

## The intimacy of light

Kristine Pallas is this year's *American Art Collector* Silver Medal Award winner at the Oil Painters of America National Juried Exhibition in Scottsdale, Arizona, in the Associate and Signature Member divisions.

Passionate, driven and focused, Kristine Pallas is motivated to constantly evolve and improve as an artist.

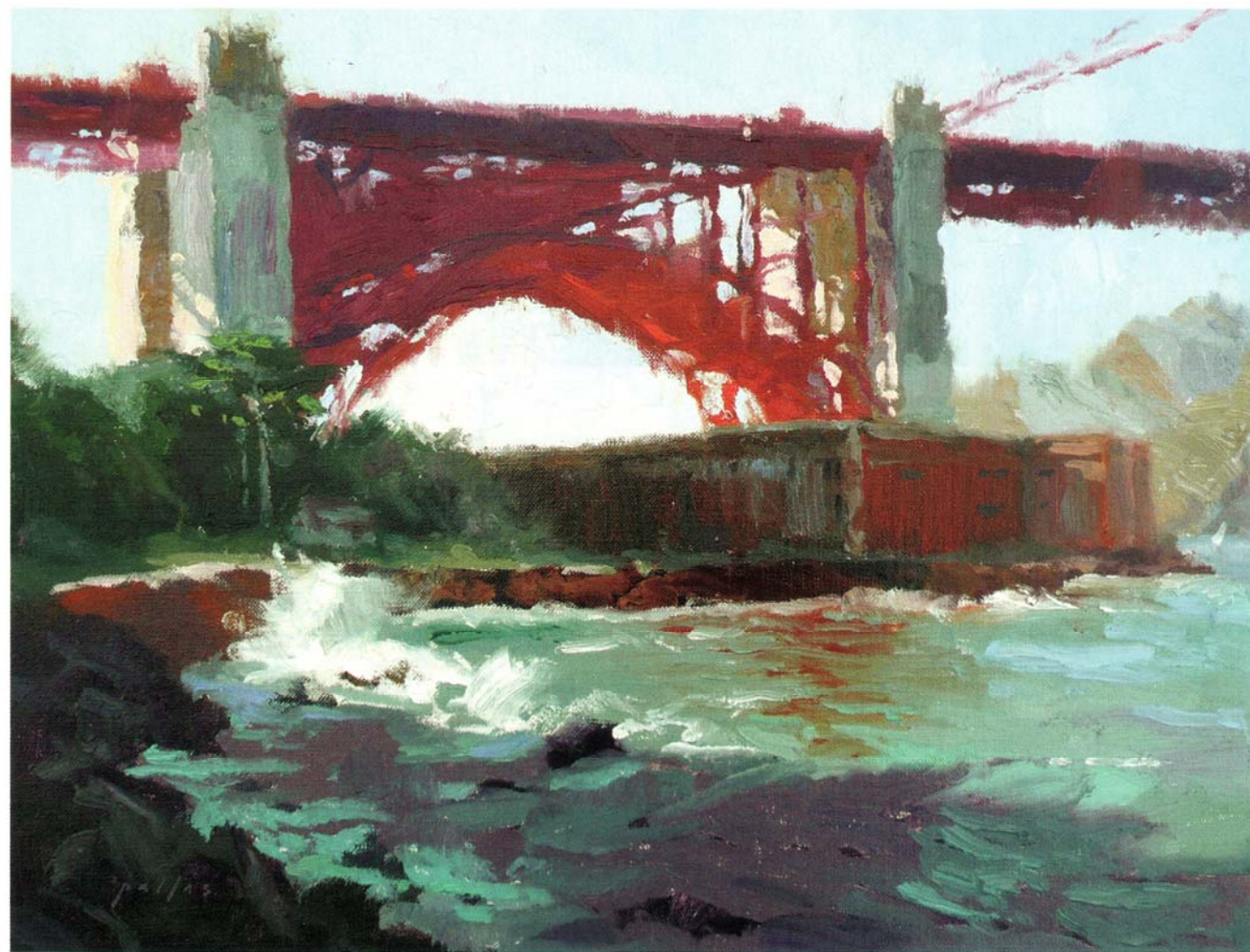
"Of course there are 'ups' and 'downs.' The 'ups' keep me working. The 'downs' are a teaching tool. They keep me working harder," says Pallas. "If I can figure out why a painting is not successful, then hopefully I can fix it or not make the same mistake again. We, as painters, must strive to be critical of our work, especially

if we are working by ourselves most of the time as I am. Design and drawing, values, color, edges and rhythm are all important. I am obsessed with painting."

