

DECEITS THAT DELIGHT

Everything sounds better in French. Translated into English as “deceive the eye”, “trompe l’oeil” is understood universally to be realistic imagery creating the optical illusion that the objects depicted exist in three dimensions. Although this French term appeared four centuries ago, the technique itself has existed since Greece’s classical period. Often integrated within architecture to evoke larger spaces or views into nature, trompe l’oeil really took off in the Italian Renaissance with masters like Andrea Mantegna, then gathered greater steam as the Dutch Old Masters produced thousands of realistic still life paintings.

Those pictures crossed the Atlantic as household decorations and were taken to



breathtaking new levels by such American masters as William Harnett (1848–1892) and John F. Peto (1854–1907). In fact, on view now through September 4 at New Jersey’s John F. Peto Studio Museum is its biennial juried exhibition of contemporary still life and trompe l’oeil. The tradition took on added force when American artists such as Richard Haas (b. 1936) began adorning the sides of urban buildings with massive glimpses of distant vistas.

Here we have gathered two dozen recent examples of artists deceiving our eyes. Few are as

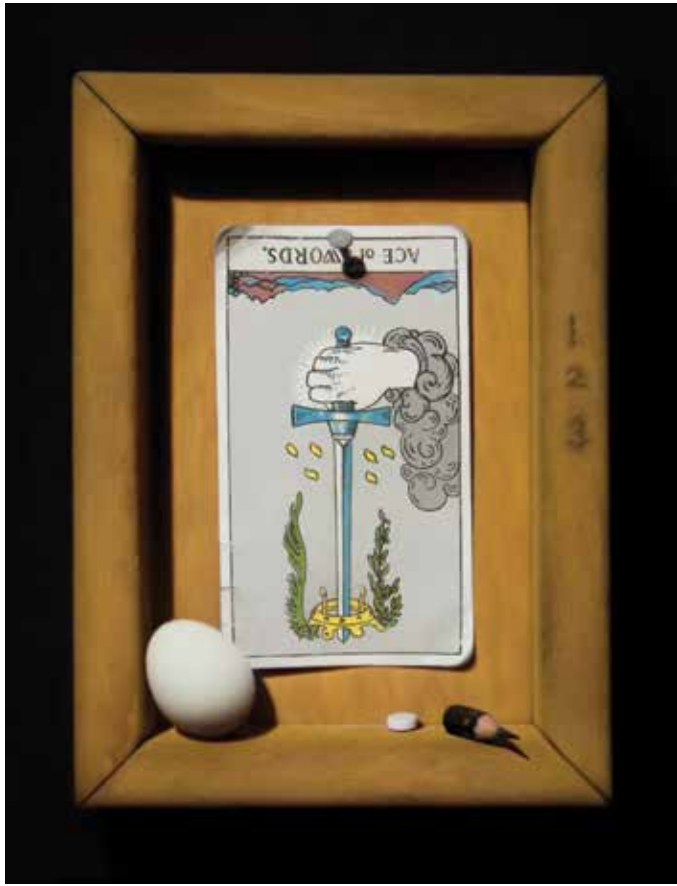
meticulously detailed as the roundel painted by Marina Dieul on this magazine’s cover; some are painted from photographs rather than life, one is sculpted, and another covers a giant brick wall. As with all vital traditions, trompe l’oeil is broad enough to be adapted by each artist to suit his or her particular objectives. We salute all of them and look forward to seeing what they create next.

Max Gillies is a contributing writer to *Fine Art Connoisseur*.



TONY CURANAJ (b. 1973), *Oblivion*, 2014, oil on canvas, 90 x 65 in., Private collection

