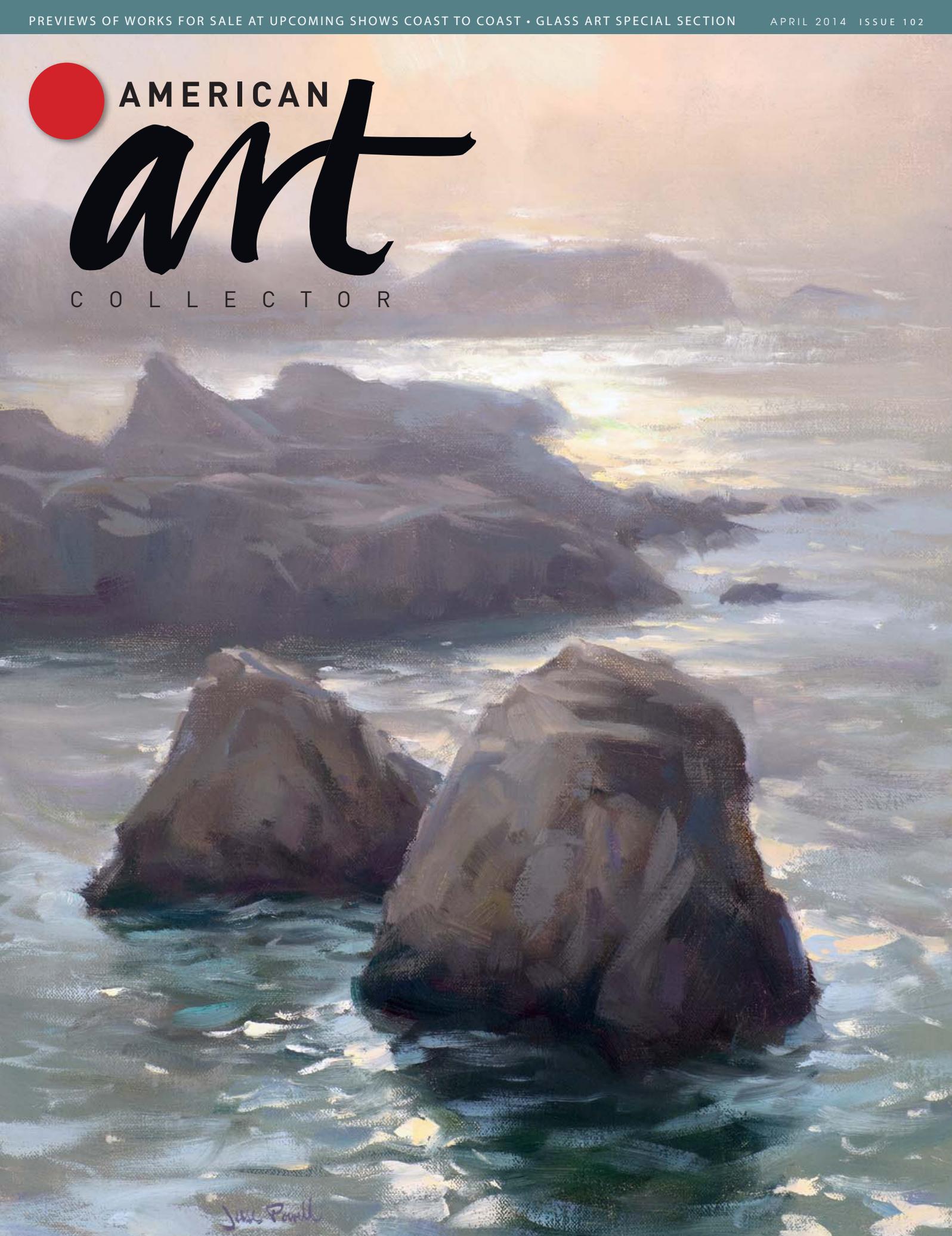


AMERICAN
art
C O L L E C T O R





MARKOW & NORRIS

Weaving colors

In the world of glass art, Markow & Norris—a single creative entity made up of Maryland artists Eric Markow and Thom Norris—have had a meteoric rise after they did something that was never thought possible: they wove glass.

