

TODAY'S  
MASTERS

BY MAX GILLIES

# LOOK UP: DEPICTING THE SUN & MOON

All too often, we take them for granted. Every now and then, though, we slow down to refocus on the sheer wonder of our sun and our moon. Without the former, we simply could not exist, and it is the moon that governs our tides and (usually) illuminates our nights. From the dawn of time, humankind has tried to make sense of them, and although science has made huge progress in furthering our understanding, the sun and moon still enthrall, puzzle, and surprise us, catching us off-guard with solar flares or eclipses that remind us how not in control we Earthlings are.

Visual artists have always been intrigued by these celestial phenomena, and many of them working today are making unique contributions to our collective archive of images. Rather than looking squarely at the sun or moon through protective glasses or a telescope, most of the pieces illustrated here evoke the distinctive kinds of light they produce at different times of year or day, and necessarily how that light enlivens the landscapes around us. At the same time, the powerful symbolic meanings of sun and moon continue to evolve. The figurative works here are particularly evocative, and we encourage readers to draw their own conclusions about what their compositions might suggest.

The mystery endures, and we congratulate everyone represented here for sustaining it in such gorgeous and personal ways. ●

MAX GILLIES is a contributing writer to *Fine Art Connoisseur*.

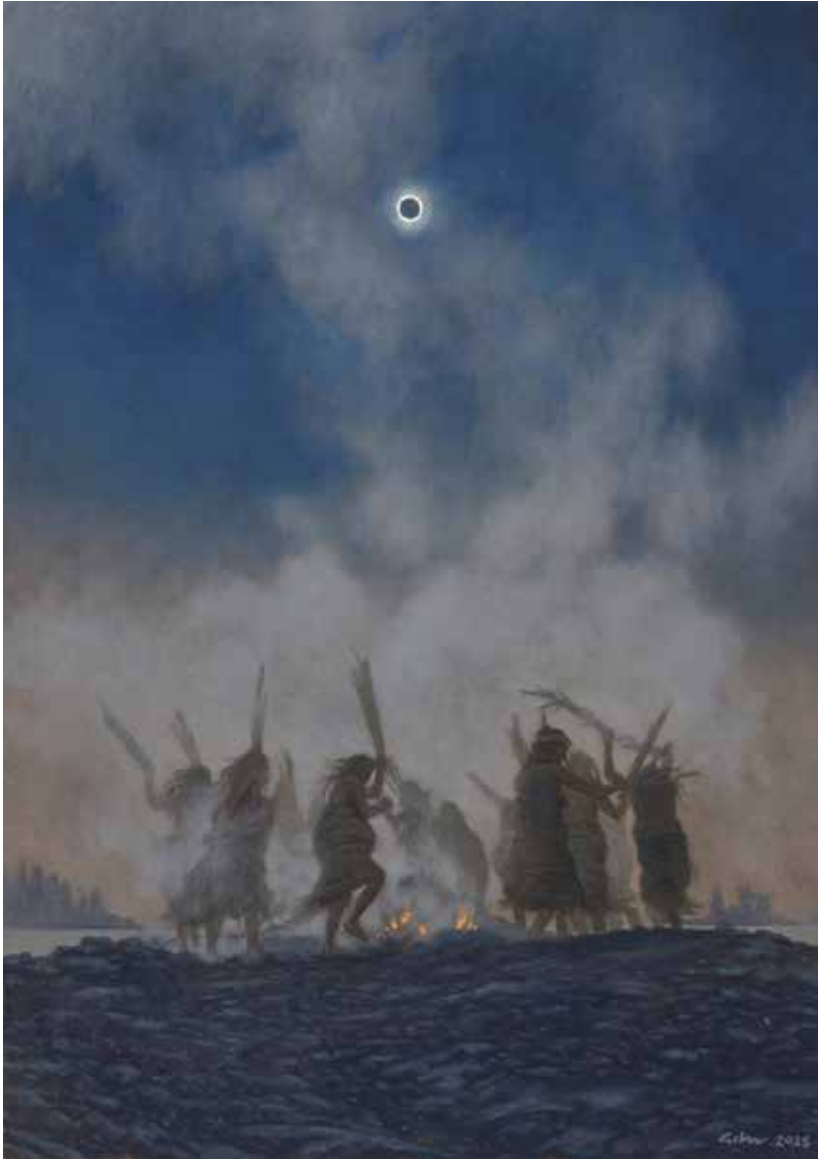


NIC FISCHER (b. 1985), *Cold Frog Moon*, 2023, oil  
on panel, 10 x 8 in., private collection



