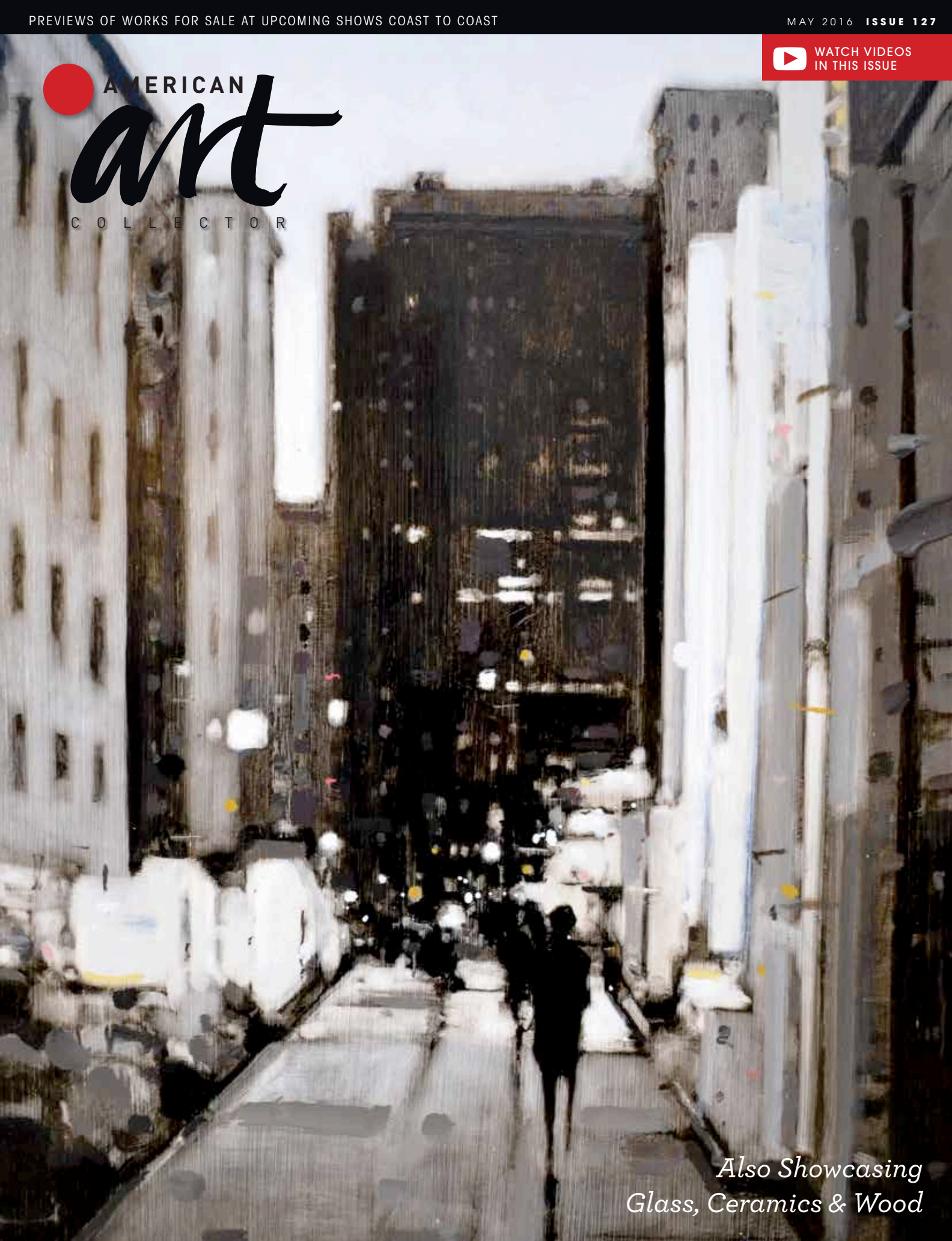


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# Artistic *Expressions*

Works by 22 New York Academy of Art artists on view at The Vendue in Charleston, South Carolina. BY JOHN O'HERN

The New York Academy of Art occupies a 50,000-square-foot, five-story historic building in Manhattan. It teaches figurative drawing, painting and sculpture. Its mission states, "We believe that rigorously trained artists are best able to realize their artistic vision. Academy students are taught traditional methods and techniques and encouraged to use these skills to make vital contemporary art. The Academy serves as a creative and intellectual center for all artists dedicated to highly skilled, conceptually aware figurative and representational art."

