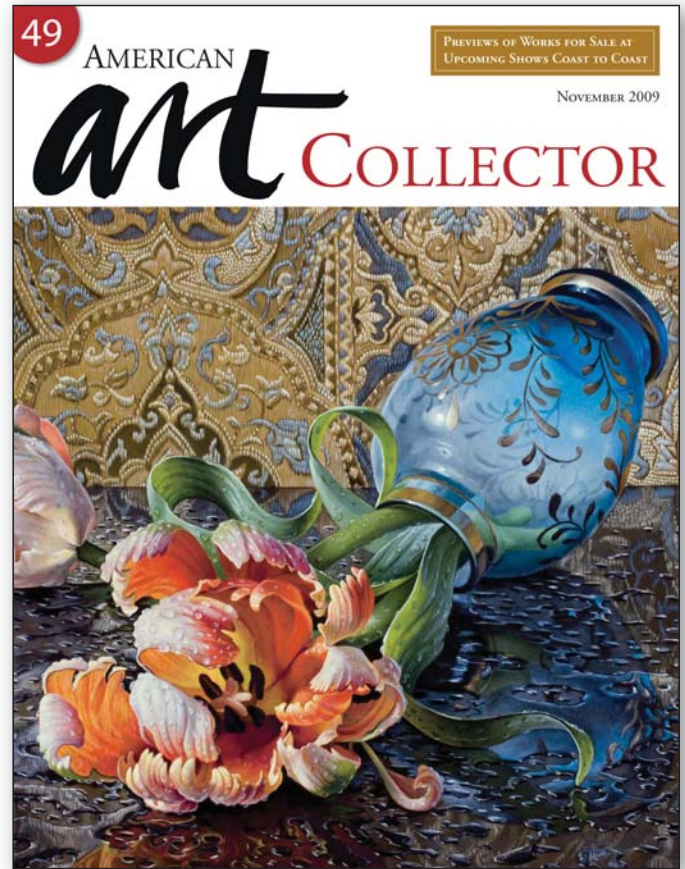


As seen in the
November 2009 issue of

 AMERICAN
art COLLECTOR



UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 18 works on show
November 6-20, 2009
Skotia Gallery
150 W. Marcy, Suite 103
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(866) 820-0113

• SHOW LOCATION SANTA FE, NM

STEVE HUSTON

Moments of contention

Steve Huston continues his fascination with interlocking forms in his latest iconic images of powerful, gritty grapplers. In November, Skotia Gallery will host a solo show of Huston's work in which the artist takes the concept to a bigger, bolder and more ambiguous level.

Huston uses color accents to separate the combatants in his monotone paintings thereby inserting a blast of interest or contrast. Energetic, gestural brushstrokes and thick impasto are characteristic of Huston's style, which he applies liberally throughout these images, endowing the series with a potent punch.

"It's the same theme—the idea of struggle, contention—and takes it a step further. And this show has more color overall and is bigger in scale. Most of the pieces are 2 feet by 3 feet and bigger," says Huston. "I'm trying to get into bigger pieces and that scale really adds to it: big struggle, big muscle, everything is very Baroque, and that's on purpose. I've played off bigger is better and that was exciting to me to push that further."

Such massive canvases provide the artist more visual meat to play with and provide the wrestlers with substance and monumentality. Huston's tensed heaving bodies of fighters fill the canvas, blotting out murky backgrounds in an effort to focus the viewer's attention on a moment of frozen action.

"I can take the compositions and push them in new directions that I couldn't do with the boxers. There's more aggression in them than the boxers, there's more brutality," says Huston. "With these I have a chance to interlock and intertwine these bodies. These guys are wrapped together and yanking on different body parts. There's a certain strength to them that's interesting."

In the piece titled *Headlock*, Huston intentionally keeps the backdrop vague,



TAUT, OIL ON CANVAS, 60 X 72"

omitting a crowd, cage or referee, so as to place the fighters anywhere, anytime.

"It could be wrestling or a street fight, you don't know and I don't know. It's up to the viewer to figure out. That sense of open-endedness is important," says Huston.

Aggression, tension, action, and drama all take their places in the artist's surprisingly graceful compositions. Although painted with beautiful light in a romantic style, the imagery itself is shocking. One woman told Huston she hated boxing but liked the paintings and felt an internal conflict to be attracted to something so brutal.

"If you can make someone think then you've done your job. She liked the way paint went down and the sense of

truth but she also had to think about the context of what the bodies were doing," says Huston. "Emotional connection and intellectual challenge, that's what I'm shooting for." •

For a direct link to the
exhibiting gallery go to



www.americanartcollector.com

Price Range Indicator

Our at-a-glance Price Range Indicator shows what you can expect to pay for this artist's work.

	Small	Medium	Large
2009	\$6,000	\$15,000	\$42,500



HEADLOCK, OIL ON PANEL, 36 x 48"



The Collector Says . . .
"Steve's work gives a feeling of power, movement, and positive energy. His respect for hard and honest work is depicted by portraying athletes and construction workers who leave their mark in what they do, only here are they eternalized in true spirit."

— Tia

THE ARM BAR, OIL ON CANVAS, 48 x 72"