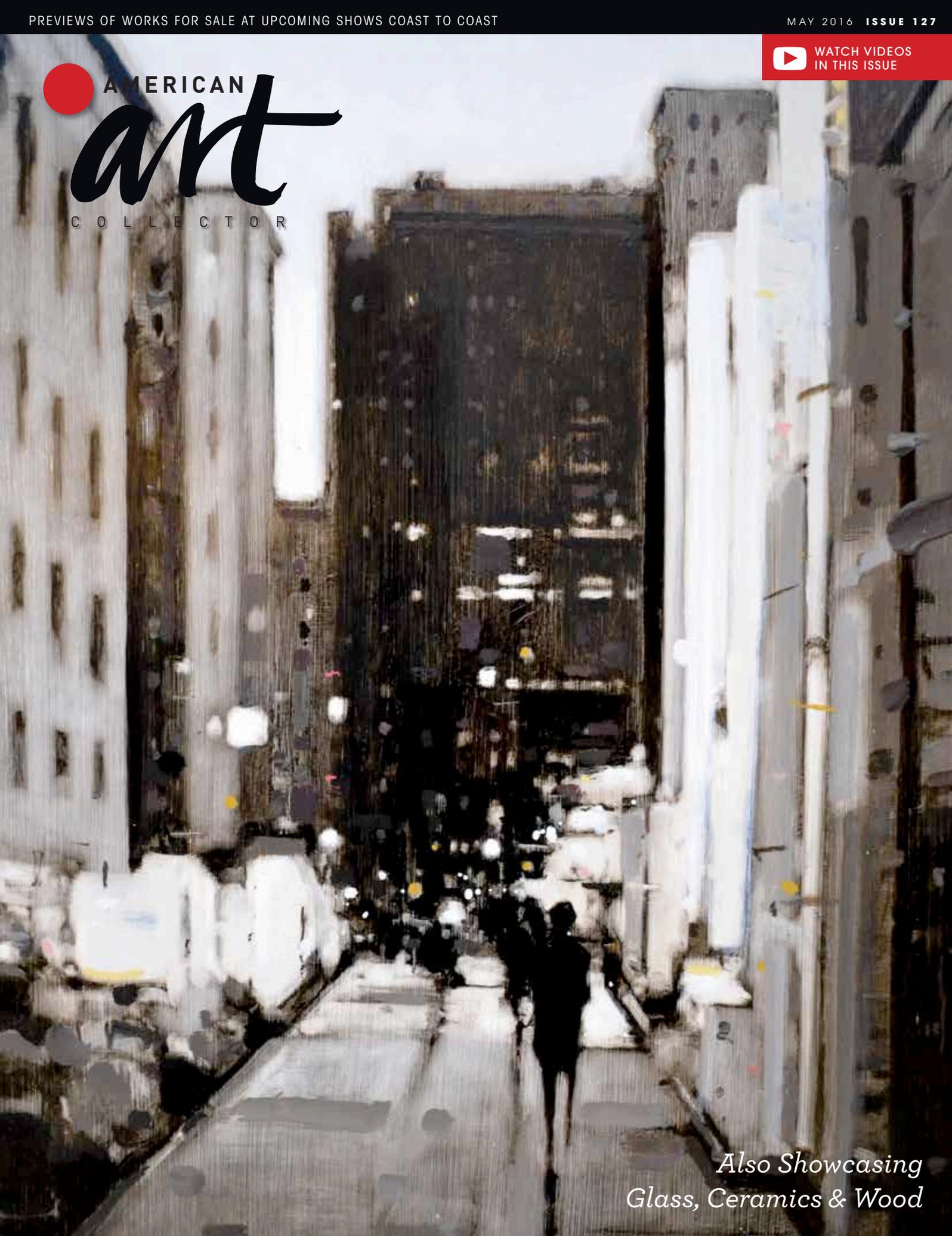


AMERICAN
art
COLLECTOR

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*Also Showcasing
Glass, Ceramics & Wood*



Providing hope



1
Anthony D'Avino, *The Beatles on Times Square*, oil on canvas, 30 x 40"

2
Sarupa Sidaarth, *I*, acrylic on canvas, 20 x 20"

3
Anthony D'Avino, *Glitter Gulch*, oil on canvas, 66 x 44"



Four artists—**Amanda Bellino, Anthony D'Avino, Miles Jaffe, and Sarupa Sidaarth**—will have their works exhibited this spring at RJD Gallery in Sag Harbor, New York, all part of an effort to raise funds to combat domestic violence.

May 14 to June 12, the gallery will host *The Art of Discovery*, featuring about 30 compositions ranging from D'Avino's super realistic paintings of toys to the ornamental faces found in Sidaarth's latest works.