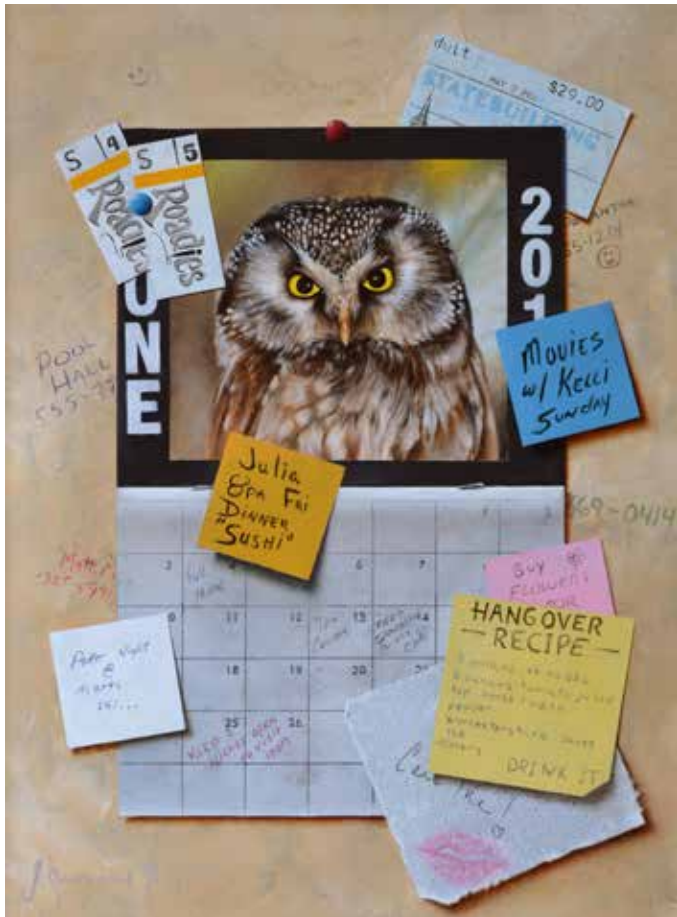
(OPPOSITE PAGE TOP) **WILLIAM ACHEFF** (b. 1947), *Santo Domingo*, 2015, oil on board, 6 x 8 in., Saks Galleries, Denver ■
(OPPOSITE PAGE bottom) **NOAH BUCHANAN** (b. 1976), *Embrace I*, 2010, oil on panel, 14 x 11 in., Collection of the Bay Area Classical Artist Atelier



DEVIN CECIL-WISHING (b. 1981), *Trompe l'oeil*, 2014, oil on panel, 10 x 8 in., Eleventh Street Arts, Long Island City, NY



MARINA DIEUL (b. 1971), *Souris 26*, 2016, oil and ink on panel, 6 in. (diameter), Available from the artist, who also created the painting on this magazine's cover.



JAY DAVENPORT (b. 1972), *Night Owl*, 2014, oil on panel, 16 x 12 in., Collins Galleries, Orleans, MA



OTTO DUECKER (b. 1948), *Georgia O'Keeffe*, 2011, oil on board, 19 x 15 1/2 in., Raven Gallery, Aspen



J.D. HILLBERRY (b. 1958), *Fooled*, 2013, charcoal, graphite, and carbon pencil on paper, 14 x 11 in., Collection of the artist

SCOTT FRASER (b. 1957), *Katy Didn't*, 2013, oil on board, 29 1/2 x 18 1/2 in., Raven Gallery, Aspen



ADAM FORFANG (b. 1978), *Matrix*, 2016, oil on panel, 9 x 12 in., John Pence Gallery, San Francisco





CARIN GERARD (b. 1958),
Gardenia Repose, 2016, oil on
linen, 72 x 84 in., Private collection



WARREN W. KESSLER (b. 1976), *Gone Fishing*, 2015, oil on Masonite panel,
10 x 8 in., Collection of Tom and Georgia Dawson



JEFFREY D. HARGREAVES
(b. 1949), *Solvent and Die Set*,
2013, oil on linen, 24 x 36 in.,
Private collection



JONATHAN KOCH (b. 1971), *One Orange Peeled*, 2009, oil on linen, 7 x 6 in., Private collection



SCOTT KICHE (b. 1974), *Time between Two Suns*, 2013, oil on board, 14 x 11 in., Collection of the artist



ALAN MAGEE (b. 1947), *Battlefield*, 2016, acrylic and oil on panel, 36 1/4 x 45 in., Forum Gallery, New York City



SEBASTIAN MARTORANA (b. 1981), *Yours, Mine & Ours* (overall and detail), 2010, Italian Carrara marble and steel hardware, middle towel measures 33 x 8 x 18 in, Photo courtesy of Smithsonian American Art Museum



LAURA KOLLER (b. 1954), *Transitions*, 2015, oil on board, 17 x 22 in., Manitou Galleries, Santa Fe



MICHAEL DEVORE (b. 1982),
The Attributes of Music,
2015, oil on canvas, 20 x 30
in., Canyon Fine Art, Santa Fe



TIM TYLER (b. 1958), *Puppetmaster*, 2015, oil on panel, 33 x 36 in., MTFA Contemporary Art, Santa Fe



JOHN MORFIS (b. 1976), *Carol's Stirrups*, 2015, oil on canvas, 24 x 18 in., Grenning Gallery, Sag Harbor, NY



ROA (b. 1976), *Mole*, building-sized mural painted last September as part of *Unexpected*, the first mural festival presented by 64.6 Downtown and JUSTKIDS in Fort Smith, Arkansas



ADAM VINSON (b. 1978), *Hoopla*, 2016, oil on panel, 28 x 24 in., On view at Sloane Merrill Gallery (Boston) through July 8