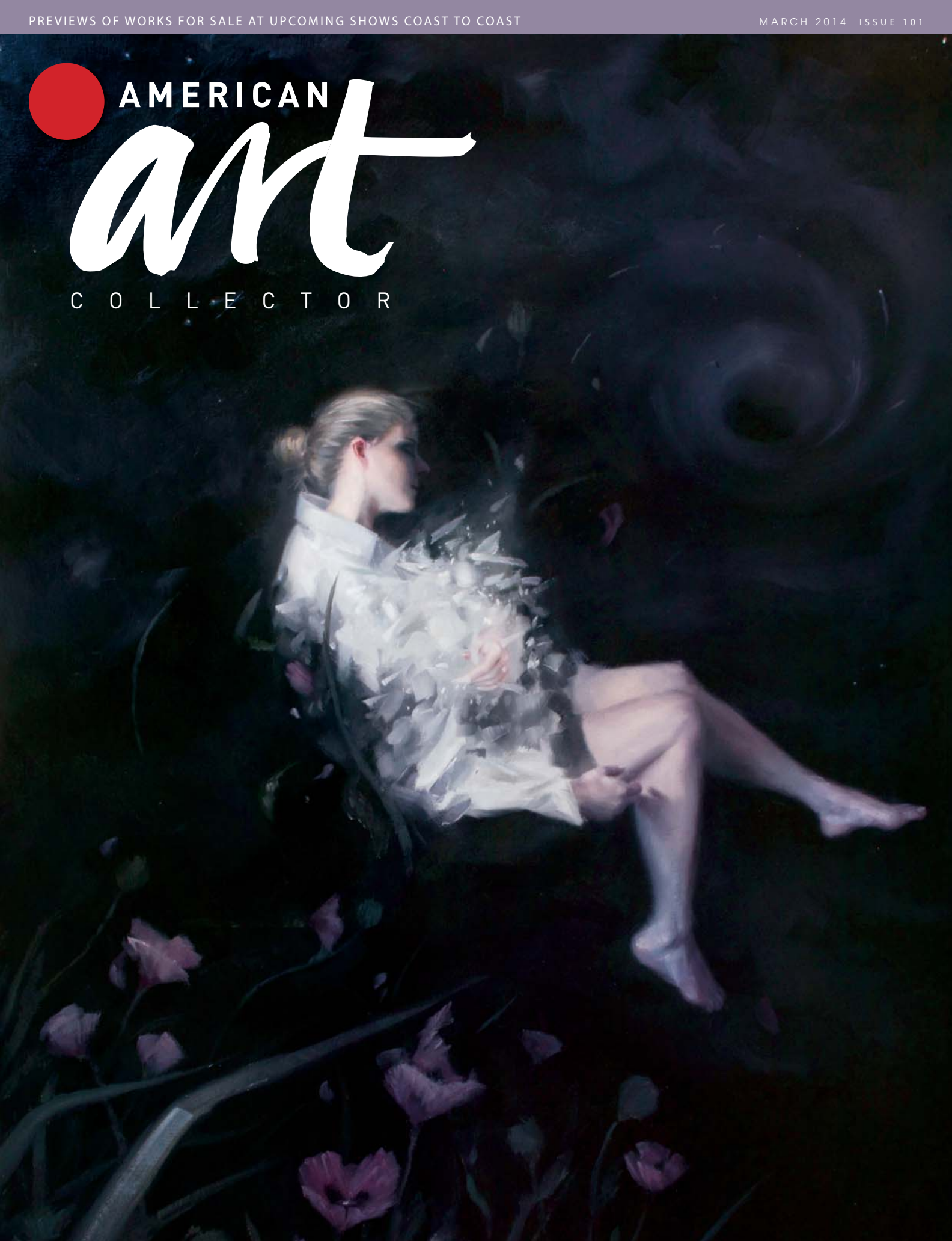




AMERICAN

art

C O L L E C T O R



STONE ROBERTS

Moments of life

Stone Roberts carefully studies people and how they move on the street, photographs them and then constructs intricate compositions that freeze a moment of life in the city. He was inspired by the street paintings of Lennart Anderson who strives to “paint the quality of the place...the ambient quality of places as opposed to shapes or things.”

Two paintings in Roberts’ current exhibition at Hirschl & Adler Modern in New York attest to his extraordinary skills of observation and execution.

The Market at Union Square: Fall 2006 (2006-08) and *Roman Morning, Autumn 2005* (2006) are moments in time but alive with the energy of disparate lives that have come together in the moment and will

move on after it. Meanwhile, the viewer can wander through the composition, meeting the characters, contemplating their lives, enjoying the quality of light and the details that would be missed if the activity had not stopped for that instant.

In *The Market at Union Square: Fall 2006* there is his ubiquitous spaniel reflected in a puddle and spots of white in buckets, bags





2



3



IMAGES COURTESY HIRSCHL & ADLER MODERN, NEW YORK

4

and blouses that echo the venders' white stands that, in turn, look like so many Sisters of Charity in their crisp wimples.

In *Roman Morning, Autumn 2005* real nuns make their way to the church in the background taking the sun with them into the shadowed street. The detail of the comings and goings of the people about their daily routines isn't enough for Roberts, especially in the details of the building on the left. An arch leads to a sunlit courtyard implying the mass of the building. Several of the windows reflect the sky and imply that it's just a façade. Yet, a maid opens the windows to the morning air, giving the building depth again.

Roberts' mastery of the complexities of light are evident in these large canvases just as they are in his small still lifes like *Autumn Roses* (2002-03). The softly textured roses are crowded into a transparent and reflective glass bowl in a study in contrasts.

He says "To me, painting is the act of revealing things through light." Andre Derain, a very different painter in a different time wrote, "The substance of painting is light." Roberts' paintings are substantial. ●

1
The Market at Union Square: Fall 2006,
2006-08, oil on linen, 54 x 63"

2
Autumn Roses, 2002-03,
oil on linen, 15 x 12"

3
Study for "Venus and Adonis" (David),
1987/96, oil on paper, 12 x 10"

4
Lulu, near Harmony on Main: Stonington
2007, 2007-08, oil on linen, 36 x 41"