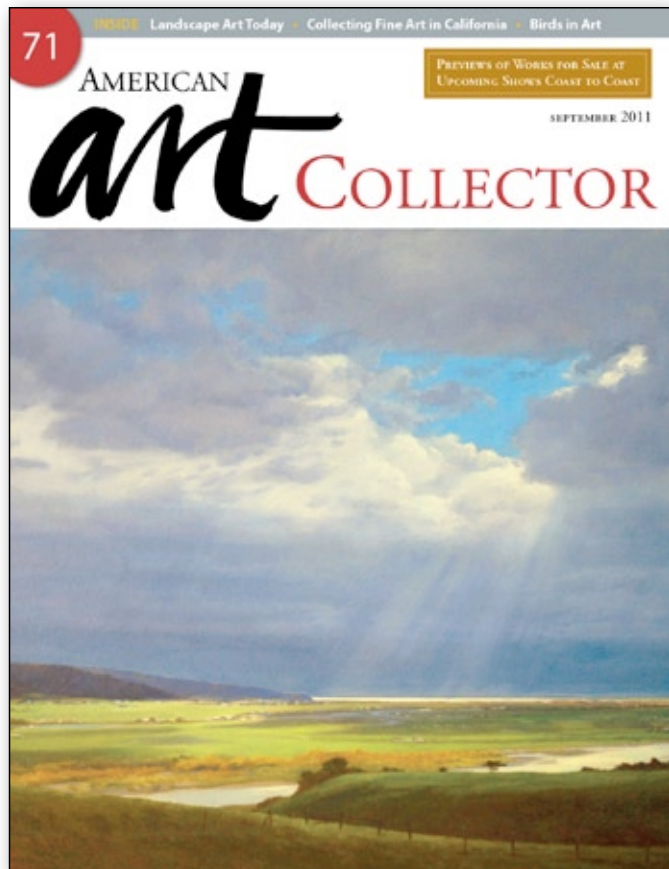


As seen in the
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 AMERICAN
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ART SHOW PREVIEW

Raising the bar

Highlighting the finest in representational art, the Oil Painters of America 2011 Eastern Regional Juried Exhibition and Sale takes place September 17 to October 15.

The highly anticipated Oil Painters of America 2011 Eastern Regional Juried Exhibition and Sale takes place from September 17 to October 15. The show, which is open to the public and draws collectors from around the country, will be held at Addison Art Gallery in Orleans, Massachusetts.

“It is appropriate that the Oil Painters of America show will be held on Cape Cod, home of the country’s oldest, continuously operating art colony,” says Helen Addison, owner of the host gallery. “For well over 100 years, artists have been drawn to our shores to paint in the unique Cape Cod light and to be part of this dynamic community. The diversity of work and influences has created a vibrant opportunity for art collectors who, from the beginning, followed the artists here. Today art collectors from all continents travel here to view work and experience Cape Cod.

“All of us at Addison Art Gallery are looking forward to presenting the exceptional works that have been juried into the show,” she continues, “and to welcoming the OPA artists and all those who can make this amazing show.”

On display will be over 80 juried works from some of today’s top artists creating the finest in representational oils. Selected from hundreds of entries, the oil paintings will range in size, genre, and style. Awards this year will total approximately \$11,500 including a \$4,000 prize for Best in Show. Among the artists who will participate in the event are **Suzanne Hughes Sullivan, Joan Essex Johnson, Loren DiBenedetto, Lisa Kovvuri, and Cindy Baron.**

Atlanta artist Suzanne Hughes Sullivan is honored to have been selected into the Eastern Regional Juried Exhibition and Sale for the fourth consecutive year since becoming

an OPA member. Sullivan is a classically trained realist painter heavily influenced by the Baroque masters of the 17th century. As she explains, “The drama and intimacy they brought to their work serves as a primary source of my inspiration.”

