



"Seasons, Snow and Dust"
by Nina Tichava

THE ARTIST: Nina Tichava

THE PUBLISHER: Bruce McGaw Graphics (888-4BMCGAW, www.bmcgaw.com)



Photo of Nina Tichava
by Scott Dugan

THE REASON:

"Tichava's paintings have an organic quality that resonates with the viewer on a very deep level," says Amy Wessan,

president of Bruce McGaw Graphics. "Her soft petal and leaf motifs work well with today's trends towards eco-design. Earthen palettes of twig, bark and sand colors mixed with floating, natural forms are in much demand in today's home furnishings."

THE STORY: Nina Tichava was raised in rural New Mexico and the Bay Area of San Francisco. The reflections of these dualities—from country to city, from pragmatist to artist, from nature to technology—are essential to and evident in her paintings. Tichava's work has garnered space at the Museum of Fine Arts in Santa Fe, N.M., as well as a grant from New York's Pollock-Krasner Foundation in 2006. She is currently working on a project titled "Paintings For Place," creating large, site-specific paintings for homes and businesses that use the spaces themselves as inspiration for the works.

THE STYLE: "I describe my style as abstract-figurative," Tichava says. "My work is often referential to natural forms or has actual drawings from the shadows of plants, trees and grasses. I blend drawings and images from my imagination with studies of objects, as well as patterning inspired by textiles. I also use collaging with metal and paper, which hints at a third dimension on my surfaces."



"Miami Bliss" by Alicia Bock

THE ARTIST: Alicia Bock

THE PUBLISHER: ArtFolio West, by Bentley Publishing Group (800-227-1666, www.bentleypublishinggroup.com/artfoliowest)



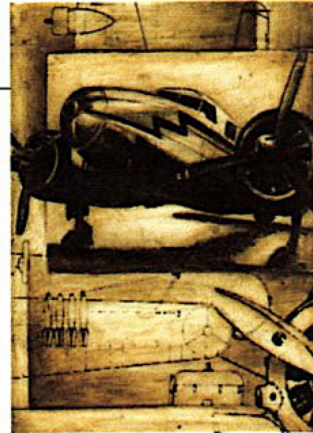
THE REASON:

"Alicia's art bridges nostalgia with a fresh and contemporary approach," says Harriet Rinehart Flehinger of Bentley Publishing group. "Her ability to take everyday

subjects and present them in a modern yet romantic way is among the most exciting aspects of her upcoming art. Her textures are irresistibly soft, and her colors are translucent. Her work is unpretentious, yet polished and captivating. But most of all, it's honest."

THE STORY: "I am a completely self-taught photographer and have been pursuing my art for the last four years," Bock says. Her photographs have received several awards in Michigan fine-art competitions and exhibits, and her artwork has been published in numerous magazines and design Web sites. Her work can also be found in private collections throughout the world. As for what's next, Bock says she would like to bring more of an urban edginess to her work.

THE STYLE: "I like to think of it as fresh and modern with vintage inspiration," Bock says.



"Trans America I" by Ethan Harper

THE ARTIST: Ethan Harper

THE PUBLISHER: Old World Prints (804-213-0600, www.oldworldprintsltd.com)



THE REASON:

"Ethan's work continues to evolve and improve with each introduction. The reason to watch:

His work sells," says Lonnie Lemco, Vice President of Sales for Old World Prints.

THE STORY: "Even at a young age, I knew that art would be my profession," says Harper, who attended the Illustration Academy, where he studied under world-renowned illustrators John English, Chris Payne and Gary Kelly. "Recently, I have been incorporating a sketchy, impressionistic look into my work, with lines that show the development of the piece and give it a sense of energy," Harper says.

THE STYLE: "My style has evolved immensely over the years, moving away from the traditional toward a more contemporary look," Harper explains. "This change has enabled me to become very versatile as an artist, allowing me to explore a variety of different techniques. With a background in traditional oil painting, I also try to incorporate classical themes and techniques in my work regardless of the subject matter or style. I love to experiment with new techniques and mediums, often combining them together to create new and unconventional looks."