

GREENING

Ben Fenske 2016



**Ben Fenske** (b. 1978) is hitting another level in his work this year, with two distinct series of paintings. His muse and girlfriend, Beatrice Champ is featured in a spectacular series of nude and semi-nude paintings. One can follow this intense and talented artist from a smaller sketch inspired by interesting light, as seen in **Blue Light Nude** to the fully finished and large composition **Drying Hair**. Like a complete symphony, this series of ten paintings has bright movements, somber notes and exuberance. Overall, the 'Bea Nudes' leave us thrilled to show his work, and delighted to provide a venue for his dedicated research into beauty.

Clearly motivated by his new surroundings, there is also a series of paintings created in and around his new home in Chianti, the 'At Home' paintings. Following on from last year's hugely successful **Lunch Table**, Fenske painted **Summer Afternoon**, which depicts his friends in a flickering mid-summer Tuscan light. This is an effective multi figure composition AND a beautiful ebullient work of art. There are several paintings of the laundry on line, which edge towards abstraction as he revisits the subject a third and fourth time. Several florals from these 'At Home' paintings knock on Van Gogh's and Cezanne's door, but remain Fenskes through and through.

As Fenske approaches the end of his thirties, his career is continuing to catch the eye of important institutions, having been selected to show at the National Portrait Gallery in London this summer as part of the BP Portrait Award contest. Later this year, the Grenning Gallery, with Fenske's guidance and leadership, is hosting four of Russia's most notable painters on a plein air painting foray to Maine and the Hamptons in October. He has also invited several important American painters to join the group. This trip will culminate in a big show on November 6th.

Laura Grenning, August 2016

**GRENNING** | GALLERY

Cover: "Bedroom Nude" | Ben Fenske | 39.3 x 47.2 inches | Oil | 2016

Right: Detail "Red Shirt" | Ben Fenske | 39.4 x 31.5 | Oil | 2016

#### Selected Exhibitions

**2016:** BP Portrait Award Exhibition, National Portrait Gallery, London, UK & Usher Gallery, Lincoln, UK

**2007-2016:** Solo Show, Grenning Gallery, Sag Harbor, NY

**2014:** Solo Show, Grenning Gallery @ the Union League Club, Sept. 2014, NYC

**2013:** "Green Noise" Group Show, Open Air Invitational at Plyos Museum, Ivanovo Region of Russia, sponsored by the Russian Ministry of Culture

**2012:** Catalina: The Wild Side Art Show and Sale

**2011:** Christies Auction House, Mar. and Sept. NYC

**2006:** Group Show Eleanor Ettinger Gallery, NYC

**2006:** Group Show, Anne Long Fine Art, Charleston, SC

**2006:** Solomon Gallery, Dublin Ireland

**2005-present, annually:** Florence Academy of Art, Alumni Exhibit

#### Publications

"Inside, Outside" by John O'Hern, **American Art Collector**, Aug. 2013

"Bottled Magic", **Fine Art Connoisseur**, Aug. 2013

"Best 25 Living Artists", **American Artist**, Sept. 2012

"12 Artists to Watch", **American Artist**, Dec. 1, 2011

"The Interiors and Figurative Work of Ben Fenske: A critical Look at Raw Talent", **American Artist**, Dec. 2010

"Ben Fenske: Six Basic Tools of Landscape Painting" by Stephen Doherty, **Workshop**, Winter 2009

