

## UPCOMING GROUP SHOW

*Up to 40 works on show*

July 25-30, 2009

Tree's Place

Route 6A at 28

Orleans, MA 02653

(508) 255-1330

• SHOW LOCATION ORLEANS, MA

# STEVEN LEVIN AND JEFFREY T. LARSON

## Moving moments

**C**lassically trained artists **Steven Levin** and **Jeffrey T. Larson** have met the challenge of capturing light, mood and pure beauty in works that are academic in style, yet emotional in expression.

Steven Levin is fascinated with effects of light, especially those which are more unusual.

"The double light effects of a barroom for instance, with the glow of a green lamp and the very subtle warm light coming from above, or the red glow of a neon sign at an outdoor café illuminating the couple underneath it," says Levin. "With the still lifes, of course, especially the florals, the forms and colors are so lovely I can never resist painting them."

Levin hopes to convey a sense of craft and beauty through his paintings, as well as his own source of inspiration.

"It's been said that a painting should convey to the viewer the same mood that the artist felt when he was first inspired to paint it," says Levin. "The mood can be an effect of many things, a contrast of colors in a still life, a soft light in a bar, a gesture, or a scene in a restaurant."

Working entirely from life for his still lifes, Levin takes great care and much time and effort arranging them until he feels he has it just right, then he begins drawing right on the canvas with charcoal before moving directly to paint.

"The figure paintings are a much different process usually beginning with many photographs to help me piece together the composition," says Levin. "This is accompanied by many small thumbnail drawings and often several oil sketches before I'm finally satisfied enough

to start on the canvas. Even after this preparation I often make more changes as the painting progresses."

In explaining his own artistic philosophy, Levin recalls the words of Picasso.

"When asked which painting was his favorite, Picasso famously answered, 'The next one.' That statement sums up I think what is at the heart of most artist's motivation," says Levin. "I find the more I paint, the more ideas I have, and often the hardest part is choosing which one I'll devote my energy to next. There is never enough time."

Jeffrey T. Larson says he has come to realize that his work has been a steady progression that stretches back over the past 25 years.

"One piece leads into another," says Larson. "Artistic challenges capture my interest, I may explore that idea in a single painting or over a series of several works. I believe my role as an artist begins with continually training my eye to see nature a little more honestly, and to understand the visual world artistically. Through the craft of painting, I try to present to the viewer that which captivates me, on an emotional level, simply and honestly."

Trained at Atelier Lack in the early '80s, Larson learned the core of his process, which involves working from life both outside and in the studio.

"I will do multiple studies for larger or more complex pieces, but often paint *alla prima* and develop the painting as I go," says Larson. "I read and study a great deal. I learned long ago to paint what I love and what I know well. I have learned to trust my instincts and gut reactions."



STEVEN LEVIN,  
MET MUSEUM, IMPRESSIONIST ROOM,  
OIL ON LINEN, 26 X 36"





JEFFREY T. LARSON, FISH AND CRACKERS, OIL ON CANVAS, 12 X 16"

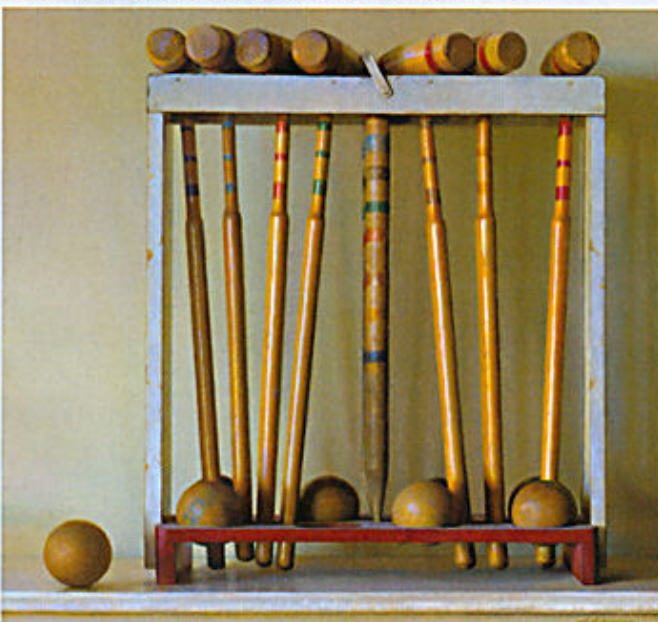


JEFFREY T. LARSON, STYROFOAM, OIL ON CANVAS, 16 X 30"





STEVEN LEVIN, ITALIAN RESTAURANT, OIL ON LINEN, 20 X 24"



JEFFREY T. LARSON, CROQUET SET, OIL ON CANVAS, 30 X 32"

When Larson is struck by an idea, object or image in nature, he pauses to study it and often finds artistic merit within it.

"My challenge is to paint the essence of it as simply and as beautifully as I can," says Larson. "Though I love the challenge of working to become a better painter, I also know the craft of painting is a means to an end. I believe a piece painted poorly but full of honesty and integrity might possibly have more artistic merit than a piece painted brilliantly that leaves you cold emotionally." ●

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to

[www.americanartcollector.com](http://www.americanartcollector.com)