UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 25 works on show Oct. 18-Nov. 1, 2007 Ann Long Fine Art 177 King Street Charleston, SC 29401 (843) 577-0447

Leo Mancini-Hresko

Classical contrasts in form and atmosphere

eo Mancini-Hresko combines a love of all painting disciplines with a fierce interest in the minute qualities of the paint to create these new oils that have a distinctly old-world feel to them.

"I've always been very interested in paint itself," says Mancini-Hresko. "The tactile, almost sculptural quality paint can attain along with attention to value, light and drawing. In short, I love the process...from making my paint or canvas, to a sketch done quickly, to the process of building and layering glazes and impastos. Of course, living here in Florence, Italy, has greatly affected my style of painting, as has being part of the academic environment here at the Florence Academy of Art."

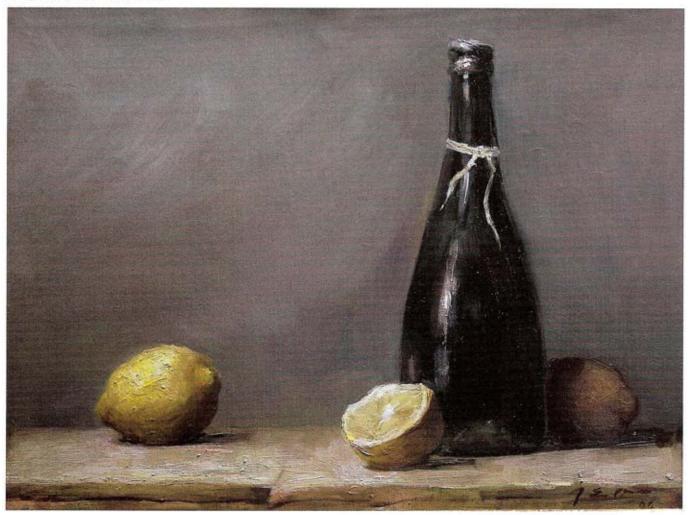
This love of process is what inspires all of these new paintings, from the small, loosely painted landscape sketches to the detailed and formal still lifes.

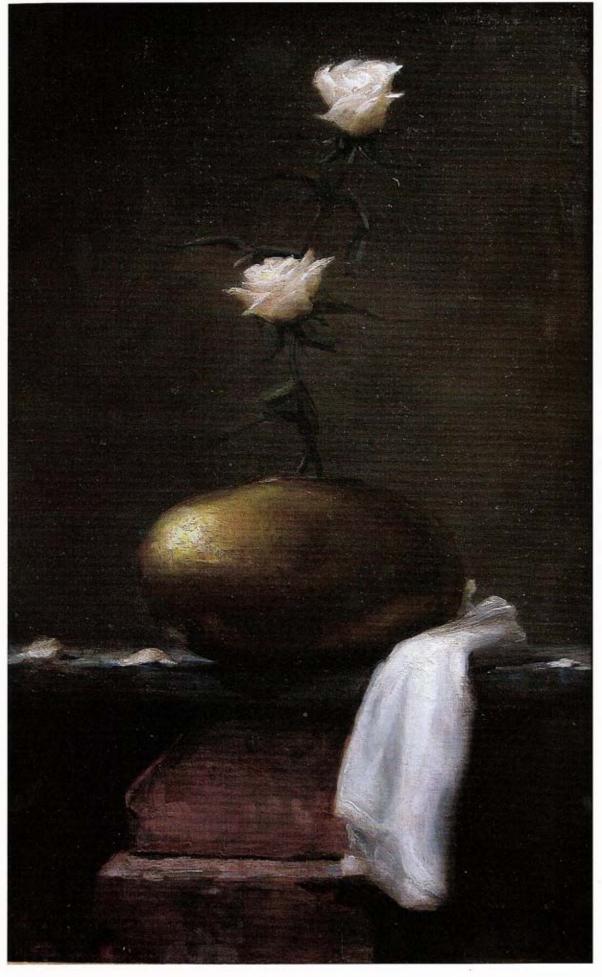
"A painting should be painted, you must see the process, the brushstrokes, creation of the ground, glazes and impastos," says Mancini-Hresko. "No two inches of any picture should be treated the same. What always drew me to painting was the contrast between rough and smooth, harsh and subtle. That is where beauty is. I hope to draw the viewer in, to see the world a moment in the way I do."

What also drives these paintings is a certain look and feel of the light which brings a subtle, muted tonal quality to the work.

"The quality of light has always

LIMONATA, OIL ON PANEL, 12 X 16"





Allegory, oil on panel, 32 x 28"



ORDERED CHAOS, OIL ON LINEN, 36 X 21"

The Gallery Says...

"Leo's confident brushwork and willingness to take risks in his approach has earned him the attention of many experienced collectors."

— Ann Long, Owner, Ann Long Fine Art



PORTRAIT OF YOUNG ARTIST, OIL ON LINEN, 18 X 24"



Studio Scene I, oil on linen, 16 x 28"

attracted me, whether over a dusty bottle in the studio or the morning haze and humidity in a landscape," says Mancini-Hresko. "Trying to paint the almost unperceivable opacity of air is what I'm doing. I'd like to think that I've found an interesting way of observing and translating to canvas the way I see the world."

What Mancini-Hresko seems to be after, along with showing the tactile quality of the paint, is creating powerful paintings that are rooted in strong design and composition. Whether it's the more impressionistic landscapes or the rigid requirements of a still life, these paintings exhibit a strong understanding of compositional skill.

"I want there to be an attention to design while never being formulaic," says Mancini-Hresko. "They are very labored but not heavy in effect. They are traditional paintings but done within our modern era. I've always tried to make every square-inch of my paintings a painting unto itself. To be a student and lover of nature but never a slave to it. I also like the contrast between thick and thin, color and saturated grays."

Collectors have been drawn to not just the classical style of the work but also Mancini-Hresko's ability to paint and capture the atmosphere that surrounds the objects in the paintings.

"I hope there is something for everybody," says Mancini-Hresko. "That being said, I'd like to imagine people finding my paintings to be quite classical in subject and technique but very modern in design and vision and being attracted to that duality. I enjoy painting the space between objects rather than just the objects themselves, as well as the interesting color contrasts and intensities I employ."

For a direct link to the
exhibiting gallery go to
www.americanartcollector.com



Small Medium Large 2007 \$1,600 \$4,200 \$9,800