



## A Russian Alliance Worth Your Attention

By **Andrew Webster** - November 10, 2016

**The Grenning Gallery is overjoyed to be presenting a number of breathtaking works during its Russian-American Alliance Exhibition this month. Initially formed several years ago, the artist group has continued to blossom, and their show is worth your attention.**

It was during an invitational plein air painting trip to Russia that several artists from the United States and the host nation formed an alliance — and the art world has benefitted ever since. The budding relationship between the painters has recently resulted in group exhibitions, the latest of which is currently on view at the Grenning Gallery in Sag Harbor, New York.



*Oleg Zhuravlev, "Stonington Evening Motif," 2016, oil on canvas, 24 x 36 in. (c) The Grenning Gallery 2016*

Spearheaded by Ben Fenke, the current exhibition will feature works by the artists during their latest foray to Maine and Sag Harbor. "Most of these painters have never been to the United States, so we expect very fresh eyes!" the gallery writes. "They all met a few years ago, when Russia sponsored a group of painters living in Italy to paint in the hometown of Levitan, arguably the most famous 19th century Russian landscape painter. The Grenning Gallery is fortunate to be hosting four of Russia's most notable painters for the outdoor painting excursion this month to Mount Desert Island, Deer Island Maine and Sag Harbor. Their trip culminates in this exhibition of some of the finest works done in nature."



Olga Karpacheva, "Allen Cove," 2016, oil on canvas, 24 x 30 in. (c) The Grenning Gallery 2016

Artists included in the show are Russians Olga Karpacheva, Viktor Butko, Irina Rybakova, and Oleg Zhuravlev and Americans Carl Bretzke, Stapleton Kearns, Leo Mancini Hresko, Tim McGuire, and Jesse Powell.

"Russian-American Painting Alliance" opened on November 5 and will remain on view through December 4. To learn more, visit [The Grenning Gallery](#).

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Andrew Webster is the Editor of *Fine Art Today* and works as an editorial and creative marketing assistant for Streamline Publishing. Andrew graduated from The University of North Carolina at Asheville with a B.A. in Art History and Ceramics. He then moved on to the University of Oregon, where he completed an M.A. in Art History. Studying under scholar Kathleen Nicholson, he completed a thesis project that investigated the peculiar practice of embedded self-portraiture within Christian imagery during the 15th and early 16th centuries in Italy.