

# FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTERS



NICHOLAS EVANS-CATO (b. 1973), *Ground Work #1*, 2017, oil on linen, 12 x 24 in.

This is going to be a busy autumn. I am eagerly looking forward to the first *Figurative Art Convention & Expo* (FACE), to be convened by *Fine Art Connoisseur* in Miami November 8–11. In addition to all of the gifted artists sharing their technical secrets, we will be thrilled to welcome the remarkable guest speakers recently announced by our collaborator, Prof. Michael Pearce. They include Prof. Donald Kuspit, best known for his groundbreaking book *The End of Art*, and Dr. Elliot Bostwick Davis, who has curated major exhibitions at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, including the recent Jamie Wyeth retrospective. A few registration slots are still available, and details can be found at [figurativeartconvention.com](http://figurativeartconvention.com). Eric Rhoads and I really look forward to welcoming you to the lovely Biltmore Hotel in sunny Coral Gables this November.

Before then, I will be enjoying some artistic stimulation in my own city of New York. Set to occur October 13–14 is the Collectors for Connoisseurship (C4C) Arts Weekend, hosted by Windows to the Divine, a Denver-based foundation that encourages patronage and philanthropy through the arts. C4C is a national network of collectors and art lovers who meet

in person annually, interact through an online forum, and personify the importance of viewing art in person and collecting art themselves, thereby supporting professional artists directly.

On October 13, C4C will convene a symposium at the Metropolitan Museum of Art with the highly relevant theme *Patronage and Collecting: Then & Now*. Participating that afternoon will be three distinguished curators from the Metropolitan, the Frick, and the Morgan, C4C founder Shannon Robinson, art adviser Betsy Thomas, dealer Shelley Farmer, collector Gregory Peterson, and myself.

That evening we will head to the Salmandi Club to celebrate the opening of C4C's benefit exhibition and sale, *Revelry & Revelation: Realism Today*. On view there through October 23 will be impressive paintings by Nicholas Evans-Cato (including the magnificent Brooklyn Bridge scene illustrated here), Max Ferguson, David Fertig, Scott Fraser, Diana Horowitz, Michael Klein, Lucong, Jill Soukup, Skip Steinworth, Amy Weiskopf, and Vincent Xeus. For details on the C4C events, visit [windowstothedivine.org](http://windowstothedivine.org).

Shannon Robinson says, "We are thrilled to bring our collectors to New York to engage with artists and industry experts about the pressing need for patronage and connoisseurship in this rapidly changing global art market." As Eric and I often write, our art-world ecosystem of artists, collectors, dealers, curators, critics, auctioneers, appraisers, and others is only as strong as the relationships we build directly with each other. The more often we gather in places like Miami and New York City to exchange ideas and become more friendly, the better it is for the entire field.

See you this autumn, hopefully in both Manhattan and Coral Gables. ●

