

 WATCH 6 VIDEOS IN
THIS ISSUE SEE PAGE 36

AMERICAN
art
COLLECTOR



*Also Showcasing
Glass, Ceramics & Wood*

DENNIS SHEEHAN & CURTIS HANSON

Poetic landscapes

When the Hudson River School artists were painting landscapes as true as possible, tonalist George Inness (1825-1894) was inspired by more philosophical and spiritual ideas. Contemporary artists **Dennis Sheehan** and **Curtis Hanson**, each have their own artistic styles and techniques, share a love of nature and admire the 19th-century American tonalist and the French Barbizon painters.

"In my early 20s is when I started to dedicate my life to landscape paintings. It was the George Inness paintings that really captivated me. It has grown over the years. My son is named Inness, after George," says Hanson. "Dennis also shares that love for those kinds of paintings. Though our work has differences, I think that is a common thread."

When Sheehan paints landscapes, he doesn't want the viewer to just see a place, but to feel the environment as well.

"I do seek to pinpoint certain subtleties in nature and try to draw a bit of a mystery out of the natural subjects I see," he says. "It is not always something strong that jumps out at you. Generally I like the more moody, the light. It takes a while to see the subject matter. I use a lot of shadows to emphasize the subtleties of nature that I find convey the mood and the emotion."

Hanson, on the other hand, bases his paintings on his surrounding world, then reworks the paintings to convey the shapes and tones of the piece, not just the literal environment.

"Often times they go through different stages of involving glazing and deepening. I'm deepening the mood on the one today," he says of a plein air study he has turned into a studio painting. Hanson says he likes the overall tone, value and structure of painting and that it can be modified. "Sometimes I will turn down the color and develop it by value rather than full color, then I will bring up the color...They are very much based on observation of nature," he explains. "Another thing about my work is I feel it is dealt with in an almost abstract way."





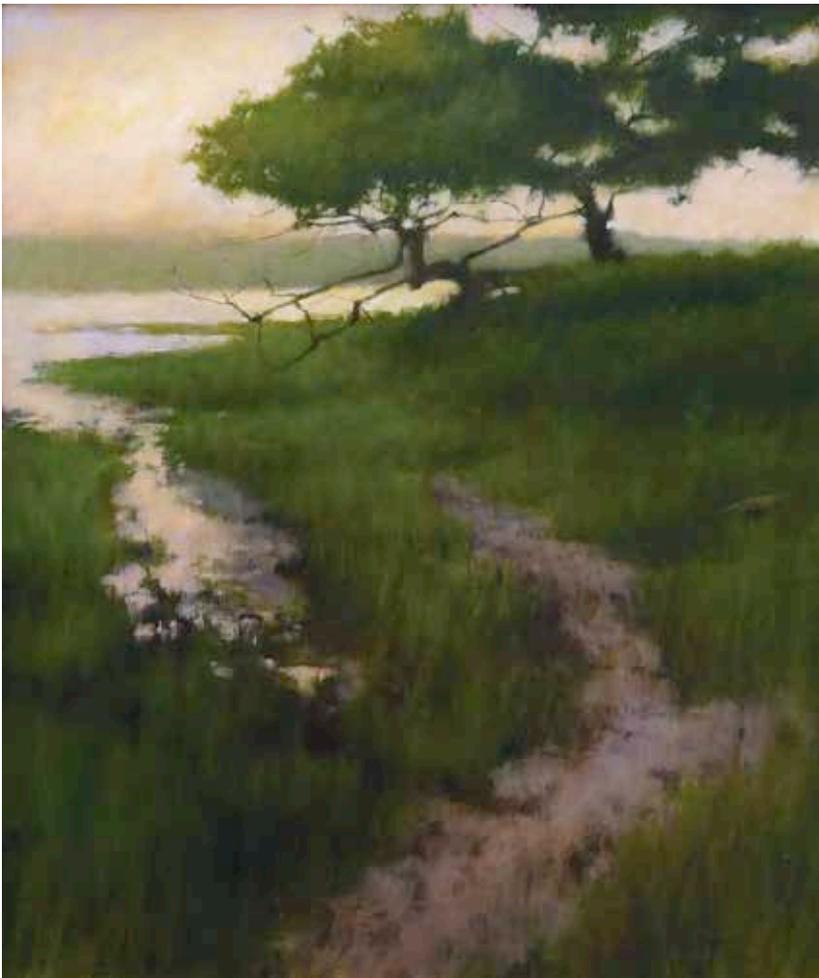
1
Curtis Hanson, *Misted Spring*, oil, 12 x 16"

2
Dennis Sheehan, *Marshland Moonrise*, oil, 24 x 30"

3
Dennis Sheehan, *Serenity*, oil, 36 x 48"

4
Curtis Hanson, *Bonsai*, oil, 40 x 34"

3



4

Sheehan and Hanson will exhibit new works at Susan Powell Fine Art in Madison, Connecticut, throughout October, as well as at the gallery's booth at the *Boston International Fine Art Show*.

"We are excited to exhibit the evocative, poetic landscapes of nationally acclaimed painters Dennis Sheehan and Curtis Hanson," says Susan Powell, owner of the gallery. "Inspired by memories of New England, Sheehan's radiant oils are painted primarily from his imagination and capture the serenity and beauty of his natural surroundings. Hanson's meditative paintings reflect the quiet in landscapes and are observed directly from nature. In the works of both of these renowned artists, atmosphere is paramount as their paintings are felt as much as seen."

Sheehan has been working on different subject matter than what he typically paints, including figures digging for clams, mooring a boat, salt marshes of coastal areas of New England, boats and dinghies, and piers and docks, all to complement coastal Connecticut.

"The interesting thing is I bend a lot of the things to fit my own style," Sheehan says of approaching new subject matter. "[I still use] my own palette and compositional style. I may not detail them fully in my style, but salt and pepper them, so they do look like Sheehans."

A favorite piece of Hanson's that he will have in the show is *Autumn Moon*. Of the work he says, "I don't get attached to the paintings too often, but once in a while I go, 'Oh, I will never see that again.'" ●