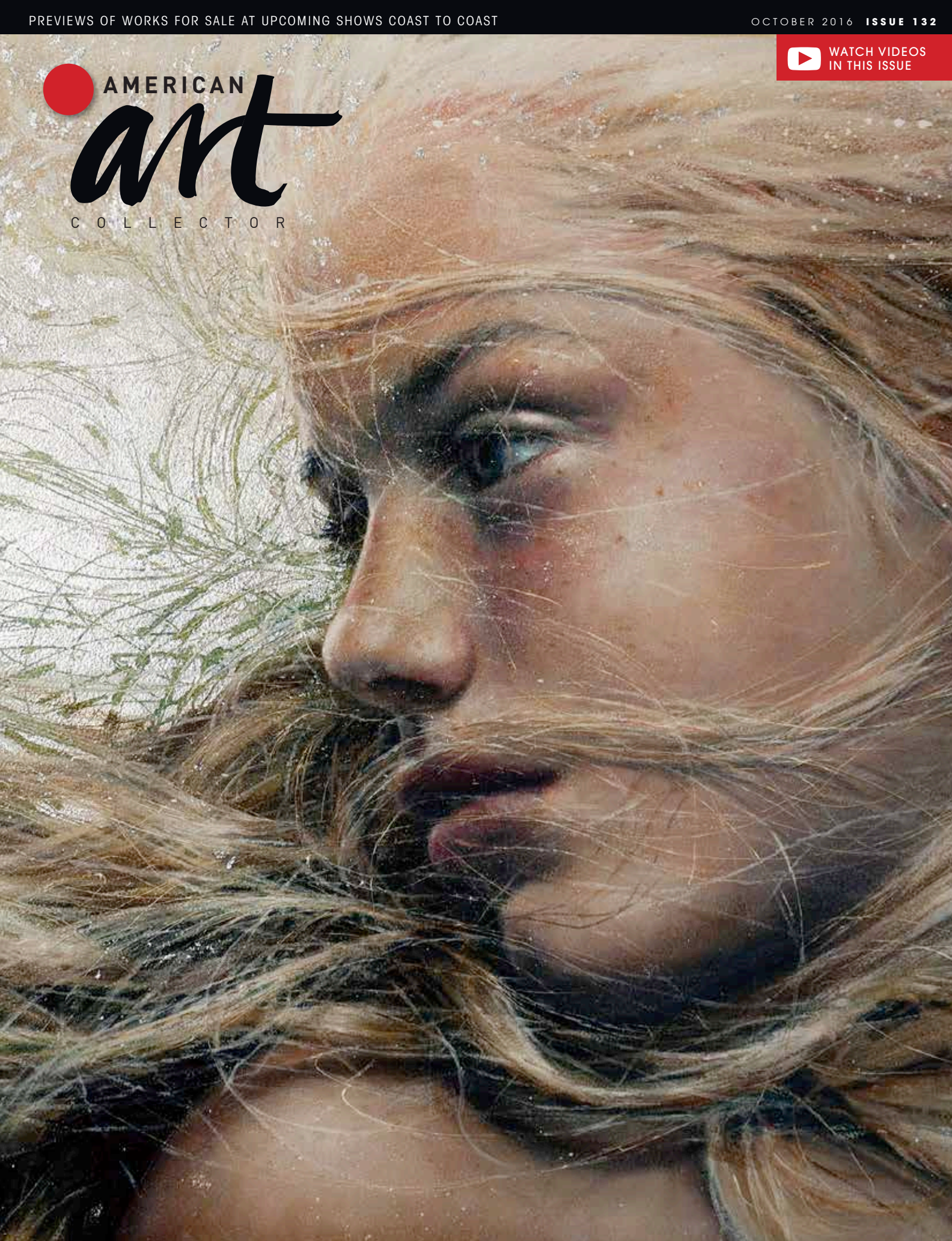


AMERICAN  
*art*  
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Among the goals of the Art Renewal Center (ARC) is the desire “To promote a return of training, standards and excellence in the visual arts.” Founded by the art historian and collector Fred Ross, ARC holds an annual *Salon* that, this year, offered over \$100,000 in prizes and received 3,196 entries from more than 1,300 artists.