The Academy draws some of the best teachers and students from around the world. Its president, David Kratz, says, "If you play with people who are at the top of their game you evolve faster, you learn faster. That's what the community is like here."

Exhibitions are a vital part of the life of the academy in its own spaces and beyond. An exhibition of the work of 22 faculty, students and graduates will be held in Charleston, South Carolina, at The Vendue, "Charleston's Art Hotel," beginning May 26. The works displayed show the breadth of artistic expression that is a hallmark of the Academy and the effect of the strong



1

base its program provides.

Annie Wildey is a British painter and printmaker who received her MFA at the Academy in 2008. Her large paintings are often seascapes. She says, "At the shore I am reminded to be present...I bring this experience into the studio as I interpret the smells, sounds, feelings and energy of the water or the quiet movement of fog. The process is fluid, moving between freedom and control, accident and intention, as I push

and pull the paint to convey and realize my visual and emotional experiences." Her paintings approach the reality of the water's movement and translucency and remind us that the paint itself is fluid as it alternates between conveying ocean spray and being paint.

Will Kurtz's life-size sculpture, *Rastafarian*, is constructed of wood, wire, plaster, newspaper, tape, glue, matte medium and UV varnish. Kurtz received his MFA in



2



3



**1**  
**Will Kurtz**, *Rastafarian*,  
wood, wire, plaster,  
newspaper, tape, glue,  
matte medium, UV  
varnish, 64 x 51 x 22"

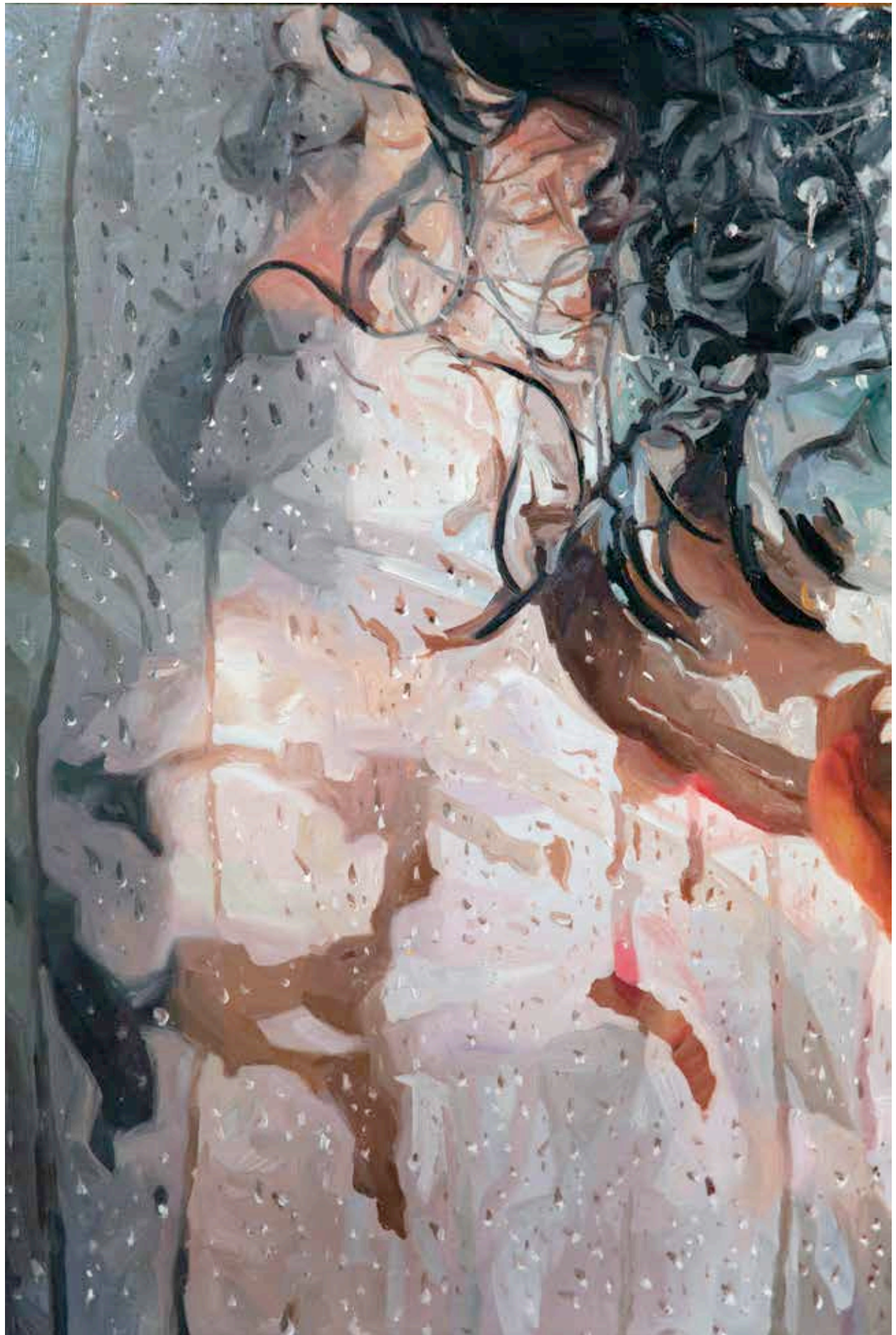
**2**  
The Vendue in  
Charleston, South  
Carolina.