(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) **JASON BAILEY** (b. 1982), *Into the Sun*, 2024, oil on linen panel, 12 x 12 in., private collection ■ **VICTORIA BROOKS** (b. 1954), *Eats No Meat*, 2024, oil and silver leaf on cradled wood, 16 x 12 in., available through the artist ■ **JOHN CAGGIANO** (b. 1949), *Hazy Day*, 2016, oil on linen panel, 11 x 14 in., Sheldon Fine Art (Naples, Florida) ■ **MATTHEW BIRD** (b. 1977), *Farewell to the Beach*, 2022, watercolor on paper, 22 x 30 in., available through the artist ■ **VIKTOR BUTKO** (b. 1978), *March Twilight*, 2025, oil on linen, 32 x 40 in., available through the artist





(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) **BRADLEY GILES** (b. 1967), *Dancing to Restore Eclipsed Sun*, 2025, oil on linen, 31 x 22 in., available through the artist ■ **TOBI CLEMENT** (b. 1959), *In Search of Refuge*, 2025, pastel on Pastelmat paper, 18 x 14 in., available through the artist ■ **MARK FEHLMAN** (b. 1952), *Lunar Laguna*, 2023, oil on linen, 20 x 24 in., available through the artist ■ **KRYSTAL W. BROWN** (b. 1968), *Love Psalm*, 2024, oil on linen, 36 x 72 in., private collection



(TOP) **GAYLE MADEIRA** (b. 1969), *Luminous Night*, 2023, oil on linen panel, 18 x 24 in., available through the artist ■ (ABOVE LEFT) **PAULA B. HOLTZCLAW** (b. 1954), *Morning's Embrace*, 2025, oil on linen panel, 20 x 24 in., Cassens Fine Art (Hamilton, Montana) ■ (ABOVE RIGHT) **JODIE KAIN** (b. 1965), *In My Dreams I've Already Been There*, 2023, soft pastel on sanded paper, 19 x 20 in., available through the artist