In celebration of their 20 years of creating glass together—10 of those doing woven glass—Markow & Norris' fascinating glass art will be exhibited at a show at Chasen Galleries in Richmond, Virginia, from April 3 to 30. The show will serve as a homecoming for Markow, who grew up in the Richmond area, where his father would take him to the local library and they would check out paintings and artwork, just like books.

The sculpting duo famously clammed up when a CBS reporter—and other reporters who have since followed—asked the secret to their weave technique. The pair, now married, haven't changed their answer: "That's secret. We, and our collectors, like the magic and the mystery," Norris says.

Markow confirms and expands the need for secrecy: "It took us several years to get this tight glass weave that we do and it wasn't without a lot of pain. We learned from the issues that we had and we were able to push the boundaries of glass further than we ever thought possible. So that mystery is important to us."

Markow & Norris' show will feature a variety of their woven work, including some of their signature pieces like their woven kimonos, one designed for each season. Each kimono took six months to create and has its own color scheme that matches its corresponding season, with autumn featuring warm reds and oranges, and winter in whites and blues.

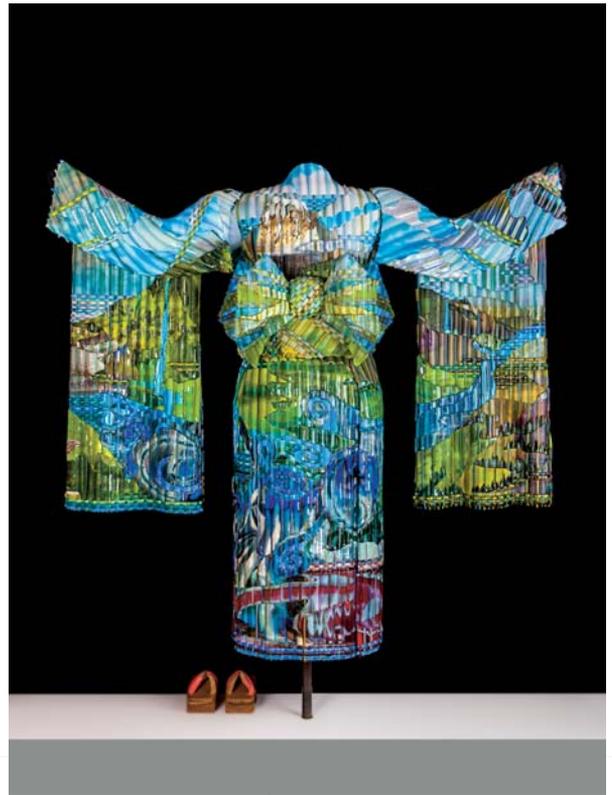
"One thing that has always touched and moved me with woven glass is the reaction we get from people," Markow says. "When we show these kimonos, they're personified in form, as if a person were wearing it. When we first started doing that it seems like it all went to another level. People were saying they could see a graceful spirit in



Eric Markow (left) and Thom Norris in their Maryland studio. Photo by Kevin Allen.



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2



3



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the glass...that it felt like their daughters. The reactions we would get were very respectful.”

Markow & Norris, who can interchange roles in their studio—though Markow usually handles the colors and Norris the layout and design—are also excited about their showstopper *Red Dragonfly* with its nearly 7-foot wingspan. The piece, featuring a translucent red weave on the wingtips, was designed to hang from a wall by only its feet, giving the impression that the giant bug landed there before crystalizing into a fabric of scarlet glass.

The artists, while modestly proud of their work, are not shy about encouraging people to come experience the glass in person. They’ve heard it time and time again. “The photos don’t do it justice,” Norris says. “The photos are great, but seeing it up close is another matter entirely. We hear that from everyone who comes to a show.” ●

1
Red Dragonfly, woven glass, 60 x 78". Photo by Michael Thad Carter.

2
Summer Zenith Kimono (back), woven glass, 66 x 48". Photo by Marni Harker.

3
Rainbow Peace Crane, woven glass, 23 x 40 x 36". Photo by Javier Agostinelli.

4
Confetti, woven glass, 19 x 19 x 5". Photo by Javier Agostinelli.