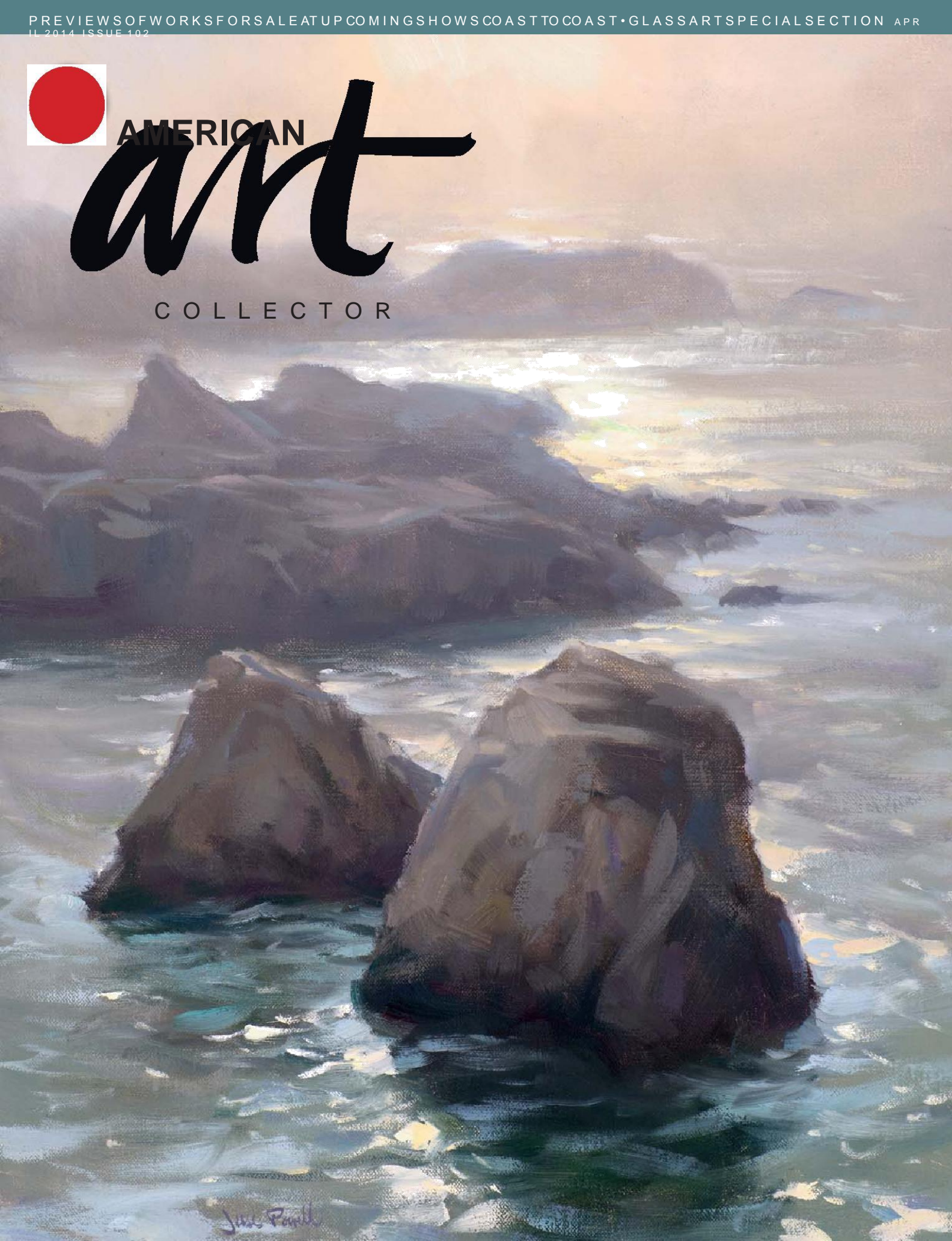


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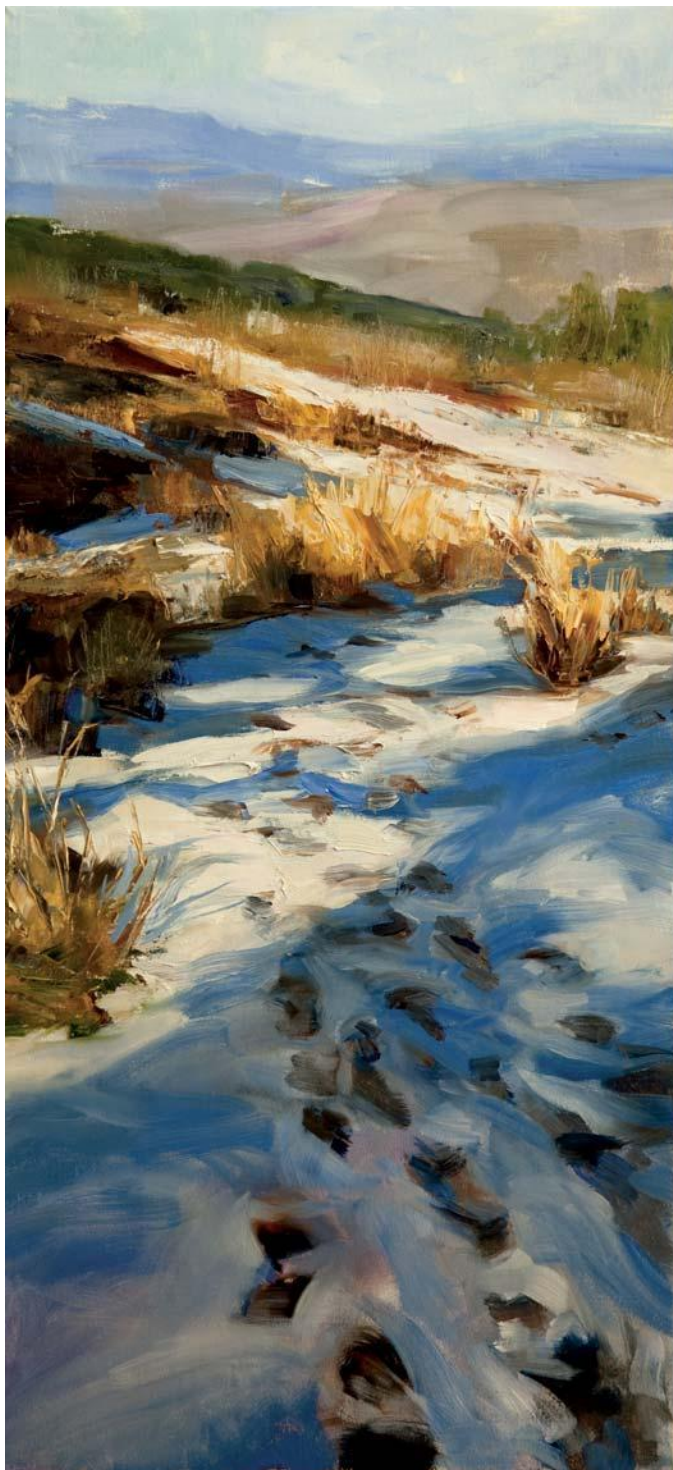
art

COLLECTOR



John Powell

Movement and stillness



Three leading women artists—**Michelle Dunaway, Susan**

Lyon, and D. LaRue Mahlke—will convene for the show *Movement and Stillness* at InSight Gallery in Fredericksburg, Texas. As the gallery explains, “While traveling regionally throughout the country or around the world, these three artists consistently capture the meandering movement and quiet stillness that provides the backdrops for moments in our lives.”

For the exhibit Dunaway will present many personal figurative paintings. “These recent works convey my interest in exploring more deeply the people I know and how they move through life,” she says. “I have always been drawn

1 **Michelle Dunaway**, *Alone, Yet Not Alone*, oil, 24 x 16”
2 **D. LaRue Mahlke**, *Life of the Marsh*, pastel, 11¼ x 11¼”
3 **D. LaRue Mahlke**, *Communion*, pastel, 20 x 32”
4 **Susan Lyon**, *Nibblin’ on Lunch*, oil, 16 x 24”

to the human element, portraiture, how people relate and reflect in response to their environment. These portraits in the show represent friends and people I know personally. I have always been drawn to harnessing the elements of good painting and conveying an emotional content. In these works I aim to represent some of my artistic friends in their element.”

Her painting *Alone, Yet Not Alone*, although without actual people, still contains a human element with the footprints in the foreground. Dunaway elaborates, “...the footprints in the foreground are those of artist friends



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mingled with my own as we scouted out a location to paint one day in the mountains of New Mexico.”

