

## Andrea Kowch Sells Out Show Before It Opens at RJD Gallery

August 22, 2017 by Pat Rogers

Even before the doors open, <u>Andrea Kowch</u>'s solo show at RJD Gallery is sold out with the exception of a single painting. All of the paintings were purchased before the details of the compositions were fully conceived, according to the gallery.

"Andrea Kowch: Into the Wind" opens on Saturday, August 26, 2017 with an Opening Reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Kowch is expected to attend. The artist is based in Michigan, whose rural landscapes and worn farmhouses are frequent settings for lives imagined in her figurative paintings. An American Magical Realist, Kowch's paintings are frequently compared to those by Andrew Wyeth.

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"Gust" by Andrea Kowch. Acrylic on canvas,  $18 \times 14$  inches. Courtesy of RJD Gallery.

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It's not an unusual occurrence for Kowch to sell out her shows before they open, explained RJD gallerist Richard J. Demato. Her narrative figurative paintings are filled with details and are months in the making as the artist intuitively creates her art.

"For several years collectors have chosen to pursue, and purchase, Andrea's artwork prior to its completion, sight unseen, to assure themselves they were able to acquire one that would fit both their home, and their budget," Demato said. "The growth of her notoriety, museum awareness, and being chosen for numerous covers of magazines, podcasts, and interviews, has only intensified the situation, and the demand for ownership of her treasured artworks. Her next available unsold artwork, would now be third quarter 2018."

Anticipating the lack of available paintings for the long-planned exhibition, RJD is releasing two new limited edition prints coinciding with the exhibition. Signed prints of the paintings *Gust* and *Nocturne* now take their place among a series of limited edition prints of paintings. The originals are currently exhibited as part of "Into the Wind," located in a gallery space on the second floor.

The prints also sell swiftly, with several editions on view close to selling out, Demato said. Limited Edition signed prints were made of paintings by Kowch that include *Sojourn*, *The Courtiers*, *The* 

Feast, Light Keepers, In the Distance, Night Watch and others.

"To seek to meet that demand, and enhance her ability to appease a larger collector base, we have created and still offer the limited edition, hand numbered and signed, archival prints on many of her paintings, until the series is sold out," he said. "Several now only have one to three prints left and will end the series. No further print editions will be made from these paintings."

"Andrea Kowch: Into the Wind" presents some of the most realistically rendered paintings to date and some of the smallest works. One pair of paintings measures  $8 \times 8$  inches each; another set features paintings of  $10 \times 10$  inches. While these paintings are intimate in size, the tales told are just as expansive as the larger paintings Kowch is known for.

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"Flame" by Andrea Kowch, 2017. Acrylic on canvas,  $10 \times 10$  inches. Courtesy of RJD Gallery.

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The paintings are made using models who are a trio of close friends of Kowch. Their faces almost feel as familiar as family to long-standing fans of Kowch's work. In the exhibition, both farmland and sea scenes provide settings for human dramas to unfold in the new works on view.

To help celebrate the paintings' arrival (and completion), collectors will fly in to The Hamptons from spots around the globe and will receive their first look at their new paintings, alongside those attending the exhibition, according to the gallery.

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"High Tide" by Andrea Kowch, 2017. Acrylic on canvas, 8 x 8 inches. Courtesy RJD Gallery.

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"We're very proud and excited to have Andrea Kowch join us to celebrate her sold out show 'Into the Wind'," Demato said.

On view in adjacent gallery spaces are paintings by gallery artists that include <u>Margo Selski</u>, <u>Rick Garland</u>, <u>Jackee Sandelands-Strom</u>, <u>Drew Ernst</u>, <u>Gabriel Moreno</u> and others. An exhibition of new paintings by Columbian artist and poet <u>Armando Valero</u> is presented in the adjacent front gallery. "El Viento Inquieto" includes five vibrant figurative paintings.

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**BASIC FACTS:** "Andrea Kowch: Into the Wind" has an Opening Reception on Saturday, August 26, 2017 from 6 to 8 p.m. with the artist expected to be in attendance. The solo show will remain on view through October 1, 2017. RJD Gallery is located at 2385 Main Street, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. <a href="https://www.rjdgallery.com">www.rjdgallery.com</a>

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