



NELSON H. WHITE

*Cover:  
Waterford Beach  
16 x 24 inches  
Oil on Canvas, 2009*

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# NELSON H. WHITE

SOLO SHOW

Exhibition

July 24th to August 15th

GRENNING GALLERY



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# INTRODUCTION

While amazed, we are not surprised to see Nelson H. White's work deepen in emotion and subtlety, as we exhibit his first solo show since 2005. Throughout his life, White has paired his fortuitous birth into a family of painters and art historians, with indefatigable energy and drive. White has, quite simply, applied himself with abandon to his craft since 1955. Following a rigorous weekly schedule of study, studio painting, and regular plein air painting trip, few painters (of any age) could keep up with him even today. It's a rare day, when White hasn't been painting. In this exhibit, we now get to revel in the outcome of five and half decades of focused effort and world class training. White's paintings also exude his great reverence for the history of painting, which he absorbed from his family and life that has been spent painting in Shelter Island, New York, Waterford Connecticut, and Florence, Italy.

White's father, Nelson Cooke White (1900-1989) was a painter and a published art critic. White's grandfather, Henry Cooke White (1861 - 1952) was a member of the famous art colony based in Old Lyme, Connecticut during the turn of the last century. Through contact with Dwight W. Tryon, Thomas Wilmer Dewing, and Childe Hassam to name a few, White senior was a bridge to the training absorbed by his contemporaries in France. Luckily, his family was more than happy to share their experiences and knowledge with the eager son. It's rare to have a living artist with training that is only two degrees of separation from Gerome's studio. White's pivotal instruction came from one of the most notable realists of the 20th century, Pietro Annigoni, with whom he apprenticed with from 1955 to 1980. He was also a regular in the studio of Miss Nerina Simi in Florence, until 1987. A case can be made that White is a linchpin artist, as he brings to life and to the canvas the breakthroughs of the 19th century plein air painters, the insight of the impressionist and colorist movements of the 20th century, and now the environmental and aesthetic impulse of the new 21st century painters.

Nelson H. White, in addition to being a masterful painter, is known to many as a living repository of a great oral history of aesthetic art and the great painting tradition from the late 19th century to today. He generously recounts true stories of the artists he knew or heard about from his family. In delightful repartee,

White holds court on a wide range of subjects including (most importantly) the working practices of the artists. To the listener's delight, however, he also shares funny and insightful stories about the artists' personalities, life dramas, and quirky circumstances.

White's fortitude is admirable, as few painters with his success and experience would return to an atelier for additional training, which he did in 1999, when he enrolled at the Florence Academy of Art, in Florence, Italy. He made this move, having already sold into corporate collections, museums, and many solo shows, including Hammer Gallery in New York City, to continue his deep exploration of his craft. This choice pays off in this exhibition, which shows an added level of sophistication. This is especially evident in the two figurative works "Sara" and "Haven".

White is mostly recognized for his beach and marsh scenes of Viareggio and New England. This catalogue's cover image "Waterford Beach" may be one of the most intimate paintings in the show, as it depicts the beach he grew up on, just across from his childhood home. White has turned his ever seeking plein air eyes onto the canals, marshes, and rocky beaches of the North West Italian coastal region with great results as seen in "Torre Del Lago Puccini", 20 x 48 inches, and "Tellaro, Italy" 9 x 16 inches.

White's work can be found in the Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford, CT, New Britain Museum of Art in New Britain CT, Florence Griswold Museum, Old Lyme, CT and Lyman Allyn Museum in New London, CT, the corporate collections of Fleet Bank and Pfizer Corporation, as well as several galleries in the United States and Europe.