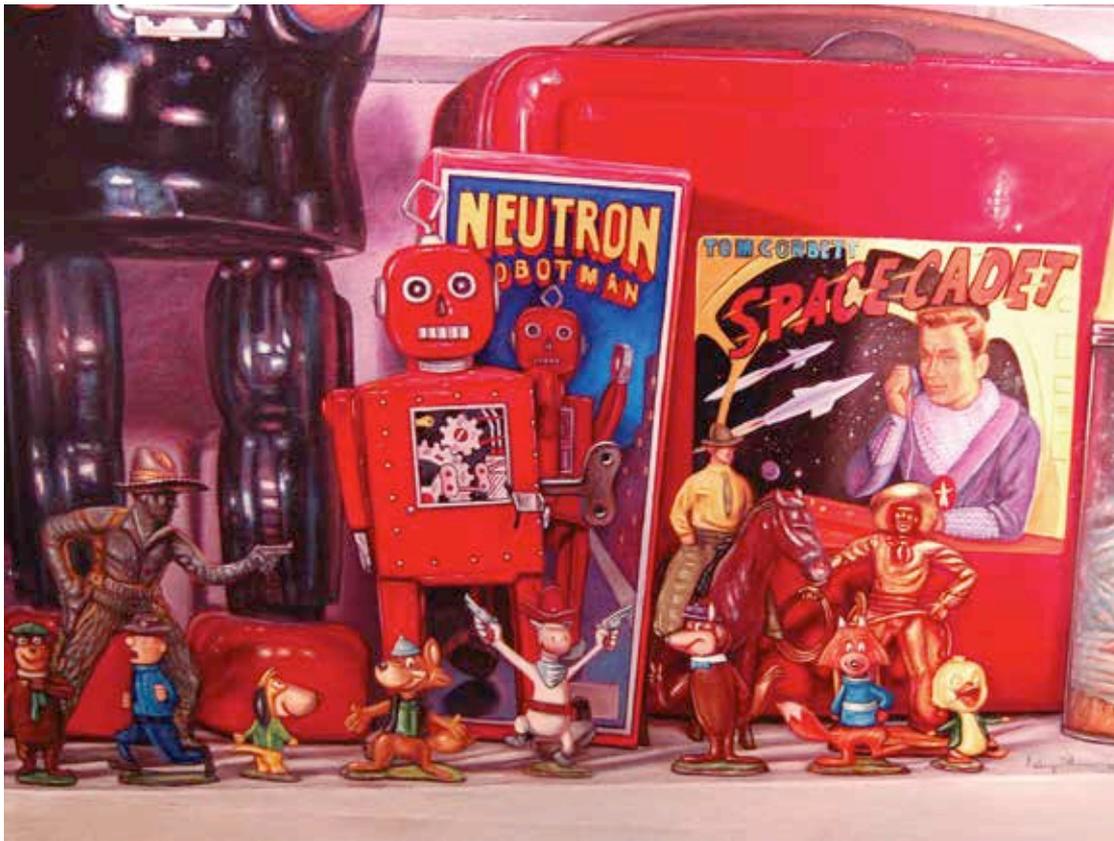
More than 150 artists submitted works to raise funds for The Retreat, a nonprofit haven providing shelter to the victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, says Loretta Davis, The Retreat executive director.

Richard Demato, RJD Gallery owner, also is vice president of development for the nearly 20-year-old nonprofit organization, which relies heavily on grants, events and donations to provide services. "Our efforts are focused on prevention and education to stop abuse before it occurs," Demato says.

After several years on the board and acting as co-chair for the group *Artists Against Abuse*, now *All Against Abuse*, Demato says it was evident that the art community was supportive of The Retreat's effort. In 2009, space for the gallery became available, and Demato entered the art business exclusively. "The gallery seemed a natural segue to raise awareness and cultivate donors for the nonprofit organizations that we had dedicated ourselves to supporting," he continues. "The art contest became an extension of these efforts, and was by far a more global approach to reaching both artists and donors alike."

Many of the artists have come forward to share the special relevance that the effort has meant to them personally. In some cases, Demato notes they are often willing to forgo part or all of their own commissions. "This single, selfless act speaks volumes, and over the last four years of sponsoring *The Retreat Juried*





4
Anthony D'Avino,
Neutron Robot Man,
 oil on canvas, 30 x 40"

5
Miles Jaffe, *Tomato Red,*
 metal, plastic and pigment, 54 x 19 x 12"

6
Miles Jaffe, *Primary Colors (triptych),*
 metal plastic and pigment,
 36 x 44 x 8"

7
Amanda Bellino, *One and Only,*
 mixed sand and mortar sculpted
 with gold leaf, acrylics
 and glaze, 40 x 60"

8
Anthony D'Avino,
America 1952, oil on
 canvas, 50 x 60"

4

Art Show, we feel confident that we are assisting in the movement of ending violence and providing hope," he says.

This year, the judges in the show were Ann Chwatsky, an educator at New York University and a former Retreat board member, as well as Eve Gianni Corio, RJD Gallery director, and Demato.

"There were many talented applicants," Demato says, "and it was a difficult and exhausting process."

Born in India, Sidaarth frequently encountered fantastical images of gods and goddesses.

Sidaarth says she finds inspiration in "ornament, an ancient visual language used for communication in various cultures."

"The concept of decoration is deeply embedded in my upbringing and culture, where adorning the self and surroundings was the norm," she shares. "To create an imaginative response to conflict, I investigate what ornament means in contemporary painting. I reference social issues and explore how we differentiate between ourselves. I am interested in appreciation of the beauty of life versus our obsession with the fear of the other. In spite of physical, cultural and social variances, as human beings, we are intrinsically the same. Through mark making and the power of ornament, my work expresses a need for change and explores the possibility of the new."

Jaffe says his *Artists' Color* series, featuring variously colored paint tubes with names such as tomato red and primary yellow, "contemplates the relationship between artist, medium and product."

"It is a parody of parodies, which of course makes



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it a tribute as well,” Jaffe continues. “It’s a great way to send up pop culture; even better because I don’t paint.”

D’Avino, the former head of a high school art department, explains that his art reflects his passions in life. A child of the 1950s and ’60s, D’Avino says he experienced the “golden age of toys.”

His *America 1952* is a reflection of that time period.

“Over the years, I amassed a toy collection from my original toys, and ones I recollected at toy shows...the joy of the time period, and the memories associated with them give viewers many happy memories of their toys, and the times of

their childhood,” he says.

Another of D’Avino’s paintings, *The Beatles on Times Square*, was based on an old postcard the artist found in Chinatown.

“I wanted to ‘tweak’ it,” D’Avino explains, “so I added the Beatles from *Abbey Road*.” ●