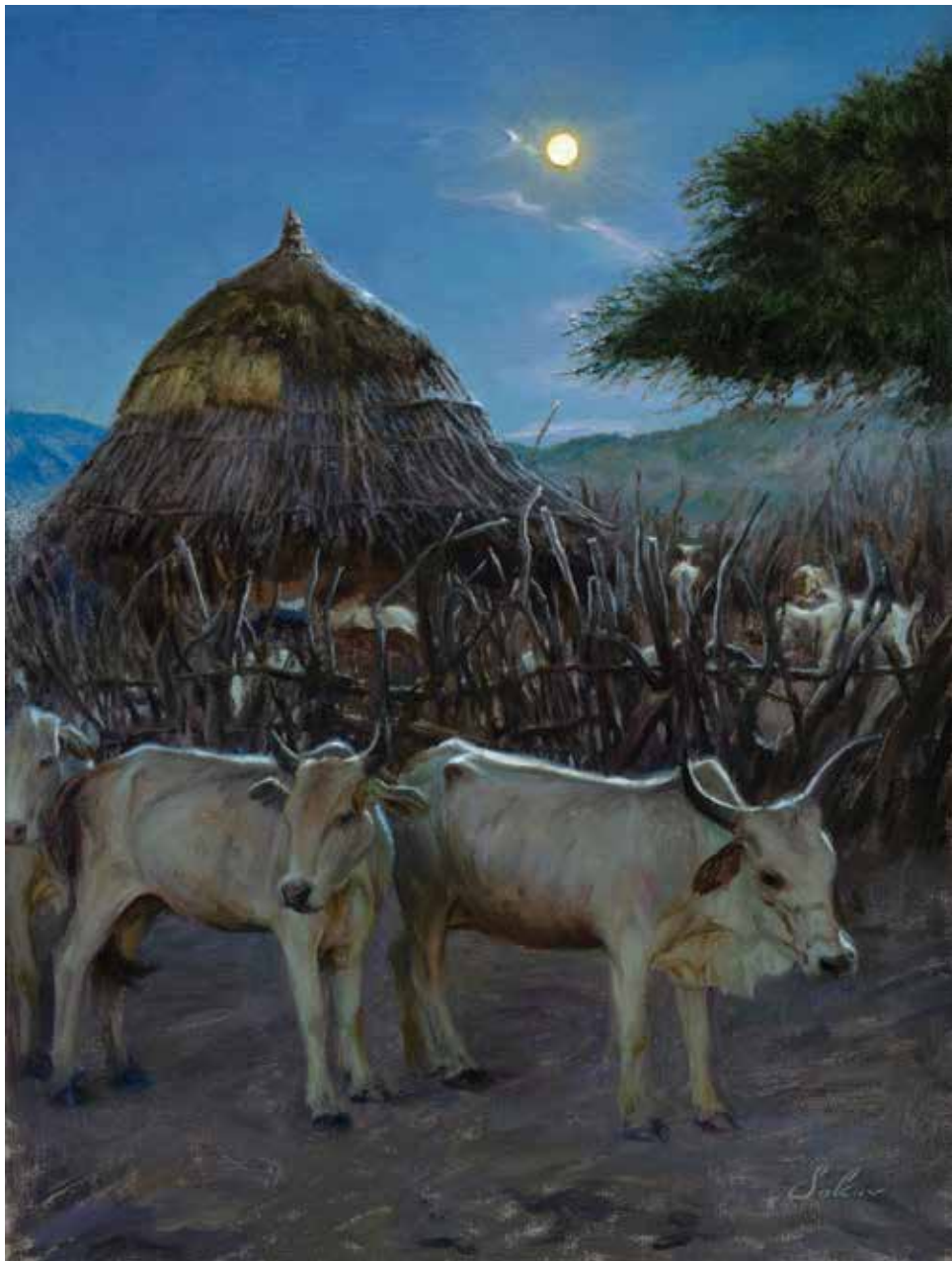


(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) **REBECCA ARGUELLO** (b. 1977), *Unnamed*, 2025, oil on canvas, 18 x 24 in., available through the artist ■ **MATTHEW J. CUTTER** (b. 1974), *Taking Flight*, 2024, oil on canvas, 18 x 24 in., private collection ■ **KIM LORDIER** (b. 1966), *Midnight Waltz*, 2022, pastel on archival board, 27 x 40 in., private collection ■ **ALEX ODNORALOV** (b. 1994), *Sonoran Dusk*, 2024, oil on board, 20 x 20 in., private collection ■ **PAUL KEYSAR** (b. 1977), *Moonlight Fog*, 2025, oil on linen, 22 x 24 in., available through the artist



(CLOCKWISE) ANNA T. GUSTAFSON (b. 1980), *Hope*, 2023, oil on linen, 30 x 30 in., available through the artist ■ KIRK LARSEN (b. 1960), *Schooner Moon*, 2015, oil on wood panel, 6 x 6 in., private collection ■ STOCK SCHLUETER (b. 1949), *Sundown Fog*, 2024, oil on panel, 9 x 12 in., private collection ■ DAVID VICKERY (b. 1964), *Transatlantic*, 2014, oil on panel, 38 x 45 in., Dowling Walsh Gallery (Rockland, Maine) ■ DAVID PEIKON (b. 1958), *Autumn Light*, 2022, oil on linen, 36 x 48 in., Art Studio Hamptons (Westhampton Beach, Long Island)





(CLOCKWISE) PAVEL SOKOV (b. 1990), *Returning Home to the Hamer Tribe*, 2024, oil on linen, 16 x 12 in., available through the artist ■ JAKE TRUJILLO (b. 1989), *Tesuque Series 1, No. 2*, 2023, oil on panel, 20 x 16 in., private collection ■ MELISSA WEINMAN (b. 1960), *Hunting Party Camp*, 2024, oil on linen, 30 x 40 in., West Lives On Gallery (Jackson, Wyoming) ■ KATHRYN STEDHAM (b. 1969), *Moonrise over Plaza Blanca*, 2022, oil on canvas, 48 x 60 in., Blue Rain Gallery (Santa Fe) ■ LISA RICKARD (b. 1962), *Luna*, 2022, oil on linen panel, 40 x 20 in., 33 Contemporary Gallery (Lake Worth Beach, Florida)





(LEFT) **SARAH WARDA** (b. 1967), *Glimmer (With Lights Out)*, 2024, oil, phosphorescent pigment, and strontium aluminate on cradled board, 12 x 12 in., 33 Contemporary Gallery (Lake Worth Beach, Florida) ■ (BELOW LEFT) **LINDA H. POST** (b. 1950), *Under the Watchful Sky*, 2025, oil on wood, 24 x 24 in., R. Michelson Galleries (Northampton, Massachusetts) ■ (BELOW RIGHT) **DAGGI WALLACE** (b. 1962), *She's Often Inclined to Borrow Somebody's Dreams Till Tomorrow*, 2024, pastel, acrylic, ink, and metallic watercolor on paper, 16 x 16 in., 33 Contemporary Gallery (Lake Worth Beach, Florida)

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