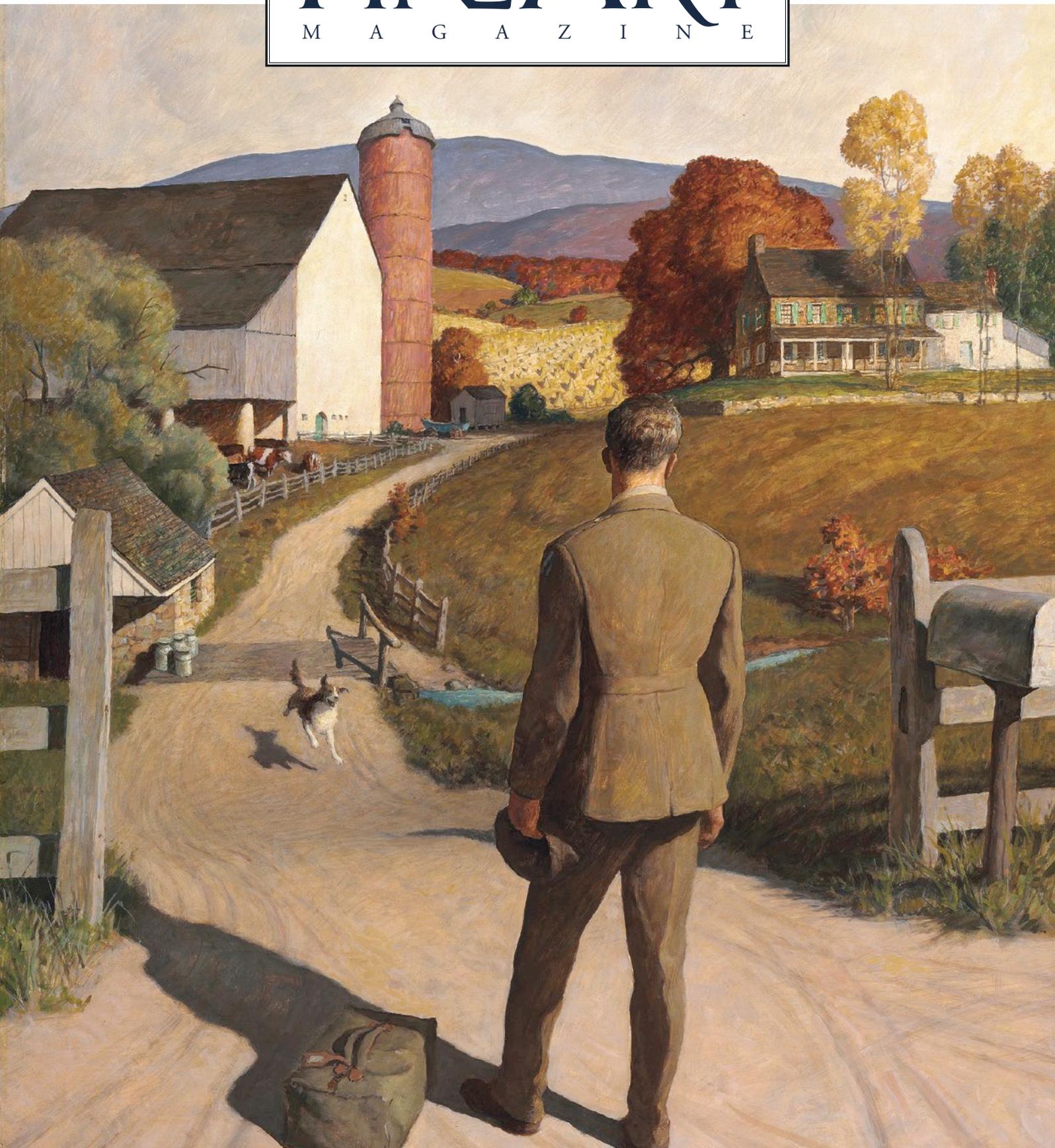


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PARK AVENUE RETREAT

Questroyal Fine Art's newly renovated gallery is a perfect location to view wonderful examples of historic American Art

With the market for important American art increasing heavily over the past couple of years, galleries have responded to this by increasing their inventory, reaching out to new collectors and, in some instances, expanding and renovating their gallery spaces. Questroyal Fine Art, long one of the leaders in the field, has done all three of those and has recently taken over the entire third floor of their Park Avenue residence.

Situated in an apartment building reserved mainly for private residences, Questroyal owner Lou Salerno has designed the new space to look and feel like a home. In that way, collectors get

to view the artwork in a warm, inviting atmosphere rather than a white-walled highly lit gallery space.

"After nearly 15 years, we have finally secured the entire third floor of 903 Park Avenue," says co-owner Brent Salerno. "With more than 100 paintings on display, come prepared to see a very diverse selection. Our total inventory, in excess of 400, enables us to offer works by virtually every significant American artist. I promise there is something interesting for every collector."

At the moment, the gallery is exhibiting their fall catalog exhibition, which includes important paintings by artists such as Jasper Francis Cropsey, Sanford Robinson Gifford, John



Questroyal Fine Art's newest showroom.



Works by Alfred Thompson Bricher and John Frederick Kensett above the fireplace.



Frederick Kensett, Thomas Moran, Edward Henry Potthast, William Trost Richards, and Charles Caryl Coleman. While the exhibition continues the gallery's legacy of offering top-quality works from the Hudson River School, it also includes works by modernists such as Charles E. Burchfield, Milton Avery, and John Marin.

Besides the current exhibition, the gallery has some very interesting

events planned for the new season.

"There are exciting things to come," says Brent. "We have been building our collection of paintings by Ralph Albert Blakelock—presently at more than 50 examples, the possibility of another show continues to become more likely. Our last exhibition of his work was in 2005, and it remains the most successful in our history. By the close of opening night, we had sold nearly every painting

offered for sale and have been trying to put together exceptional examples for a round two of that blockbuster event."

In the spring, the gallery typically hosts an exhibition of Hudson River School work. And this year looks to be one of the best thus far.

"Recently, a group of more than 80 paintings from a major American collection was offered to us," says Brent. "Also, another important Hudson River



The rotunda with works by Henry Gasser, Leon Kroll, and Milton Avery.

School collector has asked that we consider some of his best pieces.”

Lou, who founded the gallery, sees the new space providing the perfect opportunity for people to act according to one of his mottos.

“Spend time with the art that you love—look at it again and again, from various angles and in different light,” says Lou. “Most importantly, intentionally alter your viewpoint when you ponder the work; challenge yourself to see what you have never seen before, defy convention, and reject prevailing scholarship. There is no greater judge than the voice within.” ■



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Albert Bierstadt's *Fishing in Yellowstone Lake* hanging in the rotunda.



A close-up of the new showroom with some fine 19th- and 20th-century examples of American Art. Photography by Jude Domski