#### Education

Russian Academy of Art

Florence Academy of Art

Studio of Joseph Paquet

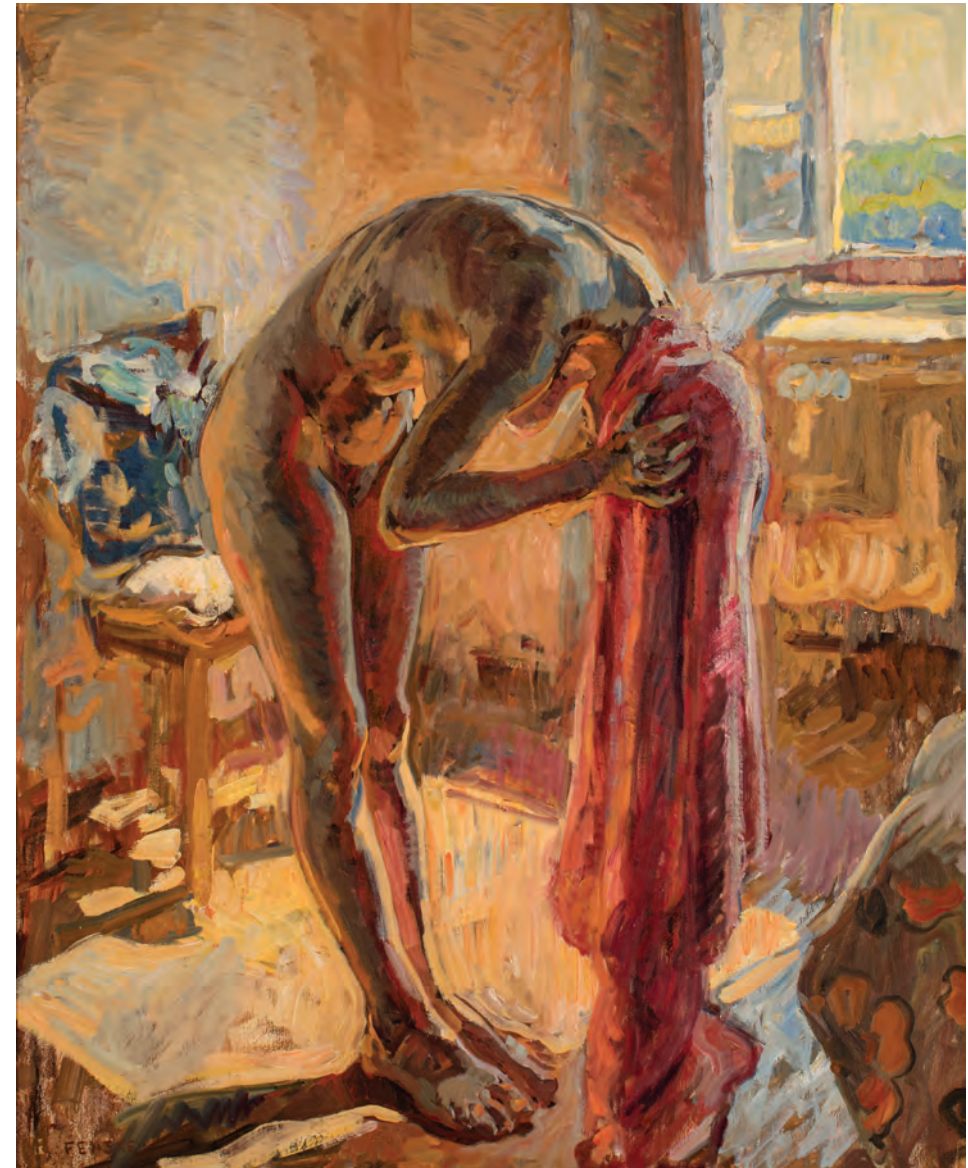
Bougie Studio in Minnesota





“Roses”

Ben Fenske | 23.6 x 19.7 | Oil | 2016



“Drying Hair”

Ben Fenske | 43.3 x 35.4 | Oil | 2016



"Melon"

Ben Fenske | 27.6 x 35.4 | Oil | 2016



"Summer Afternoon"

Ben Fenske | 39.3 x 47.2 | Oil | 2016



"Lilacs II"  
Ben Fenske | 23.7 x 19.5 | Oil | 2016



"Floral Sheets"  
Ben Fenske | 35.4 x 43.3 | Oil | 2016



"Pomegranate Still Life"  
Ben Fenske | 25.5 x 31.5 | Oil | 2016



"Nude, 2015"  
Ben Fenske | 43 x 35 | Oil | 2015



"Yellow Dress"  
Ben Fenske | 27.5 x 35 | Oil | 2015



"Bedroom Nude"  
Ben Fenske | 39.4 x 47.2 | Oil | 2016



“Red Shirt”

