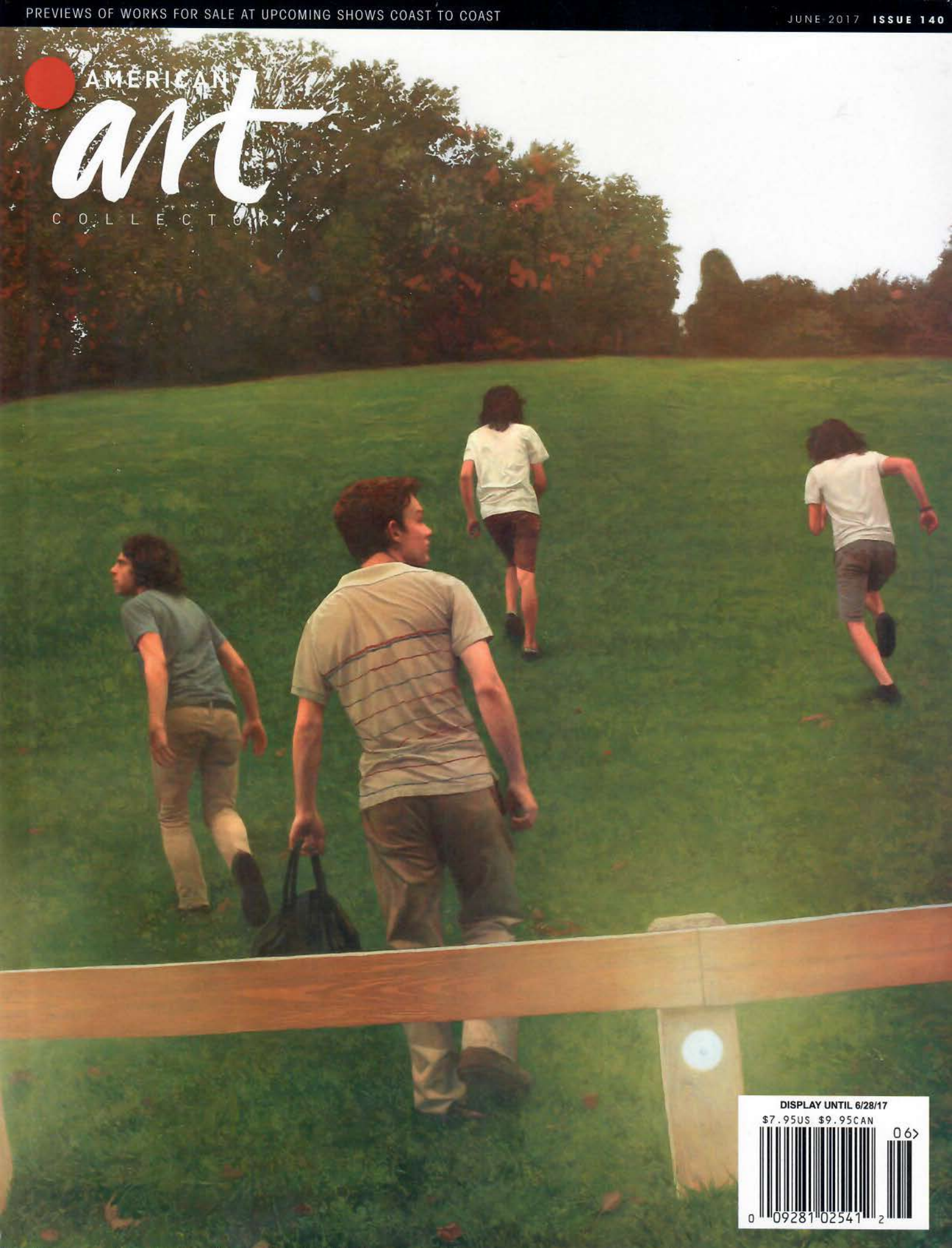


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ALEX ROULETTE

Unnerving unreality

The hopeful energy of suburbia, before disappointment has infected its youthful residents, gives an uncanny aura to Alex Roulette's depictions of everyday life. "The youthful figures in my paintings are perhaps going on their own journey to find something better or simply find their place within the expanse," Roulette says. "The next discovery could be down the road or just over the hill."

Roulette begins with a particular emotion in mind, then he works backward to discover the visual and narrative cues that best convey that emotion. He says, "I'm interested in nonlinear narratives such as in Proust's *In Search of Lost Time*, where

the past and present blur together. I have a fascination with the concept of involuntary memory, where encounters in everyday life evoke recollections of the past without conscious effort."

His works eerily capture moments that never actually happened, and Roulette uses a process of photographic collaging to render his paintings in a realistic way.

To achieve this unnerving atmosphere, Roulette says, "I think back to moments traveling when time felt blurry and endless. Days spent on trains and buses, making it easy to lose a sense of place. Looking through windows to get a glimpse of the countless unknown places passing by. Each

one containing worlds which I will never set foot in, nevertheless my imagination allows stories to form against these backdrops. Memories arrive without choice and blur the past with the present. The train will inevitably pull into its final destination in the dark. Waking the next morning with a mind full of fog, the surrounding sights and smells unfamiliar. A feeling of unease and nervousness takes over. It is as though you look down toward the net that would be there to catch your fall, now it appears to have too many holes. It no longer feels safe."

Roulette's paintings will be on view at George Billis Gallery from May 30 to June 24. ●





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1
Crossed, oil on
linen, 34 x 50"

2
Reflectors,
oil on panel,
32 x 36"

3
Leaves, oil on
linen, 20 x 28"

4
Fences, oil on
linen, 30 x 24"



3



4