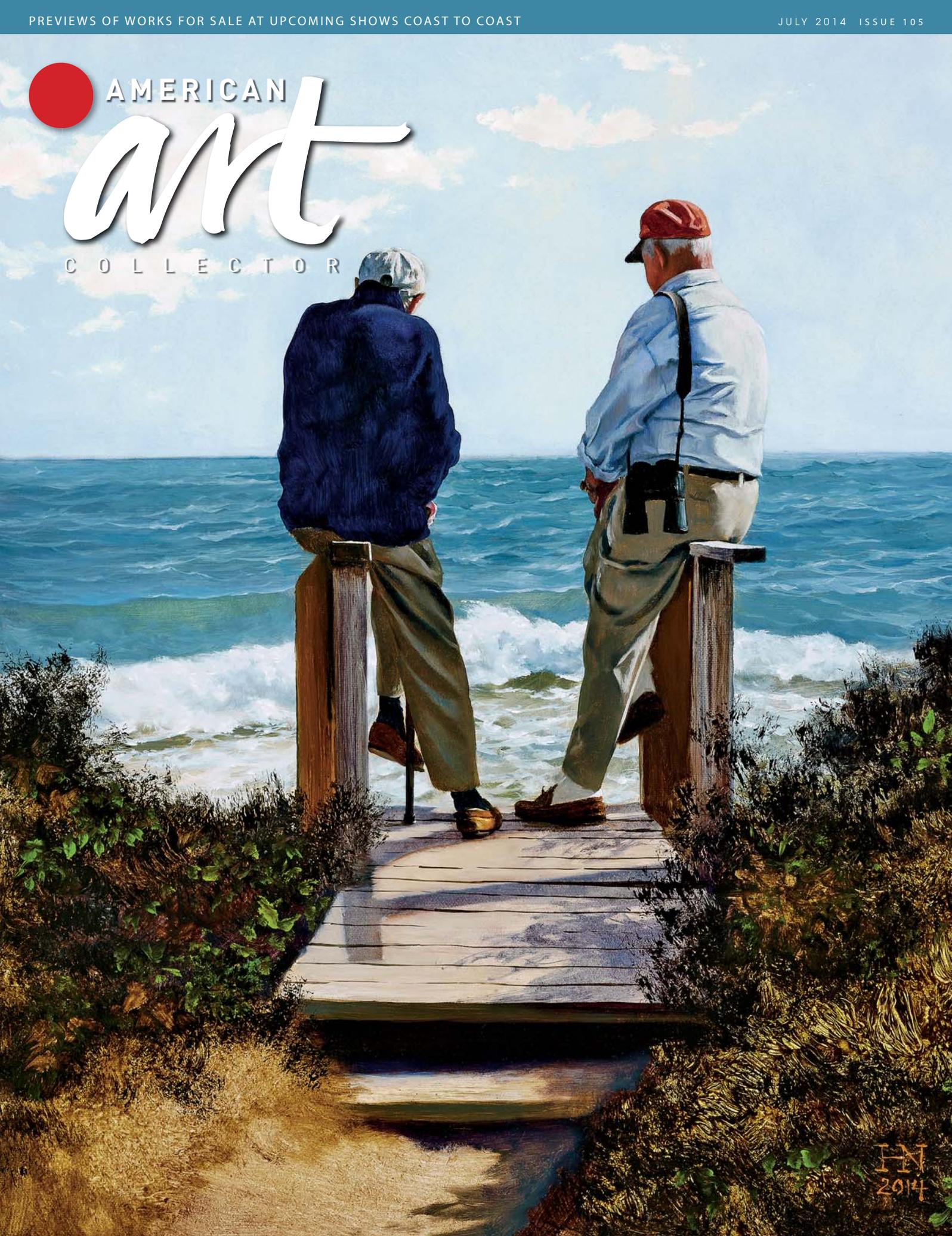


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VICTORIA ADAMS

# Skies for a new frontier

Opening July 1 at Gail Severn Gallery in Ketchum, Idaho, is *Skies for a New Frontier*, featuring the ethereal paintings of Victoria Adams. Adams, who has been painting for more than 30 years, is well known for her contemporary landscapes that evoke recollections of a place the viewer can't quite place. This is because all of her landscapes stem from her own experiences and imagination.

"These are landscapes that I invent," says Adams from her home on Vashon Island, an island in Puget Sound near Seattle, Washington. "They don't come about because I have seen an actual landscape and then gone ahead and painted it. Instead of framing fragments of the natural world I invent them. I sort of combine and arrange a few natural elements that I know exist in the landscape and synthesize while I am working using photographs that I have

taken, or sometimes I will refer to paintings done by the Old Masters and try to combine all those in a way that gives a sense of life and reality to the scene. It is a place that could exist."

Because of the way Adams arranges her works, they are nonspecific in terms of their region.

"I think that tends to give them a little bit of an otherworldly quality, an almost dreamlike quality," says Adams. "A lot of people that see my work refer to the fact that the paintings evoke in them recollections of places they have been...but they can't quite put their fingers on where they have seen them, but they have a sense of knowing it. I am delighted with that because it means that they are captured by it somehow, and that is what I want."

Adams has added several new elements and has further enriched ones she was

using before into these new works. Many of these fresh works have higher horizons, or more mountains, which increases the sense of distance; there is more emphasis on water reflections; and sometimes trees are more centrally located like in *Lyra* and *Under a Painted Sky*, becoming more dominant figures in the landscape.

"I paint every one of them until I actually fall in love with them and can't find anything else to fix," adds Adams.

The 15 to 20 new works vary in size from 6 by 6 inches up to 72 by 60 inches, though Adams says she prefers to paint in a larger format and many of these larger canvases will be included in the show. There are not as many square shaped paintings as in previous groupings, but more vertical pieces and elongated horizontal works. One of these vertical images, *Under a Painted Sky*, stands out to Adams.





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“That one I particularly like because it has a very articulated sky to it, but it is not overpowering,” says Adams. “And then the lineup of trees draws you in...I feel that the whole composition worked very well.”

Adams adds that even though she does invent all the scenes that she paints, they are influenced by her residence on the West. “My husband and I make numerous trips into the interior West,” she says. “There are certain things about the landscape of the West, with its huge valleys, river courses and lines of trees, that really excite me and stimulate me. Even though I may not paint those scenes verbatim, they are living in the back of my mind.”

There will be a collector’s reception July 10 at Gail Severn Gallery and an opening reception July 11, during Ketchum’s First Friday. Adams has been represented by the gallery since 1994 and will be in attendance for the receptions.

“I love Gail Severn Gallery, and I love the clientele that comes there...the whole place is wonderful and the gallery is just a delight to work with. I love them. I wouldn’t miss the opening for the world,” says Adams. ●

**1**  
*Cadence*, oil on linen, 40 x 75"

**2**  
*Divide*, oil on linen, 48 x 72"

**3**  
*Under a Painted Sky*,  
oil on linen, 72 x 60"