

RUSSIAN REALISM | WALTER CHRYSLER'S COLLECTING | ART IN CHARLESTON | LA'S FAIRS | SCULPTOR ANN NORTON

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STREAMLINE

It's Fair Season in LA

By MAX GILLIES



The scale and diversity of artworks available in southern California continues to grow, but there is simply no better time for collectors to be in this region than the weekend of January 22-25, when three important fairs bring even more artworks to Los Angeles from around the world.

The Fine Art Dealers Association's *Los Angeles Art Show* has recruited a record number of exhibitors (119) for its 14th annual edition. This happy situation, coupled with the expectation that attendance might exceed last year's figure of 30,000, has necessitated a move from Santa Monica's Barker Hangar to the larger Los Angeles Convention Center. Complementing the artworks here — which range from traditional to classic modern and contemporary realist — will be an expanded calendar of panel discussions, film screenings, and cocktail parties.

In the same building at the very same time will be the 24th annual *Los Angeles IFPDA Fine Print Fair*, which features 17 top galleries. The continuing partnership of these two fairs under one roof is particularly beneficial for collectors, who otherwise might not encounter the prints that are every bit the equal of their painted cousins. A preview gala for both fairs is set for January 21.

For those also interested in the cutting edge (including installations, film, and video), *Art LA* has stepped in to fill the Barker Hangar with 44 exhibitors for much of the same big weekend (January 23-25).

With 180 stands to explore, we recommend bringing comfortable shoes, a bottle of water, and a notepad on your urban art trek. ■

MAX GILLIES is a contributing writer to *Fine Art Connoisseur*.

Information: LA Art Show (310.822.9145, laartshow.com) and LA IFPDA Fine Print Fair (213.741.1151, printdealers.com), both at Los Angeles Convention Center, West Hall A, 1201 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90015; Art LA at Barker Hangar, 3021 Airport Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90405, 323.937.4659, <http://artfairsinc.com/artla/2009/>



MAURICE TAQUOY (1878-1952), PUBLISHED BY EDMOND SAGOT
CARTE-ADRESSE SAGOT
 1906, COLOR ETCHING AND AQUATINT ON SIMILI-JAPON,
 PLATE: 6 1/2 x 6 3/8 IN.
 ARMSTRONG FINE ART, CHICAGO, AT LA IFPDA FINE PRINT FAIR



ROGER BISSIÈRE (1886-1964)
JEUNE FEMME À LA GUITARE (PORTRAIT OF MOUSSE BISSIÈRE)
 1920, OIL ON CANVAS, 48 7/8 x 21 3/8 IN.
 SCHILLER & BODO EUROPEAN PAINTINGS, NEW YORK, AT LA ART SHOW

Classic and Classy: Art in Charleston

By KELLY COMPTON



Founded in the 17th century with the support of England's King Charles II, the picturesque seaport of Charleston, South Carolina, has long been renowned not only for well-preserved houses, churches, and cobblestone streets, but also for its cultural sophistication. Although it was even more cosmopolitan in the 18th century, when almost every ship trading along the Atlantic coast put in here, Charleston offers art galleries, antique shops, and boutiques well worth exploring. Its inns, bed-and-breakfasts, and cafes are renowned for hospitality and quality, with most an easy stroll from the city's many historical sites.

The most prestigious visual arts institution in town is the Gibbes Museum of Art, opened in 1905 and now possessing more than 10,000 works, most with a connection to South Carolina or the South generally. The Gibbes regularly hosts exhibitions organized elsewhere, and now through March 29, two such shows feature blue-chip 20th-century art. *Painters of American Life: The Eight* examines the infamous New York exhibition mounted in 1908 by Arthur B. Davies, William Glackens, Robert Henri, Ernest Lawson, George Luks, Maurice Prendergast, Everett Shinn, and John Sloan. Essentially America's first modernist rebels (set against the stodgy National Academy of Design), The Eight introduced an array of new approaches, 50 examples of which are gathered in Charleston this season.

The Gibbes has wisely paired this survey with *The American Scene on Paper: Prints and Drawings from the Schoen Collection*, which carries the story into the 1930s and 1940s. Fifty works acquired by Miami's Jason Schoen reflect that period's various manifestations of realism by such masters as Paul Cadmus, Rockwell Kent, Martin Lewis, Millard Sheets, and John Sloan (again). Every Saturday morning at the Gibbes, visitors can take a 90-minute Art Discovery walking tour that explores the museum galleries and then nearby streets to see where the artists actually created their works. Tickets are \$20 and can be booked ahead via Original Charleston Walks (see the Directory below).

THE GALLERY SCENE

Most of Charleston's art galleries are located in or near the French Quarter; less famous than the New Orleans district of the same name, this was once home to the talented Huguenot community of Protestants who fled Catholic France and contributed significantly to Charleston's prosperity. Although they offer a range of styles and mediums, the galleries here are aesthetically more traditional than the city's best-known cultural project, the *Spoletto Festival USA* mounted annually since 1977. (Tickets go on sale January 4 for the 2009 performances, which run May 22-June 7.)

Particularly noteworthy among the galleries is **Ann Long Fine Art**, which represents the classical realist masters Charles Cecil, Daniel Graves, Ben Long, and D. Jeffrey Mims, as well as younger realists



MADLINE DUKES (b. 1962)

EVENING SKY

2007, OIL ON CANVAS, 16 x 20 IN.

PRIVATE COLLECTION, COURTESY EDWARD DARE GALLERY