

# Exhibitions



FRANCIS DI FRONZO *Breathless at Dawn Again* DETAIL Oil on panel 32 x 48 inches

## Francis Di Fronzo

### *Recent Works*

Recent paintings by contemporary artist, Francis Di Fronzo will be on exhibition from March 7 through April 4, 2008. In his large-scale landscape paintings, Francis Di Fronzo depicts scenes of the natural world, which are both beautiful and poetic, but also deeply personal and mysterious.

With a keen attention to detail, Di Fronzo's paintings represent a significant departure from more traditional forms of realism. Instead of working from direct observation, the works so carefully depicted in Di Fronzo's paintings are, in fact, created purely from the artist's imagination. While Di Fronzo describes his paintings as, "nothing more than fictive constructs of the natural world" he also considers his landscapes to be "a universal context for everything in life." The results of Di Fronzo's unique approach to creating his artworks are paintings that are visually intense, lyrical and expressive.

Di Fronzo's creativity has also permeated his technique. Nearly ten years ago, Di Fronzo disposed of his brushes and invented what he describes as a "comb brush" —an instrument comprised of individual hairs attached in a line along a flat wooden stick. By tapping the hairs of his comb brush onto a toned panel, a process of layering ensues until he has created an infinite expanse of individual blades of grass, rich in tone, detail and hue.

In 2004 Francis Di Fronzo won a Pew Fellowship in the Arts award, one of the most prestigious awards granted to individual artists in the United States. Born in California in 1969, Francis Di Fronzo received his B.F.A at California State University, Fullerton. In 1998, he earned his M.F.A. from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. He recently returned to live and work in California.

# Exhibitions



CAROLYN WYETH *The Jones House* Oil on canvas 26 x 31 1/2 inches

## Wyeth Women

### *An Exhibition of Paintings by The Daughters of N.C. Wyeth*

Somerville Manning Gallery is pleased to announce, for the first time, an exhibition of paintings by the three daughters of N.C. Wyeth. The exhibit featuring Henriette Wyeth Hurd, Carolyn Wyeth, and Ann Wyeth McCoy will open on April 11, 2008 and continue through May 31, 2008. The three sisters learned to paint under the tutelage of their father, noted artist and illustrator, N.C. Wyeth, who instilled in them a tradition of hard work and relentless dedication. All went on to pursue accomplished careers, in their own right, continuing the brilliant legacy of N.C. Wyeth.

Henriette Wyeth Hurd (1907-1997), the eldest, was a prodigy. She is considered by many art scholars to be one of the great women painters of the 20th Century. After studying with her father, Henriette attended the Normal Art School in Boston at the age of thirteen, and later, at sixteen, studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia. Her early career was heralded with success. She married Peter Hurd, a dashing and talented student of her father's, and she then moved to his home in New Mexico, where they painted and raised their own dynasty of artists. There she painted portraits of many well known subjects, including Helen Hayes, Mrs. John D. Rockefeller III, and First Lady Pat Nixon, as well as members of her own family. Her realistic and sensitive still-life paintings capture the fleeting moments of life and the beauty in nature. The Museum of Fine Arts in Santa Fe held a retrospective of her work in 1994, publishing a full color book of her paintings.

Henriette Wyeth's works are held in many public collections including the The National Portrait Gallery and Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.; the Metropolitan Museum, New York; the Art Institute of Chicago; the Roswell Museum and Art Center, NM; the Brandywine River Museum, PA; the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh, PA; the Lubbock Museum of Art, TX; Texas Technical University; the New Britain Museum of Art, CT; the Delaware Art Museum and many private collections.



ANN WYETH MCCOY *Yellow Flowers in Vase*  
Watercolor 20 x 14 inches

(continued)

Carolyn Wyeth (1909-1994) demonstrated a talent for drawing at an early age. She studied art with her father for 19 years. Carolyn remained in Chadds Ford, eventually moving into N.C.'s studio after his death in 1945. She then became the teacher, carrying on his tradition of education, and taught other generations of Wyeths, including her nephew Jamie, and niece, Anna B. McCoy. Her landscape and still-life paintings are brooding and introspective. There is a raw power in her work that translates as bold and daring. Carolyn's works were exhibited at the Wilmington Society of Fine Arts and the Brandywine River Museum. She had a major retrospective at RW Norton Gallery in Shreveport, LA in 1976 and at the Brandywine River Museum in 1979.

Ann Wyeth McCoy (1915-2005), the youngest daughter, composed music and painted. She was a woman of many talents and interests. She married another student of N.C. Wyeth's, John W. McCoy, and they settled in Chadds Ford. Together, John and Ann raised their three children and painted in Pennsylvania and Maine. Ann, an accomplished composer and musician, concentrated on her music at first but, with the encouragement of her husband John W. McCoy, and her brother Andrew, she rediscovered her talents in watercolor painting. Much like her music, Ann's paintings are personal portraits of the world around her. She painted what was close and familiar and what she cherished the most. Her paintings are included in many public collections such as the Farnsworth Museum in Rockland, ME; The Millport Conservancy in Lititz, PA; and the Delaware Art Museum in Wilmington, DE, among others.

# Profile

Victoria Adams' landscape paintings offer panoramic views of sky and land, following in the western European landscape tradition. That tradition was expressed by early Dutch, English, French, and eventually American Luminist and Hudson River School painters. "The views I paint—made up of clouds, horizons, water, and the atmospheres of light—are conjured from my imagination. My inspirations range from fragments of actual photographed scenes, to memories and daydreams, all filtered through the influence of the historical landscape tradition."

Adams uses elements from the landscape, recombining and exaggerating them in her paintings. With the destruction of the "natural" landscape all around us, she says that her paintings can provide a venue for exercising our innate need to connect with nature.

She earned a BFA at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA in 1979 and her work has been exhibited nationally. Her paintings are in the collection of the Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, WA, where she will have a solo exhibition in 2010.



VICTORIA ADAMS *Lowlands #81* Oil/wax on linen 24 x 24 inches

# New Works



STUART SHILS *Red Houses on Pastoria Street, Philadelphia, PA* Oil on panel 15 x 15 inches



ALEX KANEVSKY *Pinkbam Bay* Oil on mylar mounted to board 17 3/4 x 66 inches



MEAD SHAEFFER *Seduction* Oil on illustration board 6 1/4 x 12 inches

# New Sculpture

Olivia Musgrave, *Centaur and Lapith Woman II*, Bronze, 18 x 10 x 7 inches, edition of 9. Vickie saw this sculpture when she visited Olivia Musgrave at her studio in London. Olivia has shown internationally in England, Ireland and South Africa. Somerville Manning is honored to be her only American gallery.



Rikki Morley Saunders, *Gift in Velvet*, 49 x 53 x 22 inches, edition of 7. A life-size bronze sculpture of a feral white-tailed deer. Rikki raised him on her Pennsylvania farm along with many other creatures where “she observes their habits—learning their language, studying their form and capturing their grace and spirit in clay.”

J. Clayton Bright, *A Moment*, Bronze, 14 x 8 x 2 1/2 inches, edition of 25. It is hard to pinpoint the defining moment of inspiration; sometimes just a nanosecond of recognition is all there is. For this piece, the original intent of the sculpture was altered when, during the process of trying various poses, the model lapsed into his own thoughts for a moment. It was an interlude of peaceful, but confident introspection; a calm foil to the labor that preceded it.



Margery Torrey-Godwin, *Swan Duet*, 19 x 15 x 7 inches, edition of 25. Trumpeter Swans mate for life. They fly together but separate. The sculpture is also available life size, measuring 26 x 71 x 73 inches in an edition of 15.



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