Enjoy,

Laura Grenning, 2010  
Grenning Gallery



Viareggio, Italy

16 x 24 Inches

Oil On Canvas, 2007





*Evening on the Canal*

*20 x 48 Inches*

*Oil On Canvas, 2007*



*Kitchings Point*

*12 x 20 Inches*

*Oil On Canvas, 2009*



*Haven*

*12 x 16 Inches*

*Oil On Canvas, 2010*



*Sagg Main Beach*

*20 x 29 Inches*

*Oil On Canvas, 2007*



*Mashomack Point*

24 x 36 Inches

Oil On Canvas, 2007



*Marginal Way Ogunquit, Maine*

*4 x 9 Inches*

*Oil On Canvas, 2008*



*Torre Del Lago Puccini*

*20 x 48 Inches*

*Oil On Canvas, 2007*



*The Brooklyn Bridge*

4 x 9 Inches

*Oil On Canvas, 2007*



*Noyac, N.Y.*

*20 x 48 Inches*

*Oil On Canvas, 2008*



*Sara*

*16 x 24 Inches*

*Oil On Canvas, 2007*



*Enders Beach and Rocks*

12 x 20 Inches

*Oil On Canvas, 2009*



Versilia, Italy

8 x 12 Inches

Oil On Canvas, 2007



*Waterford Front Beach*

*20 x 29 Inches*

*Oil On Canvas, 2007*



*Tellaro, Italy*

*9 x 16 Inches*

*Oil On Canvas, 2009*



*The Poppy Field*

9 x 16 Inches

*Oil On Canvas, 2008*



*Göteborg, Sweden*      4 x 9 Inches      Oil On Canvas, 2008



*The Yellow Umbrella*      4 x 11 Inches      Oil On Canvas, 2008



*Cable Beach, Nassau Bahamas*      4 x 9 Inches      Oil On Canvas, 2008



*Cliff Beach, Nantucket*      8 x 12 Inches      Oil On Canvas, 2005

# NELSON HOLBROOK WHITE

Nationality – American Born 1932

## Museum Collections

Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT  
New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT  
Florence Griswold Museum, Old Lyme, CT  
Lyman Allyn Museum, New London, CT

## Corporate Collections

Pfizer Corp.  
Fleet Bank

## Exhibitions

2009 W. H. Patterson Gallery, London, Florence Academy of Art Alumni Show,  
Grenning Gallery, Sag Harbor, NY, Group Show

2008 Centro Francese Internazionale, Massa, Italy, Group Show,  
W. H. Patterson Gallery, London, Florence Academy of Art Alumni Show,  
Cooley Gallery, Old Lyme, CT, All Paintings Great and Small, Group Show

2007 Grenning Gallery, Sag Harbor, NY, Studio Selects  
W. H. Patterson Gallery, London, Florence Academy of Art Alumni Show,  
Cooley Gallery, Old Lyme, CT, All Paintings Great and Small, Group Show  
Brigham Gallery, Florence Academy of Art Alumni Exhibition, Nantucket, MA

2006 W. H. Patterson Gallery, London, Florence Academy of Art Alumni Show,  
Brigham Gallery/Florence Academy of Art Alumni Show, Nantucket, MA

2005 Grenning Gallery, Sag Harbor, NY, Shining Sands,  
Florence Academy of Art Alumni Show, Florence, Italy

2005-2009 Maritime Gallery at Mystic Seaport, Mystic, CT, International Maritime Art Exhibition

2004 Grenning Gallery, Sag Harbor, NY, By the Sea, By the Lovely Sea

2003 Grenning Gallery, Sag Harbor, NY, Two person show with Urban Larsson  
Hirschl and Adler Galleries, NYC  
Panorama Museum, Germany, Realism Revisited,

2002 Grenning Gallery, Sag Harbor, NY, Local Landscapes and Unique Florals

2001 Grenning Gallery, Sage Harbor, NY, Sumptuous Still Lifes & Lush Landscapes  
The New Masters Show General Electric Headquarters, Fairfield, CT  
Museum of Maritime History, New London, CT, Whites of Waterford  
Flinn Gallery, Greenwich, CT, Three Generations of Whites

2000 Grenning Gallery, Sag Harbor, NY, Solo Show

1998-99 Grenning Gallery, Sag Harbor, NY, Group Shows

1997 Feathers Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ

1992 Kolomenskoy Museum, Moscow, Russia

1990 Hammer Gallery, New York, NY, Solo Show

1985 Florence Griswold Museum, Old Lyme, CT

1964 Lyman Allyn Museum, New London, CT

1960-present Solo and Group shows at...  
Grenning Gallery, Sag Harbor, NY  
Lyme Art Association, Old Lyme, CT  
Mystic Maritime Gallery, Mystic, CT  
Valardi Gallery, La Spezia, Italy  
Incontro Gallery, Cremona, Italy

## Art Education

1999-present The Florence Academy of Art, Florence, Italy  
1956-1987 Student of Ms. Nerina Simi, Florence, Italy  
1955-1980 Apprentice to Pietro Annigoni, Florence, Italy  
Studied watercolor painting with Ogden Pleissner

## Awards

Biennale Internazionale Career Award 2003

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