

New American Paintings

15 years Special 15th Anniversary Edition

Sixteen years ago I was ushered into a small office within a larger publishing company and given the loosely articulated task of developing a new art periodical that would offer "undiscovered artists meaningful exposure for their work." Twelve months later, the first edition of New American Paintings was published—without great fanfare I might add. It is difficult for me to believe that fifteen years have passed since I eagerly flipped through the pages of New American Paintings Book Number One, and wondered aloud if it could be sustained as a long-term business.

There are many reasons for this, but chief among them is the fact that there is a limited and very sophisticated audience for contemporary art. Gaining the trust of the artists we work with and developing a dedicated readership has taken years, and from the publication's inception, it was obvious that integrity was everything. To this end, we have never charged artists to appear in *New American Paintings*, which, I believe, has been central to the project's success.

The art world has changed dramatically since the early 1990s, both in its scale and the ways in which it operates. Artists continue to go about producing work and trying to give visual form to the time they live in, but their numbers have increased and the infrastructure that supports their efforts has become massive. While the first New American Paintings competition drew only 252 entries, we now are privileged to review the work of more than 6,000 painters annually.

In order to help celebrate *New American Paintings*' fifteenth anniversary, we are pleased to reintroduce our readership to a number of the more than 3,000 artists who have appeared in the publication. Some of these artists have appeared in recent years, but many are alums from earlier in the publication's history. It is an incredible opportunity to see the latest work by a talented group of painters.

Since its inception, New American Paintings' sole focus has been on discovering the work of emerging painters, and in helping art enthusiasts discover their work. As we move forward, the publication's raison d'etre will remain intact, but beginning in 2010 we will offer expanded editorial content that will allow us to more fully address the medium of painting, the artists and professionals who influence painting's direction, and the role of painting in an ever expanding art world. Thank you for your support over the years. I hope that you enjoy the publication.

Steven Zevitas Editor/Publisher

Dick Evans

Featured #5

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I do abstract paintings, with lots of gesture and brushstroke and color, loosely based on landscape. They are explorations, interpretations and expressions of the world around me and within me...which are ultimately the same.



Forms in Blues, Russets and Greens | acrylic on canvas, 66 x 120 inches (triptych)



Affirmation | acrylic on canvas, 48 x 48 inches