In *Twilight Illumination*, Sullivan evokes a luminescent yet dramatic atmosphere. “The European masters described it as *chiaroscuro*, meaning strong contrasts between light and dark areas in a painting,” says Sullivan. “In all of my work I seek to arrest the attention of the viewer from across a room, compelling them to closer examine the underlying subtleties and brushwork in the painting. When spiritual connection is created, that is the ultimate benchmark of a successful work and my end goal.”

Joan Essex Johnson finds inspiration for her paintings from the movement of light

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Joan Essex Johnson, *Shells in a Japanese Bowl*, oil on linen, 18 x 24"



Lisa Kovvuri, *Orchids and Lilies*, oil on linen, 16 x 20"



across form and the details that are revealed. “Each composition is a carefully studied arrangement of objects and light that evokes a pleasing combination of form and value,” describes Johnson. “The objects themselves have personal meaning. In the case of *Shells in a Japanese Bowl*, the shells were collected on various trips and the bowl was borrowed from a friend.”

Born and raised in Northern California, Johnson received early art training from the University of California at Berkeley. “Following a desire to become a realist painter, I studied with Ann Schuler for five years at the Schuler School of Art in Baltimore, Maryland,” she says. “There I learned a painting process developed by Jacque Maroger that is based on the techniques of the Old Masters. It includes making black oil, mastic varnish, maroger medium and preparing linen canvas with white lead. Each of these techniques lends the finished painting a remarkable surface

and durable quality.”

Having painted her entire life, artist Loren DiBenedetto is classically trained. She attended duCret School of Art in Plainfield, New Jersey, and continued her education at two New York City schools—National Academy of Fine Arts & Design and later the Art Students League.

“I have resided in North Carolina for the past 20 years where I am a full-time painter dedicated to the art realism,” notes DiBenedetto. “This is my first time being accepted to this competition and I am honored to be included. The piece that was accepted [*Peppers and Eggplants*] is a result of the love of the colors in the colorful peppers contrasting with the deep hues of the eggplants.”

“Having traveled a lot, *Looking North* was inspired by a trip I made West to watch my son Billy play a basketball game at Stanford,” remarks Cindy Baron. “Renting a Mustang, I took some extra time and

Addison Art Gallery in Orleans, Massachusetts, will host Oil Painters of America's 2011 Eastern Regional Juried Exhibition and Sale.

JOAN ESSEX JOHNSON



“Peonies in Blue Vase” 20 x 16 oil on linen



“Shells in a Japanese Bowl” 18 x 24 oil on linen

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www.foxhallgallery.com • 202-966-7144



Loren DiBenedetto, *Peppers and Eggplants*, oil on linen, 12 x 24"



Suzanne Hughes Sullivan, *Twilight Illumination*, oil on wood, 16 x 20"



Cindy Baron, *Looking North*, oil on linen, 9 x 20"

traveled south from San Francisco, backpack in trunk and many stops later I landed in Big Sur to paint. Being an artist you are always taking in the atmosphere, memorizing colors and values, knowing that major work is done in studio from memory and studies.

"I am grateful to Oil Painters of America to bring the West, East," adds Baron. "For both coasts have similarities and differences. One has warmer hues, the East Coast has cooler hues, and they both have the power to bring the audience. That day, the fog was settled over the back mountains and it gave a golden tone to the scene, which added the drama to the rocks and vegetation. This is one of many to come and another visit on Highway 1."

Lisa Kovvuri is a New Hampshire artist with an eclectic array of influences and a deep appreciation for traditional painting. "For me, painting is about learning, exploration and discovery," says Kovvuri. "[*Orchids and Lilies*] gave me a chance to work with some beautiful bold colors and shapes and combine what I know about representational painting with a very abstract approach to the composition. It's something I've been wanting to pursue for some time, but haven't had the courage or confidence to feel I could pull it off. It's an honor to have this piece juried into OPA and to be able to see it hanging alongside the works of so many artists I admire." ●

Oil Painters of America 2011 Eastern Regional Juried Exhibition and Sale

Where: Addison Art Gallery, 43 Route 28,
Orleans, MA 02653

When: September 17-October 15, 2011

Information: (815) 356-5987,
www.oilpaintersofamerica.com, or you can
preview the show at www.addisonart.com