



Published by The Bee Publishing Company, Newtown, Connecticut

12 — Antiques and The Arts Weekly — August 9, 2013

ALBANY, N.Y. — On August 22 at 5:30 pm, Michael Cassin, director of the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute's Center for Education in the Visual Arts, will present a free

lecture at the Albany Institute of History and Art, 125 Washington Avenue. In "The Wide Frontier: American Landscape Painting in the Nineteenth Century," Cassin will look at the work of painters such as Winslow Homer, Frederic Church, Albert Bierstadt and the Hudson River School, who recorded the splendors of the North American landscape. For information, www.albanyinstitute.org or 518-463-4478.

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Robert Ferrucci Contemporary American Folk Art Paintings At Gregory James Gallery

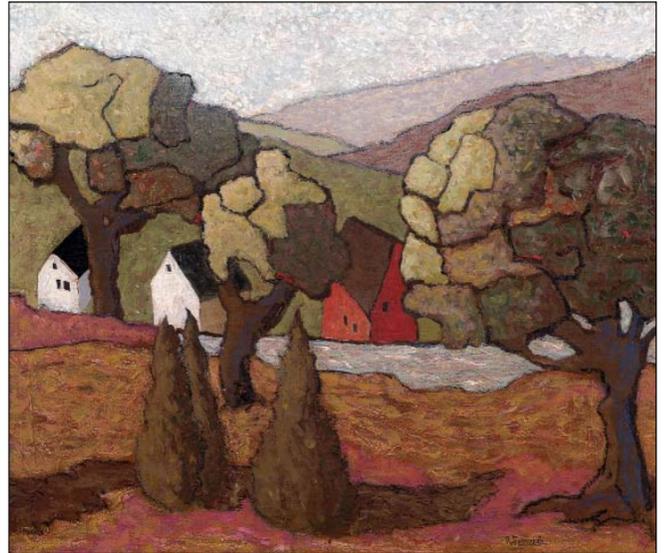
NEW MILFORD, CONN. — Robert Ferrucci will bring his contemporary American folk art paintings of Hudson Valley farms and New England scenes to the Gregory James Gallery in a new exhibit opening August 10, with an artist's reception from 5 to 7 pm. The exhibit will remain on view through September 8

For Ferrucci, who grew up in Yonkers, N.Y., these images represent a lifelong love with rural landscapes. He found his earliest inspiration on weekend excursions and summer vacations at his family's country home, a red cottage surrounded by farms in Putnam County, N.Y., where he now lives. Ferrucci and his wife bought their first house there years ago and he clearly maintains a sense of nostalgia for the landscape of his childhood, which he recalls largely comprised of farms and cows and black and white barns.

These scenes — with the exception of the cows, and in fact any farm animals or even people — are the subject of paintings, such as "Round Church Road," which features a cluster of black and white houses and barns and a little black and white church at the base of an undulating amber hillside. Ferrucci draws the viewer's eye through the painting along a ribbon of road that winds its way up and over the hills toward the buildings, while a field of muted green stretches into the distance, beyond where the eye can see.

In many of his paintings, the crisp edges of a black roof on a white farmhouse or barn contrasts sharply with gauzy, verdant hillsides. Ferrucci uses a technique known as tinting, which involves painting thin layers over an image and then repainting it, repeating this process again and again, to create distance in his paintings.

Often, his paintings convey the sense that Ferrucci is viewing a scene while perched on a hillside, or while taking in the fields and barns mid-flight. This perspective is deliberate, as he prefers to paint his landscapes "from above."



Robert Ferrucci, "Hidden River," acrylic, 18 by 24 inches.



Robert Ferrucci, "American Barn," acrylic, 30 by 40 inches.

In another painting, titled "Skyler River Bend," the sun appears like a small fireball on the horizon, dipping into a pink- and blue-tinged sky. Its reflection skitters across the surface of a lively river, which winds past three, small, white houses and a sparse landscape of hills and trees.

When he was just 8 or 9 years old, Ferrucci began studying at the Trevor Park Museum, which is now the Hudson River Museum in Yonkers. Ferrucci continued his studies at the Art Students League and the Pan American Art School in New York City. He

served for two years in the US military and later received a scholarship to study painting with Impressionist Nan Greacen in Scarsdale, N.Y. Later, he studied privately with Gilbert Stone, a prominent illustrator. His paintings have been exhibited at Western Connecticut State University, the Hudson River School show at Rhinebeck, N.Y., the River Gallery in Irvington, N.Y., and in other solo and group shows.

Gregory James Gallery is at 93 Park Lane Road (Route 202). For further information, www.gregoryjamesgallery.com or 860-354-3436.

Dutch Masterpieces Opens October 22 At The Frick — Tickets On Sale Now



Carel Fabritius (1622–1654), "The Goldfinch," 1654, oil on panel, Royal Picture Gallery Mauritshuis, The Hague.

NEW YORK CITY — "Vermeer, Rembrandt and Hals, Masterpieces of Dutch Painting from the Mauritshuis" will open at the Frick Collection on October 22. This exhibition will be a ticketed event at The Frick, and timed tickets are now on sale.

As the final venue for an American tour of painting from the Royal Picture Gallery Mauritshuis, The Hague, "Masterpieces of Dutch Painting from the Mauritshuis" will be on view in New York through January 19.

The prestigious Dutch museum has not lent a large body of works in nearly 30 years, and the 15 paintings selected for the Frick's presentation are among the most important in the Mauritshuis's holdings. They represent the remarkable achievements of northern artists in the Seventeenth Century and complement the Frick's strengths in Dutch portraits, landscapes and genre paintings.

Johannes Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring" — which has not been shown in New York since 1984 — will have pride of place as the sole picture in the museum's Oval Room. Paintings by Frans Hals, Pieter Claesz, Rembrandt, Gerard ter Borch, Carel Fabritius, Jan Steen, Jacob van Ruisdael, Nicolaes Maes and Adriaen Coorte will be displayed in the adjacent East Gallery. The Frick's three canvases by Vermeer will be presented together in a special installation in the adjacent West Gallery, and the exhibition is accompanied by a catalog, a series of public programs and select free evening hours.

The Frick is at 1 East 70th Street. For more information or for tickets, www.frick.org or 212-288-0700.