Ben Fenske | 39.4 x 31.5 | Oil | 2016



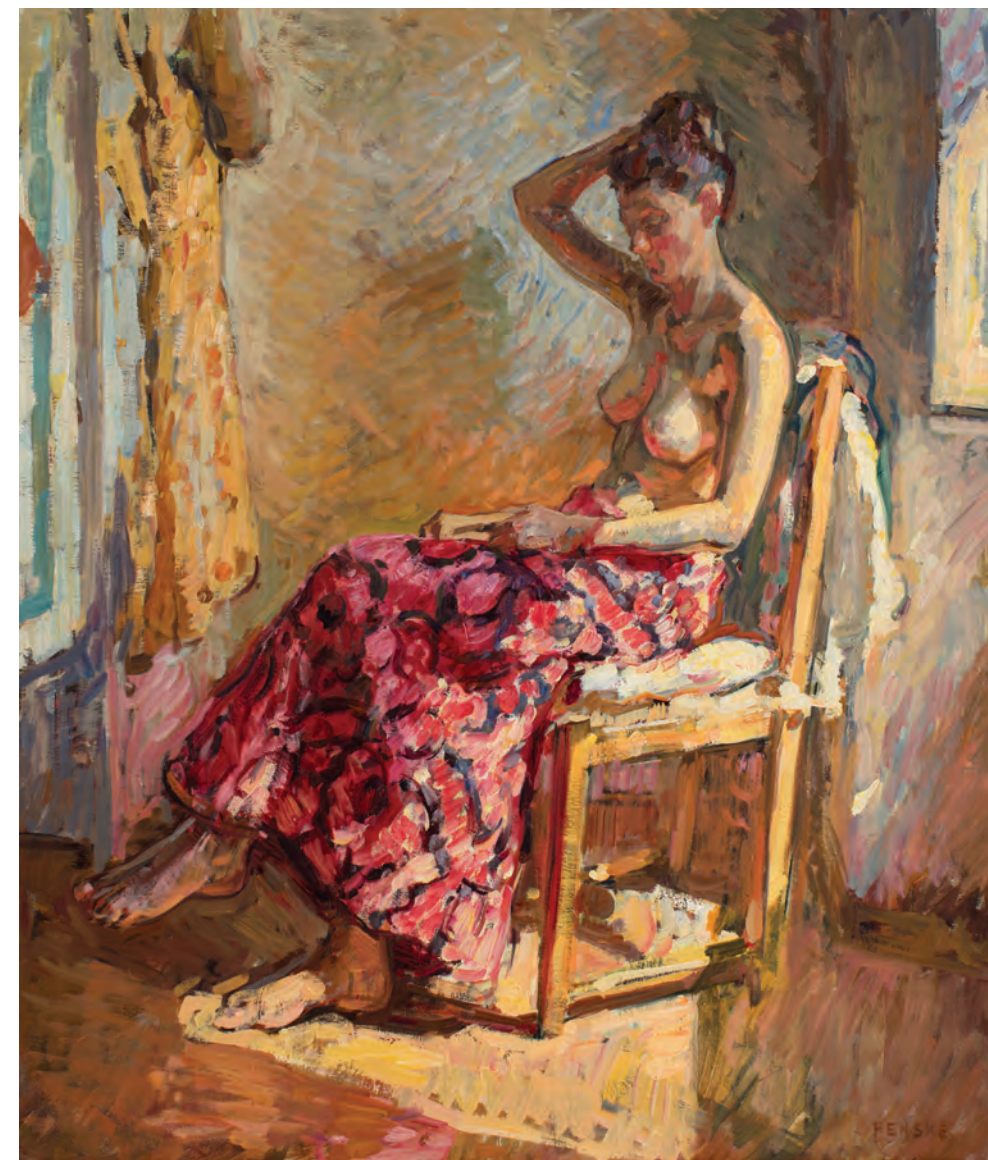
“Laundry on a Line”

