

UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 10 works

Nov. 13–Dec. 14, 2013

William Baczek Fine Arts

36 Main Street

Northampton, MA 01060

(413) 587-9880

• SHOW LOCATION NORTHAMPTON, MA

ERIC WERT

Sense of vitality

Eric Wert was a scientific illustrator. Today he paints extraordinarily detailed still lifes “about the transitory nature of wealth, life, relationships and understanding.”

“I think of my still life paintings as passive aggressive,” he continues, “intended to be both sweet and destructive. While they exhibit components of traditional still life—lush flowers, fabrics, and vases—the subjects are often smashed or upended, suggestive of domestic disturbance, disaster or jilted love.”

Two paintings with the same palette

and the same “swirling compositional flow” highlight his exhibition at William Baczek Fine Arts in Northampton, Massachusetts. *The Locavore*, however, is 40 by 50 inches, and *Ranunculus* measures 6 by 8 inches. “*The Locavore*,” he explains, “was conceived almost as a seascape—where the viewer’s eye could get caught up in the churning mass of vegetation, and be swept vigorously around the composition—and *Ranunculus* has a very similar movement with the serpentine buds.

“The most general contrast between

large and small is that the larger work can be more painterly and fluid and still feel ‘real,’” he continues. “Smaller works need to be much more delicately resolved...I try to use all formal aspects of the painting: color, composition and texture, to draw the viewer in and keep them there. Whether large or small, I use intricate detail, vivid color, and complex patterns and textures to encourage the viewer to slow down, view the work for a sustained period, and explore the work intimately. I want the work to be striking



Blue Crabs, oil on panel, 12 x 16"



The Locavore, oil on canvas over panel, 40 x 50"



Willakenzie Loam, oil on canvas over panel, 24 x 30". The grapes featured in the painting came from Elk Cove Vineyard in Oregon's Willamette Valley.

at first glance, but complex enough to be engaging many years later."

For Wert, the process of making a piece is usually intuitive. He waits until the combination of elements feels right. "If I had to pin a word on that feeling, it would be 'fascination,' he says. "The joy of still life painting, for me, is in intimately exploring a subject by looking intensely. I hope that the paintings can convey that sense of vitality and fascination."

The photographer Elliott Erwitt wrote, "To me, photography is an art of observation. It's about finding something interesting in an ordinary place...I've found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them."

Eric Wert's paintings invite us to slow down, to look, to see and to be fascinated. ●

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to 

www.AmericanArtCollector.com