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THIS ISSUE SEE PAGE 34



*Also Showcasing
Glass, Ceramics & Wood*

Precise and painterly

Sam Vokey's oil on linen works *Summer Wines* and *Oranges with Hydrangea and Green* are devoid of people, but the artist says he's most interested in the "life" part of "still life," as he tries to give viewers a sense of the human interaction with those

subjects the artist depicts. *Oranges with Hydrangea and Green* could be a scene from a hot summer day in Cape Cod, the fresh orange and clean water acting as thirst-quenchers, while the fruit, cheese and bottles in *Summer Wines* evoke a sense of

endless possibilities and a bright future.

Still lifes such as these are joined by fellow realistic works in the July exhibition *Precise and Painterly* at Tree's Place in Orleans, Massachusetts. Vokey, **Sarah Lamb**, and **Carlo Russo** each will





2

have about five works displayed, all showing careful attention to detail in their pieces that will make viewers do double-takes because of their realistic qualities.

“Before I start painting, I spend a lot of time trying to make an interesting design that carries the eye of the viewer into the painting and holds it there with a variety of objects, surfaces and colors to feast on,” says Vokey, from Hampton Falls, New Hampshire. “I look for repeated rhythms—for example, diagonals that repeat throughout the painting and give a

structure to the design.”

Lamb, from Downingtown, Pennsylvania, also draws inspiration from life, integrating her own interests in her works. She and her husband are hunters, and he saves his best birds for her to paint, as she says capturing the plumage in her Trompe l’Oeil pieces is fun and challenging because the colors are alive and vibrant, as seen in her oil on linen *Brace of Quail*.

“I think a certain honesty comes across in my paintings,” says Lamb, who illustrates one of her favorite flowers in the oil on linen *Sunflowers in Pewter*,

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Carlo Russo, *The Pheasant*, oil on linen, 25 x 27”

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Sarah Lamb, *Brace of Quail*, oil on linen, 22 x 20”



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- 3** Sarah Lamb, *Sunflowers in Pewter*, oil on linen, 18 x 20"
- 4** Carlo Russo, *Mortars*, oil on linen, 30 x 29"
- 5** Sam Vokey, *Oranges with Hydrangea and Green*, oil on linen, 20 x 16"
- 6** Sam Vokey, *Summer Wines*, oil on linen, 28 x 24"





6

calling the subject “pure chroma—just an explosion of color.”

Like the feathers and flower petals jump off the canvas in Lamb’s works, Russo’s pieces contain textures begging to be touched, such as the fur and wood in *Mortars* and tapestry and eggs in *The Pheasant*. He includes objects such as shells, coral, birds and butterflies in his still lifes, giving viewers plenty to explore on the canvas.

“I paint what captures my imagination,”

says Russo, from Philadelphia. “I find that if I am really inspired by an idea, see the idea through and create it to the best of my ability, I usually receive a positive response. I want the viewer to experience the beauty, love and care I put into my work.”

Russo’s care goes beyond the painting, as he crafts each frame from start to finish. Russo has been framing his paintings for the past 10 years and says he views the painting and frame as “a unit, as if they

were made for each other.”

The variety of styles showing off unique points of view will be evident to visitors of the exhibition, says Tree’s Place owner Mike Donovan.

“There are pretty distinctive differences between each of their three styles,” says Donovan. “Collectors will see still lifes ranging from old school to more modern approaches, and this show will cover a broad spectrum of techniques.” ●