

Art Lovers' Paradise

By Jeannette Pomeroy Parssi

If you love museums and art galleries as much as I do, you're sure to be pleased by what you find at the Palm Beach Jewelry & Antique Show. Show organizer Kris Charamonde told me that he and his partners have increased the show's art component this year by at least thirty percent; which is good news for art lovers.

The list of art dealers coming to the show is quite impressive, as is the artwork they plan to bring. Among the exhibitors at the Palm Beach Jewelry & Antique Show will be Howard Rehs, president of the Fine Art Dealers Association (FADA), and at least a dozen other FADA members; along with an equal number of dealers I have met at the US Artists show, including Howard Godel, Tom Veilleux and Questroyal to name a few. Several top names from the Winter Antiques Show are also coming, including Alexander Acevedo, W. Graham Arader III, Hyland Granby, Peter Tillou and many others.

French Impressionists and other great European artists will share space with legendary American painters at the show, including two of my favorites: Andrew Wyeth



Benjamin Williams Leader, R.A. (1831-1923)
"The Outskirts of a Farm, Evening"
Oil on canvas
English School, signed & dated 'B.W. Leader. 1889'
21 1/2 x 18 5/16 inches, canvas
Image courtesy Callan Fine Art

and his father, Newell Convers Wyeth.

One of my favorite stories involving the elder Wyeth centers around the time when he was about 20 years old and began working for the *Saturday Evening Post*. In keeping with the tradition of painting authentically, Wyeth was sent by the magazine to the southwest in the fall of 1904 to study the culture. For three months he herded sheep, lived with Indians and worked as a mail carrier. In his free time, he documented his experiences in pencil and paint. What I wouldn't give to have been on that journey!

Other beloved American artist who I have long admired and whose work will also be on display include Maxfield Parrish, John Singer Sargent, William Merritt Chase, William Mason Brown, Daniel Ridgway Knight and a host of others.



"Rocky Stream Landscape"
MAXFIELD PARRISH (1870-1966)
Image courtesy Tom Veilleux Gallery

John Singer Sargent (1856-1925) was one of the great painters of the late 19th and early 20th centuries who earned a fortune and sterling reputation as a portrait painter. Luminaries who sat for him include presidents Woodrow Wilson and Theodore Roosevelt; oil tycoon John D. Rockefeller; novelists Robert Louis Stevenson and Henry James; actress Ellen Terry and art patron Isabella Stewart Gardner.

One of Sargent's most ardent supporters was J. Alden Weir, whose 153-acre farm near Ridgefield Connecticut was used as his summer home. Last summer I had the rare privilege of visiting the Weir farm and was awestruck as I stood in the studio that Weir, Sargent and others used over the years. As a visual artist myself, I couldn't help but feel as though I had died and gone to heaven. The studio was in the exact condition it was when Weir last worked there, with paintings stacked against the walls and art objects scattered about.

Another American artist who will be on display at the show is Daniel Ridgway Knight (1839 - 1924), whose works represent numerous aspects of nineteenth century painting, including genre, history, portrait, landscape and floral themes. In each of his works, the artist recorded with fine detail and skill the aesthetics and subtle beauty of his subject matter. He studied the various phases of the day and their effects on the environment, in an effort to better understand light and its impact on each of his subjects.

Knight built a glass studio outside of his home, which enabled him to paint outdoors year-round. Whether concentrating on the glow of moon-light upon the Seine River or focusing on a young woman in a brightly colored flower garden at midday, each scene is depicted

with great detail, offering a realistic portrayal of the landscape or other subject matter. Rehs Galleries is currently preparing a catalogue raisonné on the artist. In conjunction with the preparation of the catalogue the gallery is conducting a search for sources, written documentation, photographs and any other pertinent information relating to the art of Knight.

FRENCH AND OTHER EUROPEAN MASTERS ON DISPLAY

Anyone who has an affinity for the work of French artists will be in heaven when this show opens. Moret, Matisse, Trouilleber, Dyf, Corot and Caraud are but a few of the wonderful French artists whose work will be available. One of my favorites in this group has to be Caraud's "The Ball of Yarn," (dated 1863), which will be displayed courtesy of Rehs Galleries.

I spoke with Howard Rehs by telephone from his New York gallery, and he provided some wonderful insight into Henry Moret's work. "Moret's work characterizes the diversity of the period in which he was working," he said. Rehs told me that, initially influenced by his more classically oriented studies and the style of his predecessors, Moret quickly became engaged with other artists around Paris before moving to Pont-Aven where a unique artistic colony was established. Added Rehs, "Here, under the influence of Gauguin and others, Moret was introduced to a different style, a version that Moret would manipulate throughout the rest of his career." By the

end, Rehs added, he had reached the definition of his own style based on Impressionism and the love of nature. "His light filled palette continues to intrigue audiences today and the presence of his watercolors, drawings, and charcoals provides an important insight into the methods and style of this artist."



Edouard L. Cortes (1882 - 1969)
"Madeleine and Rue Royale, Paris"
Oil on canvas 13 x 18 inches
Image courtesy Rehs Galleries



Henry Moret (1856 - 1913)
"La Côte Bretonne"
Oil on canvas
21 3/8 x 25 3/4 inches
Image courtesy Rehs Galleries

Another artist whose work will be displayed by Rehs Galleries is Jean Baptiste Camille Corot (1796 - 1875). Writing in *La Nouvelle Revue* in 1895 at the centennial of the birth of one of the most celebrated landscape artists of the nineteenth century, Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot, Georges LeComte proclaimed him "the greatest painter of the century."

Over one-hundred years later, the public still shares LeComte's expression and regard for Corot, who was compared to the celebrated 17th century French writer, Jean de la Fontaine, and referred to as the "La Fontaine" of landscape painting.

Corot moved between Neo-classicism, Realism, and Romanticism as well as toward an affinity with the Barbizon school, though he had a firm foundation by studying Nicolas Poussin and Claude Lorraine. More than just a painter, Corot also did many drawings, glass prints, and watercolors. His ability to capture expressive light effects within his paintings has been suggested as having paved the way for

the Impressionist movement, especially since the Impressionists revered him and thought of Corot as their teacher.

This is just a snapshot of the fine art that will be on display at the show. Take your time and plan on spending more than one day totally immersed in these gorgeous works.

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