Every painting that Lyon creates builds upon lessons and experiences from paintings that came before. “They are an expression of everything I’m feeling at the time I paint it, which is ever-evolving,” she says. “Even when I paint a model or object I’ve painted before, it is different because I have grown, both as an artist and a person.”

All of Lyon’s paintings are unique and individual, but most often she looks to convey an emotional response that cannot be put into words but comes through in the artwork. “This individuality of every painting is what keeps me interested in painting,” explains Lyon. “I feel like I’m embarking on a journey into the unknown with the start of each new work, which is probably why it is accompanied by both excitement and trepidation in equal measures.”

A recent move coincided well with the upcoming show for Mahlke. “As I started exploring my new territory, I discovered nearby an area known as the Wetlands along the Bosque River west of Lake Waco,” she shares. “Many of my paintings in the show are from here and the surrounding area. Water and sky and the gently rolling countryside play a big part in my work.



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Painting the subtle tonal harmonies found at the beginning and ending of the day has been the most exciting thing for me with this show.”

Pastels continue to be Mahlke’s main medium, but the show also includes a number of charcoal works and mixed media on various surfaces. The theme of the show is evident in Mahlke’s work and brought to mind, for the artist, “rhythm, activity; light

moving across the landscape, flowing water, and wind-blown clouds; the joyous tempo of the day, which starts and ends with stillness—quiet contemplation, prayer; the light of dawn growing brighter, a still pool of water, reflecting; twilight—moonrise, birds settling in to roost for the night.”

InSight Gallery will hold an opening reception for the show on May 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. ●