Ben Fenske | 39.4 x 55 | Oil | 2016





"Bea, Sunset Road"  
Ben Fenske | 39.4 x 59 | Oil | 2016



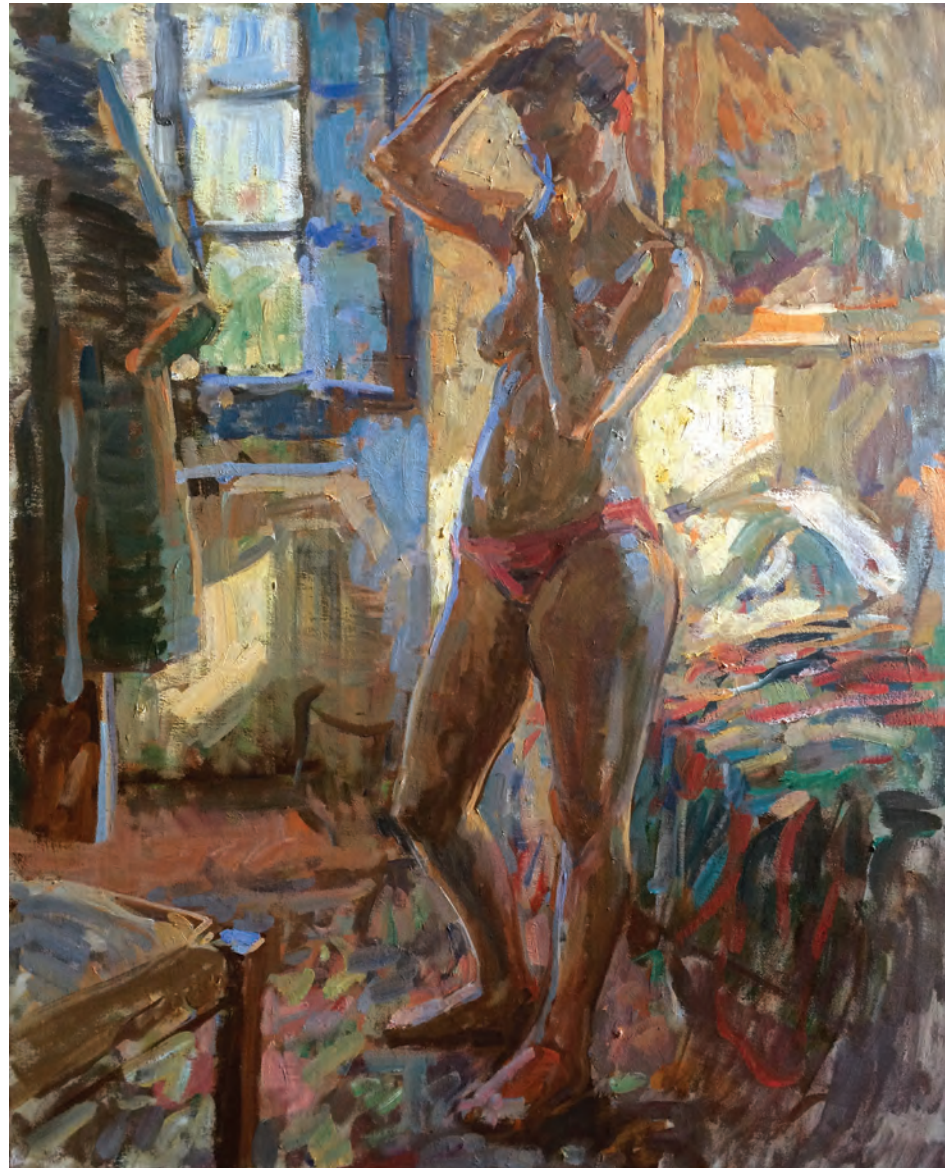
"Pink Skirt"  
Ben Fenske | 41.3 x 35.4 | Oil | 2016



