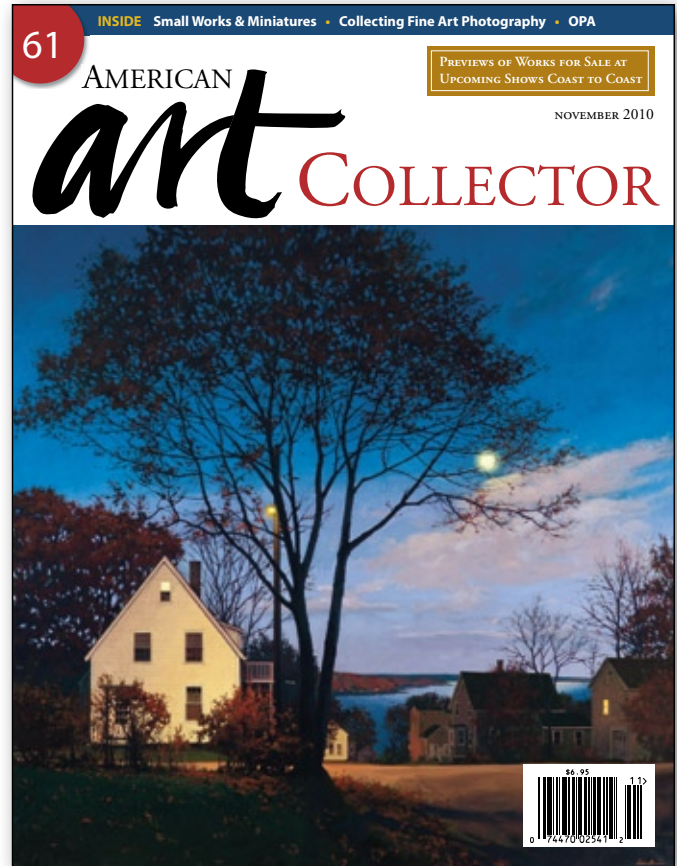


As seen in the  
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 AMERICAN  
*art* COLLECTOR



**UPCOMING SHOW**

*Up to 30 works*

Nov. 19-Dec. 18, 2010

John Pence Gallery

750 Post Street

San Francisco, CA 94109

(415) 441-1138

• SHOW LOCATION SAN FRANCISCO, CA



## STEVEN J. LEVIN

# Objects of inspiration



PANSIES AND SKY, OIL ON LINEN, 13 X 20"

Steven J. Levin paints every subject imaginable, making him an extremely versatile artist. His interiors, in particular, place him in the top echelons of today's realist painters. John Pence Gallery will host a solo show of Levin's new work beginning November 19. As in past exhibitions, several themes run throughout the artist's work, even mini themes, as is the case in this grouping.

"It's a mix of complex interiors, some with more contemplative mood," says Levin from

his home in Minnesota. "The mood is a good mix playing off themes of still lifes and figures in interiors. I'm also doing new things with landscape backgrounds."

For this show Levin revisits some past themes as well as explores some new ones. He returns to his successful albeit quirky hat series in which a variety of different colored hats are arranged symmetrical each with a distinguishing feather. *Plumage* represents a reprisal of the subject matter but with a landscape background

to make it even more peculiar.

"The background gives the painting a lot more depth. The idea is to bring out the feathers and it goes with the bird eggs and the sky. I'm not sure what I'm saying with this painting, it's just a fun pairing," says Levin.

Collectors respond favorably to Levin's paintings like *Plumage* and *Oil and Gas*. He tried the hats concept on a whim several years ago and got such a kick out of doing it that he kept going.



**ART AND POLITICS,**  
OIL ON CANVAS, 22 X 30"



"I started doing more elaborate setups and now I have a whole collection of hats, and I have to find a use for them," he muses.

Levin's figurative work also draws praise. Emerging as a pivotal player in the resurgence of the American Realist Movement, he has won numerous awards and prizes in national competitions, including the American Society of Portrait Artists, the Allied Artists of America, The Portrait Institute, and Oil Painters of America.

Unlike other works where Levin uses only one light source, in the new painting, *Art and Politics*, he revisits a past theme of a studio setting with a dual light source and multiple figures.

"I forgot how much work it is—all the paintings on the walls, three figures and two light sources. It's very taxing. I wouldn't want to do like 20 of them," he says. "I think *Art and Politics* engages the viewer because it has a conversation and mood that draws you into it. That's what I'm going for with the interiors.

**THE CLOUD,** OIL ON CANVAS, 20 X 25"



OIL AND GAS, OIL ON LINEN, 26 X 29"

### *The Gallery Says . . .*

**“Steven Levin is a masterful mid-career artist. He is one of only a handful of artists who can depict people in interiors that are at once grand and intimate. His still lifes are stunning”**

*— John Pence, Owner, John Pence Gallery*

You want to get drawn into the setting.”

To help offset the browns and grays of his interiors, Levin will unveil a few colorful still lifes such as the floral scene, *Pansies and Sky*, another example of his experimenting with landscape backgrounds. The artist enjoys painting flowers because of their interesting shapes.

“I like pansies because the flowers are all different, no two are exactly alike. They’re nice and striking with dark centers,” says Levin.

Look closer and you’ll notice that some of the pansies are dead, others open, stems going in different directions—all to create movement and make the image more natural and organic.

“If they look too perfect, there’s something dead about it,” he concludes.

Levin’s landscape backgrounds come from memory and photo references. An example of future pursuits is reflected in *The Cloud* in which he works with the figure in an outdoor

setting. The male here is a composite from photo reference and working from a life model.

“I wanted to make the figure the subject and the landscape is the setting/background element,” says Levin. “I wanted it to be very serene. It’s sort of a daydream.” ●

*For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to*  [www.americanartcollector.com](http://www.americanartcollector.com)



PLUMAGE, OIL ON CANVAS, 35 X 26"