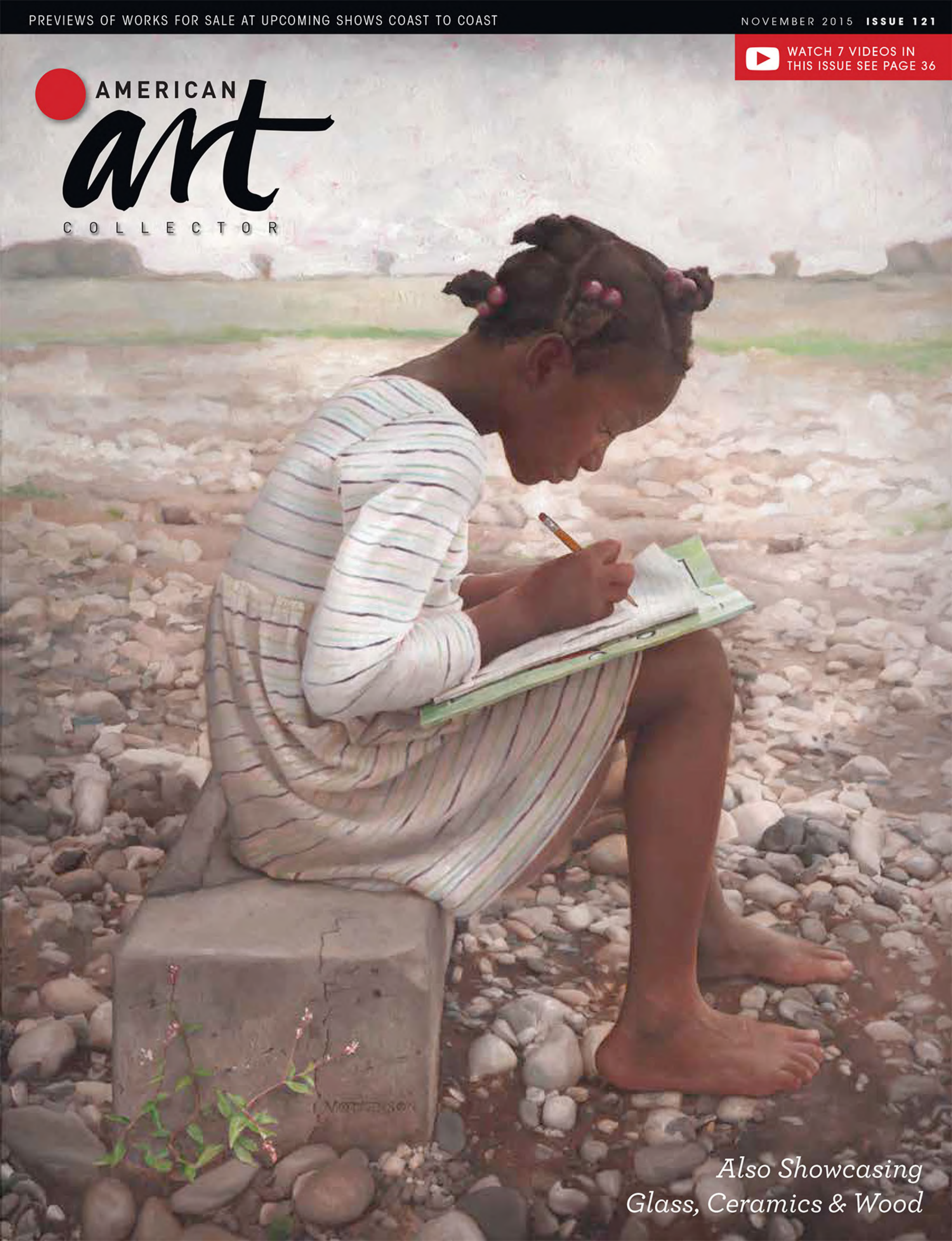


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Glass, Ceramics & Wood*



TJALF SPARNAAY

Larger than life

Taking commonplace items—such as cheeseburgers, BLT sandwiches, marbles, Barbie, crushed soda cans and tulip bunches wrapped in cellophane—Dutch artist Tjalf Sparnaay provides viewers with a different glimpse of reality by painting in a larger than life scale. In one work, *Barbie* stands nearly 5 feet tall; in another, titled *Big Burger*, a delectable double-stacked cheeseburger towers on a 47-by-71-inch canvas.

“It is a way to discover a subject beyond the average image and to show abstract moments and incredible, recognizable details as well,” Sparnaay says of painting in a large format. “I like to surprise the spectator with a new perspective and discovery of something he is supposed to know already. It is impressive to enlarge small things; it kicks me, too, still.”

Working in a style he calls “megarealism,” Sparnaay combines traditional 17th-century Dutch painting with modern American hyperrealism. To create his grand compositions, Sparnaay starts with “sketching’ photography.” Of the method, he shares, “Those





3

images are carefully composed but lack the final touch. The final image is not photographable directly; it needs several days to arrange details before it is 100 percent. I do that in Photoshop. I am not good in it, but I use it as a rough sketch, and it gives me the opportunity to visualize the image before starting to paint.”

After roughly transferring the photographic image to canvas, Sparnaay begins the painting process. “The filling in of this ‘map’ is the major thing, and that takes week or months, depending on the size of the work,” he says. “Glazing layers do give the work contrast and direction and are as important as the filling in.”

Bernarducci.Meisel.Gallery in New York City will open an exhibition of works by Sparnaay on November 19. In addition to *Barbie* and *Big Burger*, pieces on display will include *BLT Sandwich* and *Donuts*, which speak to American food culture, and works like *Marbles* and *Tulpen in Plastic II*. ●



4



Scan for VIDEO

1
Tjalf Sparnaay with his painting *FoodScape*.

2
Colagirl, oil on linen, 43 x 31"

3
BLT Sandwich, oil on linen, 30 x 47"

4
Donuts, oil on linen, 24 x 39"