

As seen in the
May 2011 issue of

 AMERICAN
art COLLECTOR



UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 40 works

May 6-June 3, 2011

John Pence Gallery

750 Post Street

San Francisco, CA 94109

(415) 441-1138

• SHOW LOCATION SAN FRANCISCO, CA

DEAN LARSON

Where shadows end

Whether it be urban landscapes in San Francisco, New York City or Paris or interior scenes from restaurants and cafés, the subject of Dean Larson's oil paintings is not the specifics of the various locales but the drama of the light moving across these spaces.

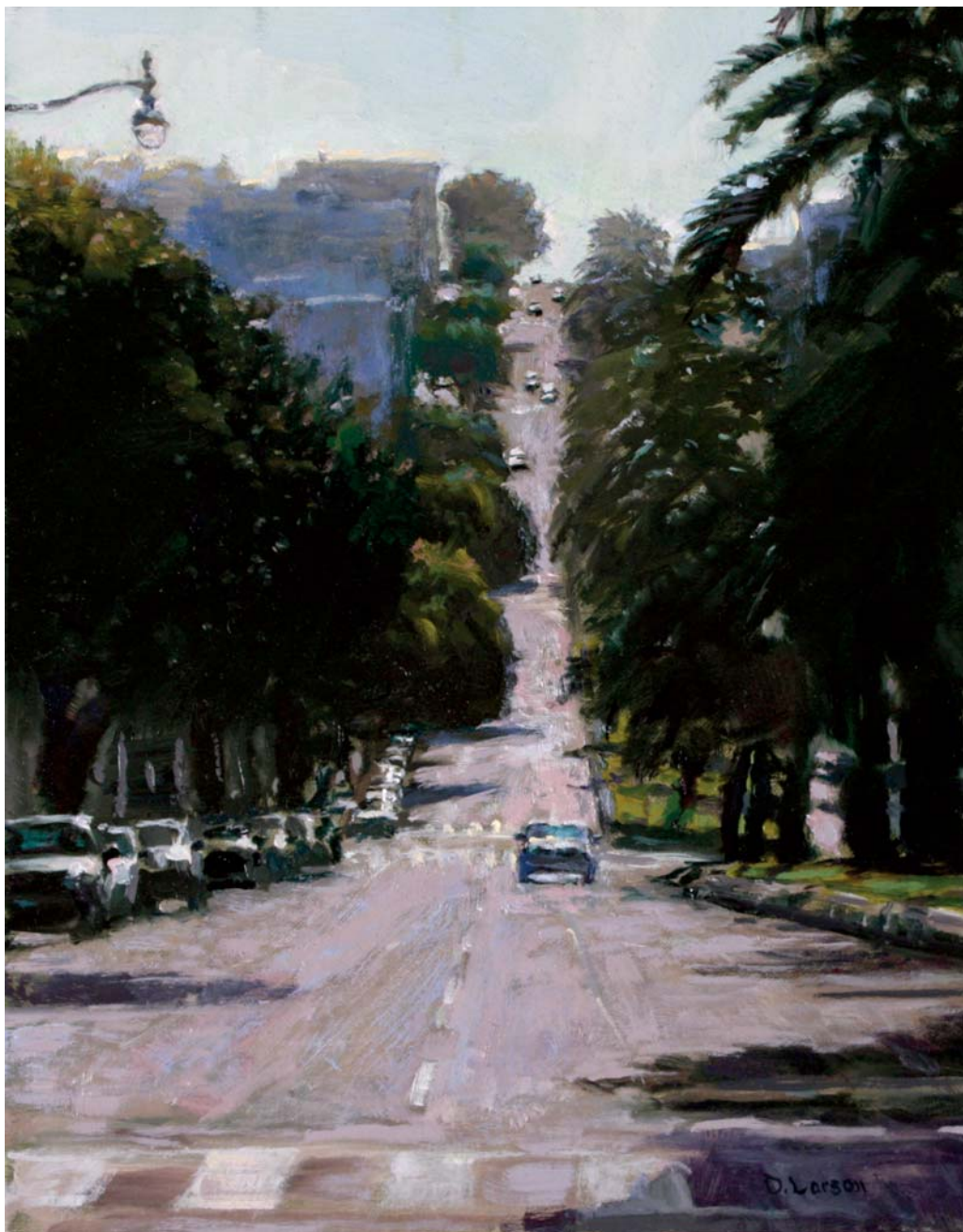
"It's all about the light," says Larson. "How it moves across the space, the relationship between the light areas, which are more solid and opaque, with the shadows, which are more transparent and mysterious. It's the two extremes and everything in between. There is a cut off between where shadows end and light begins and that is what this work is about."

In many of the café scenes Larson depicts in both this country and in Europe, what strikes him the most is the graphic quality of the people and objects he finds there. For Larson, these paintings are about the way these elements react to the light around them instead of being depictions of a specific place.

"All the elements in the paintings are the same, like a still life," explains Larson. "It sounds cliché, but the way the light hits them, the way the material captures the light on the surface and the temperature of the light, that is what I look for. In the nocturnes you get a different light source, strong solid lights against these mysterious shadows and when you play in the value range, you get deep darks and intense lights. It's a different palette at night, much cooler, with more greens and violets and blues."

For Larson, painting outside is all about capturing as much information as you can in a limited window of opportunity and also looking deeper than a photograph will allow you to go.

"When you paint outdoors regularly you learn to see into the shadows," he remarks. "There is a lot going on there. The shadows are big shapes for your composition and still within those shadows there are slight variations that the human eye can pick up but the camera doesn't. You can make them



NORTHBOUND ON DOLORES STREET, OIL ON CANVAS, 14 X 11"

transparent but there is also a mysterious quality compared to the solid things happening in the lights." •

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to



www.americanartcollector.com



SUMMER CAFÉ, OIL ON CANVAS, 30 X 30"



RUE DE SEVIGNE, PARIS, OIL ON PANEL, 12 X 12"

The Gallery Says . . .

"Dean Larson is an accomplished painter, traveler, teacher, portraitist and prominent member of the San Francisco arts community. He has a large following that grows every year."

— *John Pence, Owner,
John Pence Gallery*