"Mirror"  
Ben Fenske | 31 x 26 | Oil | 2014



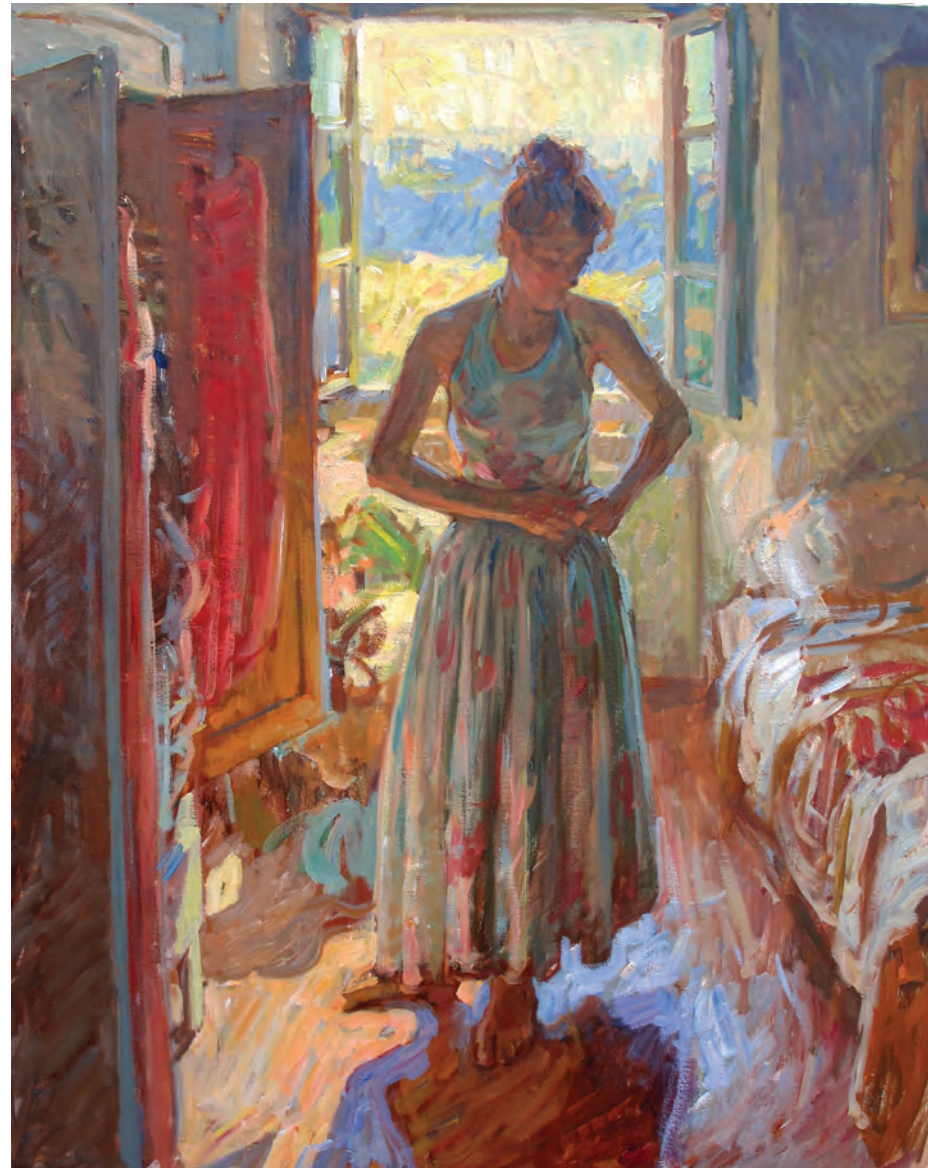
"Daydream"  
Ben Fenske | 35.4 x 43.3 | Oil | 2016



