

Rehs Galleries, Inc.

New York, New York

FEW GALLERIES TODAY are steeped in the tradition of selling fine-art masterworks for as long as Rehs Galleries in New York City. Rehs is standing the test of time in offering the finest in 19th and 20th century art.

When asked what his biggest influence was when he entered the business of

fine art, co-owner Howard Rehs exclaims, "My father! Our gallery was founded in the 1930s by my grandfather, and at that time we were one of the largest 'wholesale' galleries in the United States. My father entered the business in the early 1960s. From a young age, I would come into the gallery to 'work' — okay, play. During my teens, I would occasionally spend a summer working in the gallery, so the seed was planted early."

Howard's extensive background made him eminently qualified to continue the gallery's legacy. He graduated from New York University with a major in art history and a minor in psychology. "I then spent a year studying in London," he says. "Actually, I was dropped off in September of 1981 and told by my father that I was responsible for buying the gallery's inventory. Talk about being thrown into the deep end! At that time, the gallery's main focus was on British Victorian art (1850 – 1920)" — and it



EN SAMER — JEAN CHARLES CAZIN (1841–1901), OIL ON CANVAS, 22 X 26 IN.

became the focus of his study. He now works in the gallery with his father, Joseph Rehs. Together, says Howard, they handle "the buying, selling, photographing, web site maintenance, research, etc. — we do it all."

In time, Howard's interests moved toward the French 19th century artists, with a focus on the Academic/Realist artists. As a result, he says, "we now specialize in French Realist/Barbizon/Academic & British Victorian works of art. We exhibit works by many of the plein-air artists of those periods, including works by Dupre, Richet, Cazin, Diaz, etc." A unique aspect of Rehs Galleries is its ongoing scholarly research devoted to 19th century Academic artists.

Today, Rehs Galleries is still a world leader, specializing in French & British Realist and Academic works from 1850 to 1920. "Our gallery," says Rehs, "prides itself on the quality and condition of the works we offer." In the

late 1930s the gallery was the largest importer of 18th and 19th century paintings from Europe — nearly 600 paintings per month, mostly to U.S. galleries. They now cater to the private collector.

Rehs Galleries has moved with the times, incorporating today's great art. "In the late 1980s," says Rehs, "we began

to look at contemporary artists, and we now show works by a number of 20th and 21st century painters, including Sally Swatland, Gregory F. Harris and Heidi Coutu." The gallery's goal is "to continue showing the finest works by the artists we specialize in."

For collectors desiring to purchase plein-air works, Howard Rehs says, "My advice is always the same — buy the best-quality works you can afford, and never buy a 'signature,' a poor-quality work by a more important artist in your price range. You are best-off finding another artist whose best works you can afford."

The Rehs' knowledge, expertise and research make Rehs Galleries, Inc. a major contributor to the enrichment of classical and plein-air paintings — proof that this gallery has stood the test of time. ■

Rehs Gallery, Inc. is at 5 E. 57th St., 8th Floor, New York, NY 10022. Phone: 212.355.5710. On the web: www.rehs.com.