



AMERICAN  
*art*  
C O L L E C T O R



DISPLAY UNTIL 8/28/14

\$6.95

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ERIC G. THOMPSON

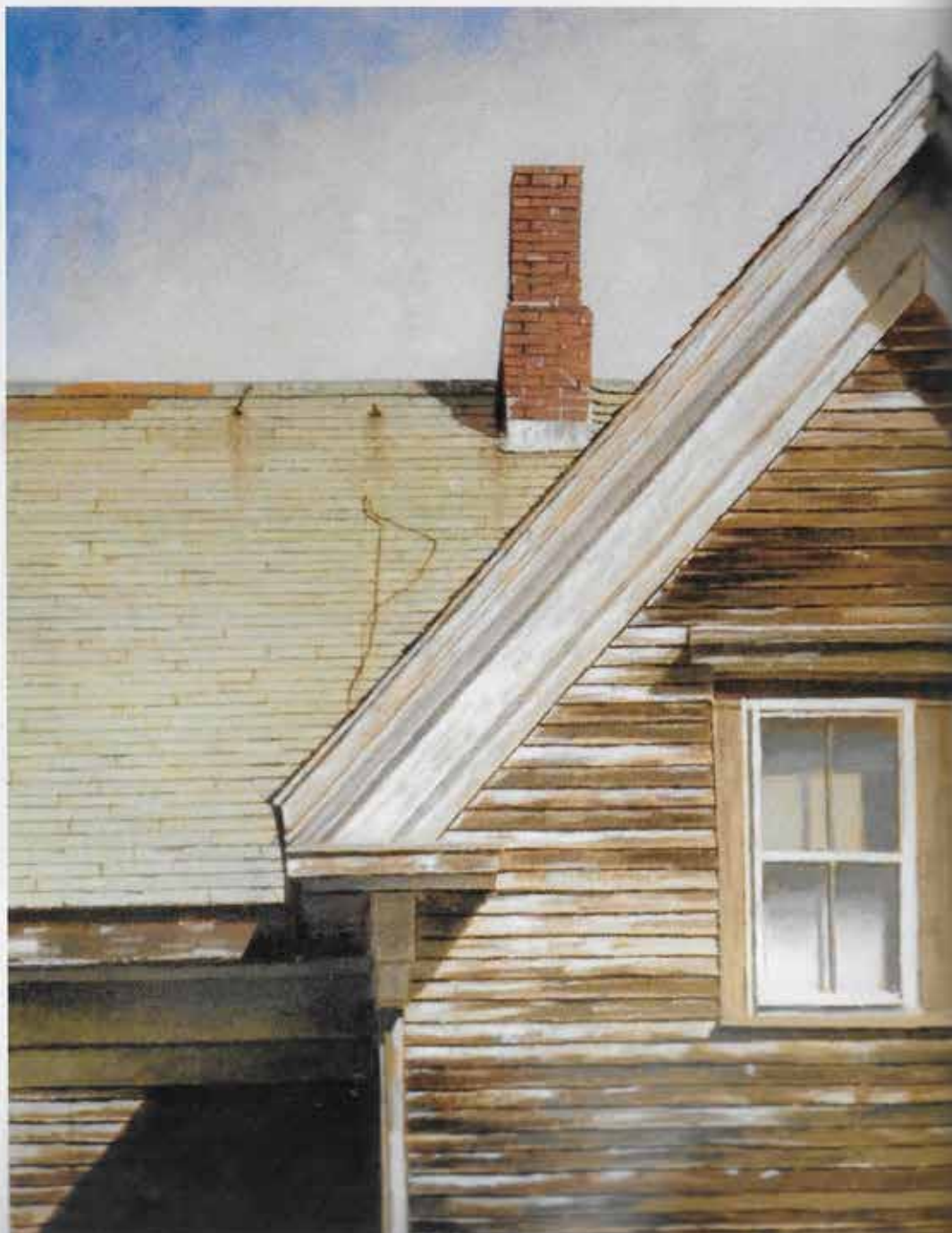
# The boundless moment

In the scenic and figurative paintings of Eric G. Thompson is a calmness or serenity that creeps across the canvas—a moment of quiet reflection that can move a viewer away from the activity of a long or busy day. Take for instance the figure in *Raven's Hair*, which Thompson says could act as the centerpiece of his upcoming show at Matthews Gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

"She's kind of daydreaming or lost," says Thompson of the black-haired woman laying eyes shut atop a bed. "Almost half asleep or imagining a moment. It's a peaceful scene on a bed almost as if she's about to drift off into sleep."

The places Thompson paints carry the same peacefulness and quietude. Many times the paintings are of homes such as his paintings *Strong Bones*, *Red House*, and *Spring City House*. "In some of pieces with the houses there is a bit of loneliness or aloneness. It's a bit of an Edward Hopper feel, a lonely kind of mood," he says.

Aside from the feeling that is found in Thompson's work, the artist has been focusing on marrying tight and loose aspects. For example, he has noticed in the figurative pieces there is a focus on the face; it's more detailed and tight, then defusing out from the focus is a more painterly feel with lost edges. Thompson also finds that this new approach allows him to carry the viewer's eye where he wants it to go.





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1  
*Strong Bones*,  
oil on panel,  
20 x 16"

2  
*Spring City House*,  
oil on canvas,  
16 x 20"

3  
*Near the Road*,  
oil on panel,  
8 x 10"

4  
*Raven's Hair*,  
oil on panel,  
24 x 18"

really been focused on the last three or four years," Thompson says. "I used to paint tighter; the whole painting would be a lot more in focus. I'm trying to direct that focus into certain areas and that creates more energy... It comes alive because of the loose, gestural strokes toward the outside. There is an energy about that."

The exhibit at Matthews Gallery takes place August 15 to 28, with a reception on opening night from 5 to 7 p.m. Titled *The Boundless Moment: New Paintings by Eric G. Thompson*, the show pairs words from some of America's leading poets with new works by the artist.

"I was reading [Robert] Frost's poem *A Boundless Moment* and it evoked Eric's paintings. There's a similar quiet spirit in Eric's paintings that echo the words of some of the great American poets like Frost, Elizabeth Bishop, Robert Lowell, and Emily Dickinson," says gallery owner Lawrence Matthews.

As well, two poet laureates will give a discussion during the second week of the show where they will compare and contrast written poetry with Thompson's artwork. "I think that will be interesting for me," says Thompson, "because I have one way to paint and have a vision and I'm interested in seeing what they pull from it." ●