Rehs Contemporary Galleries in New York has partnered with ARC to present the paintings of six of the finalists in the *Salon*. Alyssa Rehs of the gallery comments, “After numerous rounds of discussion at the gallery, we were excited to announce the winners for our first gallery show in coordination with ARC. With that, this is the

# DEDICATED *to their* Craft

Six finalists from the upcoming Art Renewal Center Salon will display works at Rehs Contemporary Galleries’ inaugural ARC Select exhibition.

By **John O’Hern**

first time we are presenting an exhibition that features a completely fresh roster of artists. While we have admired the works by these artists for quite some time, we’ve never had the opportunity to show their works here at Rehs Contemporary. It’s pretty exciting, and I can’t wait to see where this will lead.”

The artists are Joseph McGurl, Kari Tirrell, Richard Hall, Philippe Attie, Walter Rane, and Duffy Sheridan whose work represents the breadth of approaches to realism being produced today. The gallery notes that the artists “demonstrate superior technical skills, utilizing techniques reminiscent of 19<sup>th</sup>-century masters while remaining relevant to contemporary aesthetics. While each artist had their own style, theme and subject, the works showcase their immense talent and the dedication each has to their craft.”

The *ARC Select* will be held October 22 through November 19.

Sheridan is an ARC Living Master. He

<sup>1</sup>  
Richard Hall,  
*College Fund*, oil on  
canvas, 34 x 40"







2



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**2**  
Joseph McGurl,  
*Twilight Hudson River*,  
oil on panel, 16 x 20"

**3**  
Duffy Sheridan, *Bring  
Thyself to Account*, oil  
on canvas, 44½ x 27½"

**4**  
Philippe Attie, *Sound  
of Innocence*, oil on  
panel, 36 x 24"

**5**  
Kari Tirrell, *Fowl Play*,  
oil on panel, 18 x 36"

**6**  
Walter Rane,  
*Atmosphere*, oil on  
canvas, 40 x 58"

6

believes the purpose of his work should be “to magnify the dignity and nobility of the human spirit and the singular beauty of all things. When people look at one of my paintings, I’d like them to see that humans, indeed, are noble beings.” An exotic atmosphere pervades his paintings, an intimacy and a sharing of inner strength. Sheridan has lived in Samoa and the Falkland Islands and has been a member

of the Bahá’í Faith for many years. Among the tenets of his faith are “the oneness of humanity and freedom from prejudice [and] the inherent nobility of the human being.”

Sheridan’s detailed realism contrasts with the technique of Rane. Both, however, have a deep commitment to their faith. Rane’s paintings are a central feature of the Conference Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt

Lake City. He explains, “I grew up wanting to be an artist and looking at and studying the work of the Old Masters in books and reproductions. Since the Bible was so often the subject of their work, I think I learned to love art and the scriptures at the same time.”

McGurl, also an ARC Living Master, writes, “For me the most important part of painting is the actual process, not the resulting product. I do not use photography; painting in the field is a vital component of the creative process. The true subject of my pictures is an exploration of light, form, space and color interpreted through paint.” McGurl immerses himself in the physical aspects of a scene while allowing its spiritual aspects to emerge. His mastery of paint conveys both materiality and energetic essence.

Tirrell brings humor to the mix with her lineup of tin bird toys, *Fowl Play*. A self-taught artist, Tirrell spent her early years drawing people and animals in graphite, charcoal and ink. She later turned to painting abstractions in acrylic. Today her figures, landscapes and hyperrealistic still lifes are done in soft pastel, oil and acrylic. ●



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## ARC SELECT

**When:** October 22–November 19, 2016;  
October 22, 1–6 p.m., opening reception

**Where:** Rehs Contemporary Galleries,  
5 E. 57<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10022

**Information:** (212) 355-5710, [www.rehs.com](http://www.rehs.com)