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JANUARY 2011

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Evening by
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Meet the New Faculty: *American Artist's* II Artists to Watch in 2011

The primary challenge that comes with being the editorial director of *American Artist* is finding artists whose work both resonates with our readers and fits our magazine's instructional focus. This is a tall order—featured artists should be accomplished in their craft, able to deliver compelling imagery, and open about the methods and materials that inform their creativity. A similar professional role might be that of a college professor—someone skilled in both practice and pedagogy. Hence, I like to view our magazine's featured artists as *American Artist's* "faculty," and in fact many of our artists do teach classes and maintain active workshop schedules (including teaching at our Weekend With the Masters events) in addition to their studio practices. For this month's issue, we conducted a search for new faculty, so to speak. We reached out to leading art-world professionals and asked them to nominate an artist who, in their opinion, deserves recognition and can be a teacher and role model for our readers.

The results of this search surpassed all my expectations. We were provided with a rich and varied cohort of artists who offer a broad and expansive range of subject matter and working methods for you to enjoy and learn from. My hope is that one or more of these artists will resonate with you and provide you with a few signposts to help guide your creative progress in the coming year.

From the West Coast, gallery directors Elaine Adams and John G. Pence offer **Jove Wang** (page 64) and **Jeremy Mann** (page 48) for your consideration. East Coast gallerists Fran Bradford, Steve Diamant, Wendy Olsoff, and Louis Newman champion the works of **Gabriela Gonzales Delloso** (page 34), **Julio Reyes** (page 52), **George Bouourujy** (page 26), and **Peter Brooke** (page 30). Art-school directors Ira Goldberg and Daniel Graves advance star pupils **Beñat Iglesias Lopez** (page 40) and **Jordon Sokol** (page 58). Tim Newton, the curator of the "American Masters" exhibition, recommends **Christopher Blossom** (page 22); Elaine Salazar, the president of Ampersand Art Supply, recommends **Francisco Benitez** (page 18); and yours truly recommends **Michael Klein** (page 44).

In the end, I believe you will find each and every one of these II artists to be steadfastly dedicated to their work and vision. I hope they are inspirational as you embark on a wonderfully exciting, creative, and productive 2011.

Cheers,

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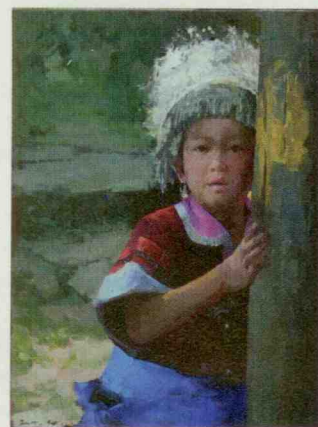
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11 Artists to Watch

in 2011



**Guizhou Girl
Waiting for Father**
2009, oil, 24 x 18. Courtesy
American Legacy Fine Arts,
Pasadena, California.

11 | Jove Wang

ITINERANT INSPIRATION

Jove Wang believes that life experience fuels the creative process and influences an artist's vision more than any other factor. Raised in China—where he trained at the Jilin School of Art and the Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts—Wang has lived in California for the last 20 years but regularly travels to his homeland and around the world to stay inspired by diverse cultures.

“An artist needs life,” he says. “And there’s no better way to gain valuable life experience than to travel.”

Although Wang paints the people and landscapes of Russia, Spain, France, Italy, and the United States, it is his portrayals of the indigenous people of China that are his most genuine subjects. Having spent his childhood and early adulthood in the province of Jilin—the northeast section of China that borders Russia—Wang was influenced not only by the character of his own country but also by the arts and culture of Russia. While he found subject matter in the marketplaces and backcountry of China, his palette and brushwork were inspired by the 19th-century Russian Itinerant artists, specifically Ilya Repin and Ivan Kramskoy.

With solid training from one of China’s leading academies and continual inspiration from the Russian arts,

Wang began developing a personal style and vision—all he needed was a place where he could express it. Having always been an admirer of Western culture, he gravitated to California, where he finally found the artistic environment he longed for. “When you have the freedom to create, there is no greater feeling,” Wang explains. “Artists not only need motivation and inspiration but also a place to voice what they want to say. I have found this as a painter in America and continue to cherish this freedom greatly.”

Wang settled into life in the Golden State with the goal of becoming a professional painter, and the art community of California quickly embraced him. He became involved with the California Art Club, entering paintings and winning awards in their annual shows and exhibitions. His painting *A Day on the Silk Road* recently won the Guy Rose Award for



ABOVE

A Day on the Silk Road

2009, oil, 48 x 72. Collection the artist.

Winner of the California Art Club's Guy Rose Award for Best Multi-Figurative Composition at the 98th Annual Gold Medal Juried Exhibition.

Best Multi-Figurative Composition in the California Art Club's 2009 Gold Medal Exhibition. It is a classic example of the large-scale, multi-figure paintings for which Wang is known. "This painting represents a milestone in my work," the artist says. "I had a creative breakthrough during the time it took to complete this piece, and it is one of the paintings I am most proud of."

The inspiration for the 6'-x-4' work came after one of Wang's trips to the province of Xinjiang, in a bustling town on the northwest end of China, where goods are traded daily with Central Asia and parts of Europe. He took numerous reference photos of the colorful people and fabrics that are part of the silk

RIGHT

Morning in Venice

2010, oil, 18 x 24. Courtesy American Legacy Fine Arts, Pasadena, California.



trade and later worked up drawing, color, and enlargement sketches to map out the design of the scene. "The organization of the subjects in this painting breaks the conventional rules of composition," the artist explains. "I

11 Artists to Watch

in 2011

the artist explains. "I have multiple points and multiple figures, but I used long lines to create rhythm, unity, and movement throughout the piece and to keep the eye moving." The artist worked almost the entire painting in his middle values and grays, which allowed him to achieve the dreamlike sense of atmosphere that inspired his initial attraction to the scene. His palette and brushwork reveal both the French and Russian influence in his work, with soft pinks and blues lending a sense of romanticism to the subject matter and his broken color and bravura brushwork capturing the energetic toil of the native workers.

Having extensively painted genre and landscape scenes from China and his travels abroad, Wang plans to shift his focus to early pioneer life in America. He is increasingly interested in the aesthetics of this time period, and looks forward to informing this subject matter with his great appreciation for our country's freedom. "America is the place that allowed me to find a unique voice as an artist and combine my interests in Eastern and Western culture into one vision," Wang explains. "A solid education, something unique to say based on life experience, and the freedom to say it—if you have these qualities as an artist, you will eventually get noticed." ■

Written by Allison Malafronte, the senior editor of American Artist.



ELAINE ADAMS on Jove Wang

Elaine Adams (right) is the director of American Legacy Fine Arts, in Pasadena, California, and a volunteer executive director for the California Art Club. Under both Elaine's and her artist-husband Peter Adam's leadership and direction, the California Art Club (founded in 1909) has become one of the leading art organizations in the world. With more than 3,000 members and six chapters, the club provides educational, exhibiting, and social opportunities for artists and



and collectors in the country. For more information on the California Art Club, visit www.californiaartclub.org. For more information on American Legacy Fine

art enthusiasts throughout California, and their annual Gold Medal Exhibition is an international draw for some of the top artists

Arts, visit www.americanlegacy.com. "What sets Jove Wang apart from other artists is the visceral power of his work. His thick impasto and robust approach to painting show a unique confidence and sense of energy. Combine this bravado with his educational pedigree from China's leading fine-art academies and years of international plein air painting, and it's no wonder Wang is winning major prizes, collectors, and followers worldwide."

