

Up to 40 works

April 6-30, 2012

M Gallery of Fine Art SE

11 Broad Street

Charleston, SC 29401

(843) 727-4500

Art of the real

Turning the spotlight to contemporary realism, M Gallery of Fine Art SE will host a four-artist exhibit, *Art of the Real*. This show features skillful watercolors by **Angus McEwan**, **David Poxon**, **Sandra Walker**, and **Denis Ryan**. The artists, who reside across the pond, are members of top European watercolor societies such as Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours (R.I.) and Royal Watercolour Society (R.W.S.).

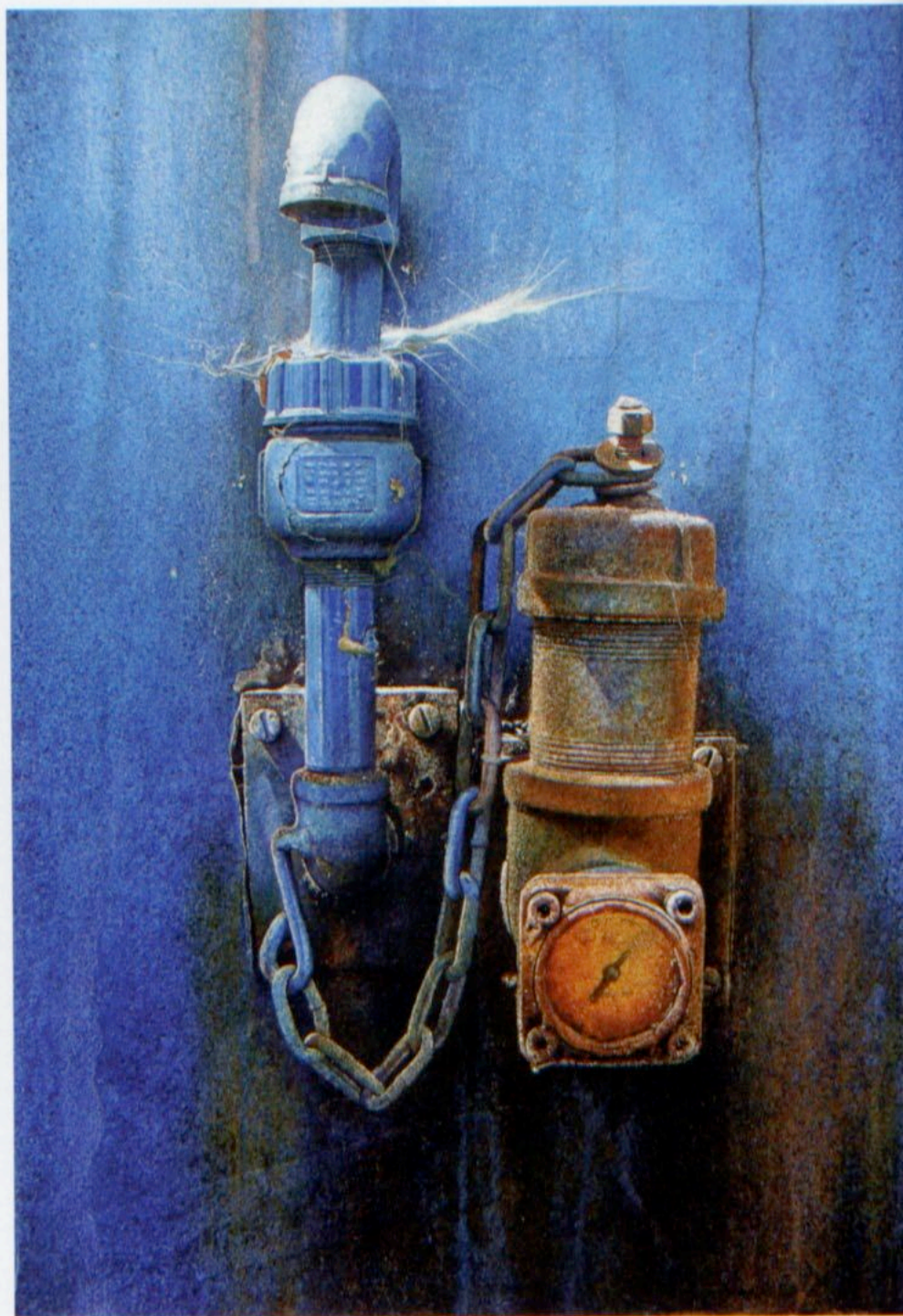
For this show Angus McEwan drew inspiration from his travels to places like California, Malta, and Cuba. Many of the works will be of doors and windows, which reflect his most common painting elements—age, neglect, and forgotten corners. His desire is to reinvent these often worn-out objects and highlight their beauty.

McEwan's painting *Out of Steam* refers to part of an old train he came across in Fillmore, California. "The title plays on the fact that this particular train has had its day and has been put out to pasture," notes McEwan. "The cobwebs suggested it hasn't been used in quite a while however it still hasn't lost any of its beauty, and I had to record it before its presence disappeared from our sight completely."

According to David Poxon, "The commonplace or the overlooked become my subject material as nature slowly reclaims that which man has abandoned or cast aside, creating a fragile beauty that is ever-changing."

Poxon painted *Zetor Tractor* after he spotted an old tractor in an overgrown farmyard. "It encompassed the essence of those that had long since operated and steered the machine to make their miles of furrows in every weather that nature has in her arsenal," he explains. "I painted in a quiet and careful way to capture every nuance. This is my way of paying respect to those craftsmen who build these machines, and those who proudly work the land."

"I have always been drawn to urban, man-made subjects, and in particular what are called 'Ghost Signs,'" remarks Sandra Walker. "I saw *Quaker Oats* in Washington, D.C., still clinging on despite decades of severe weather.



ANGUS MCEWAN, R.W.S., OUT OF STEAM, WATERCOLOR, 19 X 14"



SANDRA WALKER, R.I., QUAKER OATS, WATERCOLOR, 14 X 26"



DAVID POXON, R.I., ZETOR TRACTOR, WATERCOLOR, 18 X 24"



DENIS RYAN, R.W.S., ESARIA, WATERCOLOR, 14 X 18"

Although these ads were considered eyesores in their day, I look at them as remains and reminders of man's manual labor. From the 1920s through the Depression until the 1950s, these signs, painted by hand, provided a group of men known as 'wall dogs' one of the few ways of making a living."

Denis Ryan's paintings also reflect an interest in rundown urban areas of cities,

particularly buildings with neon signs. According to Ryan, the signs offer the painterly challenges that interest him.

"*Esaria* offered me the hard, shiny or rusty surface and the glass neon tubes reflecting light on or off, that I relish painting," muses Ryan. "All I had to do was try and put as much of myself into it as I could, give it the attention it demanded.

I build up the paintings using really thin washes of transparent color, either watercolor or acrylic, sometimes both, trying to achieve the greatest luminosity that I can."

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