**3**  
**Annie Wildey**,  
*Surf's Up*, oil on canvas,  
36 x 48"

**4**  
**Casey Krawczyk**,  
*Insoluble*, oil on linen,  
27 x 40"

4









5  
**Alyssa Monks, *Shame*,**  
 oil on panel, 30 x 20".  
 Courtesy Forum Gallery,  
 New York, New York.

6  
**Jennifer Presant, *Still Moving*,**  
 oil on linen, 23 x 42"

7  
**Alonsa Guevara, *Fruit Portrait #34*,**  
 oil on canvas, 10"  
 round. ©Alonsa  
 Guevara. Courtesy  
 Anna Zorina Gallery,  
 New York, New York.

8  
**Melanie Vote, *Frog  
 House*,** oil on panel,  
 14½ x 13½"

6



7



8

2009 and credits the anatomy and drawing classes at the Academy with allowing him to create “a light within my sculptures... My subjects are real, everyday people who are often undistinguished and living on the margins of society. I select and create uncommon characters that have a distinct emotive quality. Newspaper is my medium of choice because it gives a raw, imperfect, ephemeral quality that reminds us that we are only here on this earth for a short while.”

Alyssa Monks credits the Academy with giving her a work ethic that has served her well in her career. She received her MFA, cum laude, in 2001. “My intention is to transfer the intimacy and vulnerability of my

human experience into a painted surface,” she says. “I like mine to be as intimate as possible, each brushstroke like a fossil, recording every gesture and decision.”

Also exhibiting will be Melissa Anderson, Jean-Pierre Arboleda, Jaclyn Brown, Michelle Doll, Peter Drake, Heidi Elbers, Michèle Fenniak, Shauna Finn, Alonsa Guevara, Caitlin Hurd, John Jacobsmeyer, Christian Johnson, Casey Krawczyk, Lisa Lebofsky, Benjamin Martins, Stephanie Panepinto, Jennifer Presant, Jessie Peterson Tarazi, and Melanie Vote.

In selecting the participants for the exhibition, Robert Lange Studios—whose owners Megan and Robert Lange curate

The Vendue shows—collaborated with New York-based curator and art advisor Rick Davidman, who organized the original submissions. The Langes then narrowed down the group to 22 artists. ●

## NEW YORK ACADEMY OF ART EXHIBITION

**When:** Opening May 26, 2016,  
 with reception from 6 to 8 p.m.

**Where:** The Vendue, 19 Vendue Range,  
 Charleston, SC 29401

**Information:** [www.thevendue.com](http://www.thevendue.com)