Although she has been drawing most of her life, Pallas only started oil painting nine years ago, but while she considers it a "late start," she also wonders if she would have had the same commitment and drive when she was younger. Her early inspirations, as well

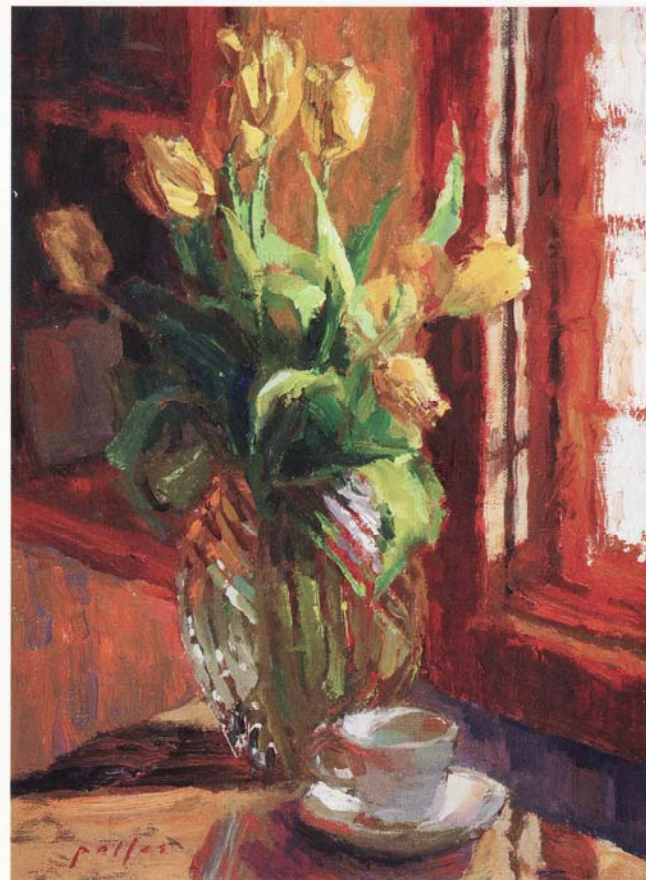
as the contemporary ones, continue to impact her work.

"I was inspired by the work of Sergei Bongart from the get-go—such composition, color and brushwork from this Russian master. Also Edward Seago and Issak Levitan have inspired me," says Pallas. "While quite diverse in their painting styles and subject matter, their art speaks to me as well in different ways. Of the current-day masters I admire, I have long



*Under the Golden Gate*, oil on linen, 12 x 16"

This piece by Kristine Pallas won the American Art Collector Silver Medal Award at the 2010 Oil Painters of America National Juried Exhibition, which took place at The Legacy Gallery in Scottsdale, Arizona, in May.



*Tulips at the Window*, oil on linen, 12 x 9"



*Bistro Jeanty 2*, oil on linen, 12 x 9"



Kristine Pallas on a plein air painting outing.

appreciated the work of Ken Auster, Dan McCaw, C.W. Mundy and Richard Schmid—their body of work is without parallel."

Pallas' current body of work varies from plein air florals, still lifes and landscapes to occasionally painting at sunlit windows.


"The shadow colors are what intrigue me. I also enjoy quaint and charming buildings and architecturally interesting structures, such as the Golden Gate Bridge," she says. "When the light and shadow form a potentially strong design dynamic, I am hooked."

Collectors often say they are attracted to Pallas' work by her color first and foremost, but she says she'd like to think it is her composition and color working together.

"I work with a limited palette to some degree: a warm and cool of each of the primary colors plus a green such as viridian. I also love black—not to be used as black, but rather to make some wonderful grays or neutral greens mixed with yellow. I rely on neutrals to make my more intense color mixes stand out."

Jayne Brittell, gallery director of Petri's Fine Arts in Sausalito, California, represents Pallas and has a deep appreciation for her style and approach.

"Kristine Pallas' work conveys a feeling of tenderness, intimacy and well-being captured from a fleeting, peaceful moment during the day," says Brittell. "Her paintings embody the essence of saturated California sunlight and the warmth of summer. The effect is charming, beautiful and honest. It's rare to find an artist who has such mastery over color and light and Petri's Fine Arts considers her talent to be a true treasure." ●

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to   
www.americanartcollector.com