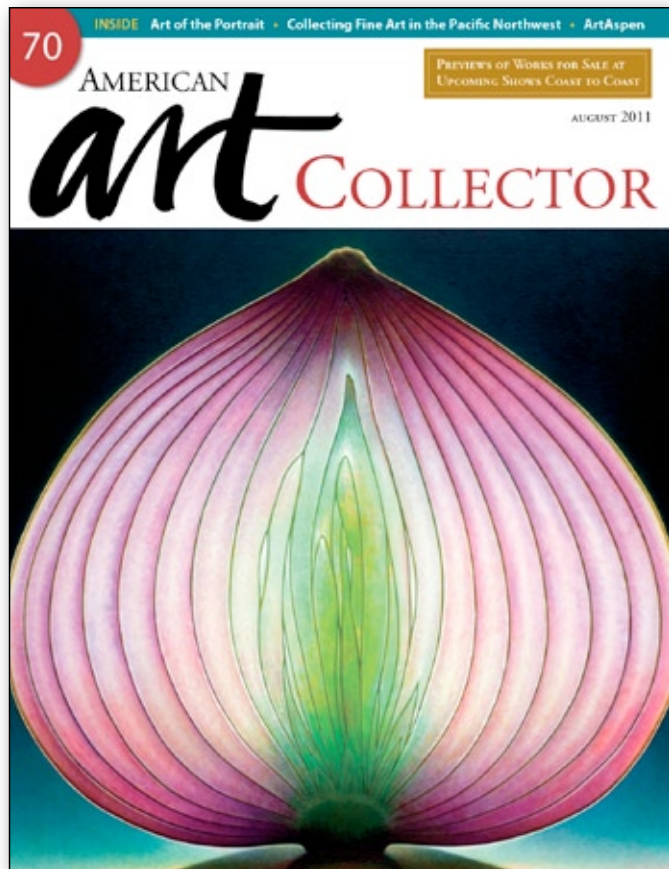


As seen in the  
August 2011 issue of

 AMERICAN  
*art* COLLECTOR



## UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 17 works

Aug. 6-Sept. 5, 2011

SOMA NewArt Gallery

31 Perry Street

Cape May, NJ 08204

(609) 898-7488

• SHOW LOCATION CAPE MAY, NJ



# VICTOR GRASSO

## Jersey charm



THE PICAROON, OIL ON LINEN, 36 X 26"



HURRICANE, WATERCOLOR ON PAPER, 23 X 34"

Victor Grasso finds his muse in the quirky characters and rich history of the seaside town of Cape May at the southern tip of New Jersey. The scenes in his latest photorealist work revolve around this shore community he calls home.

"I have used many locals as models to tell my stories," says Grasso. "Each piece reflects a situation relative to the Cape May experience; from a surfer getting beach-tagged, to a pirate finding Captain Kidd's treasure presumably buried in the sands at Cape May Point, to a birder reveling in the spotting of a species of bird indigenous to the shore."

Even as a child the self-taught artist viewed life from a different perspective, creating unexpected relationships between subject, composition and, ultimately, the viewer. In contrast to past imagery of mainly dark overtones mixed with a visceral sense of reality, this new series delivers a charming twist—a universal, quirky appeal that has

never been seen in Grasso's work.

"I wanted to reflect American life in a small seashore town featuring its many personalities," he explains. "Growing up in a resort community, I was able to pull from my own experiences to tell those timeless stories in which everyone can relate—from crazy, frenzied summer jobs to old tales of folklore."

SOMA NewArt Gallery will exhibit Grasso's latest oil and watercolor works as well as pencil and charcoal drawings beginning August 6. Based on his interest in Norman Rockwell and American illustration, the collection is tempered with sly humor and satire.

"I finally let a little bit of my lighter side in and went to work," says Grasso, "and the result is pure Cape May, written, directed, and painted by yours truly."

While each painting conveys its own message, Grasso says some are more personal, such as the self-portrait titled *The Picaroon*.

"This piece reflects a personality that will tickle viewers who know me and my work because I have put so much of myself into it," he remarks. "It seems that most viewers who have had an experience similar to the story I am telling in each piece will instantly relate to the message." ●

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to   
[www.americanartcollector.com](http://www.americanartcollector.com)

### Price Range Indicator

Our at-a-glance Price Range Indicator shows what you can expect to pay for this artist's work.

	Small	Medium	Large
2011	\$2,000-\$3,000	\$3,000-\$6,000	\$6,000-\$12,000

*The Gallery Says . . .*

“Victor Grasso demonstrates his extraordinary technical skills in what appears at first as a virtual homage to Norman Rockwell...He creates deft vignettes that are a convergence of humor and cultural references, each painting allowing full expression of his keen observation of the human character.”

— Janet Miller, Director, SOMA NewArt Gallery



LIBERTAS, WATERCOLOR ON PAPER, 28 X 22"