“Blue Light Night, Bea”  
Ben Fenske | 31.5 x 25.5 | Oil | 2016



“Dociola Drive”  
Ben Fenske | 35.4 x 43.3 | Oil | 2016



“Bea, Sunny Room”  
Ben Fenske | 39.4 x 31.5 | Oil | 2015

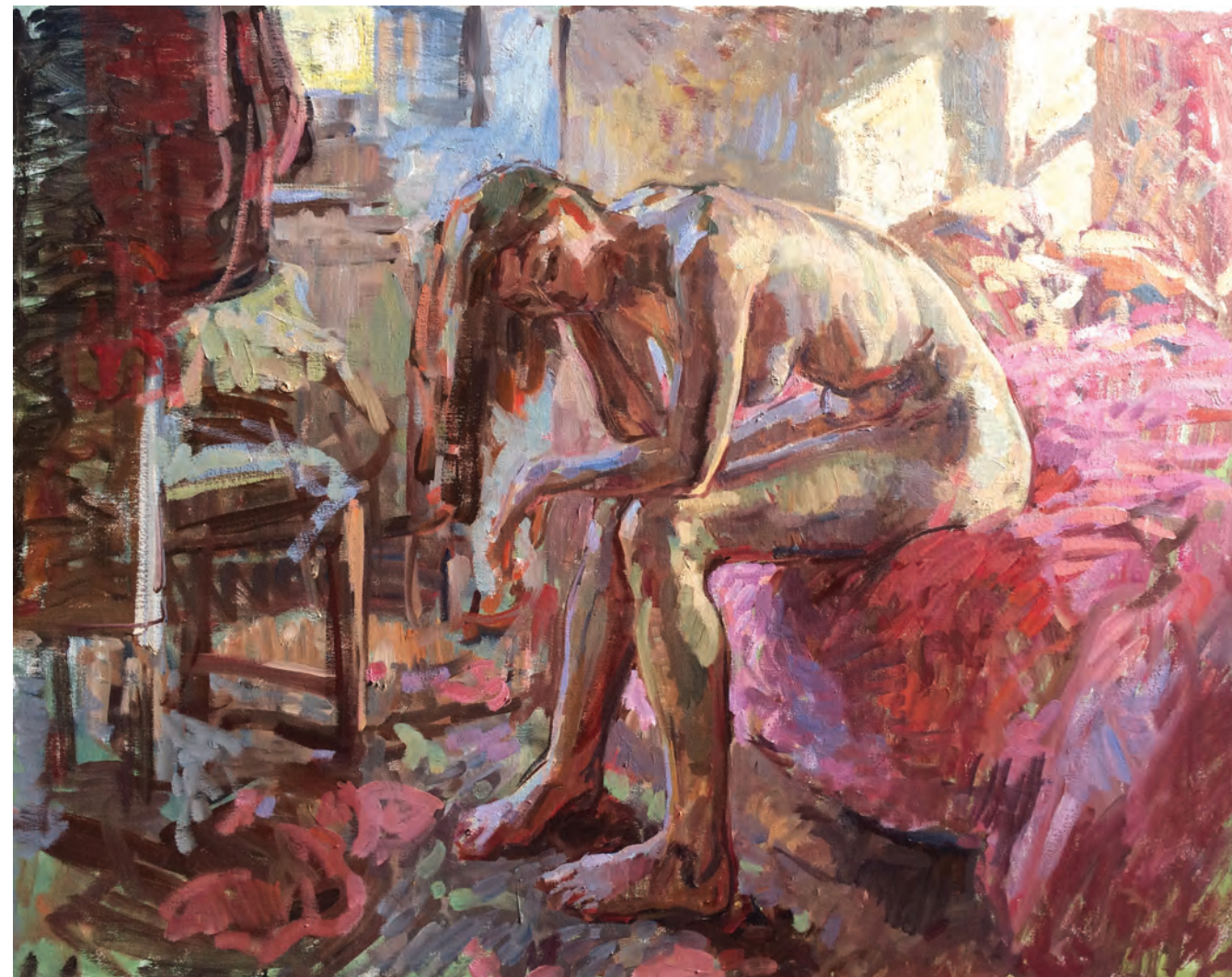


“Lunch Table”  
Ben Fenske | 39.4 x 47.2 | Oil | 2015

“Boathouse, Evening Light”  
Ben Fenske | 25.5 x 31.5 | Oil | 2015



“Short Beach”  
Ben Fenske | 28 x 35.5 | Oil | 2014



“Sitting Nude, Bea”  
Ben Fenske | 27.5 x 35.4 | Oil | 2016



"Lilacs"  
Ben Fenske | 25.6 x 21.7 | Oil | 2016



"Afternoon Dock"  
Ben Fenske | 31.5 x 39.5 | Oil | 2015



"Melon"  
Ben Fenske | 27.6 x 35.4 | Oil | 2015



"Nude Sleeping"  
Ben Fenske | 35.4 x 43.3 | Oil | 2015



"Boat Yard, Lifting Fog"  
Ben Fenske | 27.5 x 35.25 | Oil | 2015



"Still Life"  
Ben Fenske | 25.5 x 31.5 | Oil | 2015



"Kitchen"  
Ben Fenske | 27.5 x 35.4 | Oil | 2016





“At the Beach”

Ben Fenske | 8 x 12 | Oil | 2014



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[www.grenninggallery.com](http://www.grenninggallery.com)