



TODAY'S  
MASTERS

BY KELLY COMPTON

# HOSPITALITY ENDURES

## COOKING, DINING, WINING

**F**or centuries, artists have depicted people preparing and enjoying food and drink, be they at home, at work, on the town, or sitting *al fresco*. To create or consume a meal or tittle is part of being human, so it makes sense that collectors love to display reminders of these pleasant activities on their walls. Artists now are no less interested in the themes of consumption and hospitality than their forerunners were. Though subtle critiques are sometimes embedded in the resulting images, most contemporary artists are drawn to cafes, bars, restaurants, and kitchens for their visual appeal instead.

If anything, interest in this genre has soared as ever more Americans discover how to cook well for themselves, and therefore how to appreciate fine dining when they go out on the town. Growing familiarity with ingredients and methods of making means viewers are actually more discerning about pictorial details than their parents and grandparents were, a fact that keeps smart artists on their proverbial toes.

Illustrated here is an array of superb recent artworks made in this timeless genre. Enjoy, and *bon appetit!* ●

**KELLY COMPTON** is a contributing writer to *Fine Art Connoisseur*.

**SUZIE BAKER** (b. 1970), *Eastern Shore Flavor*, 2021, oil on linen, 16 x 16 in., private collection



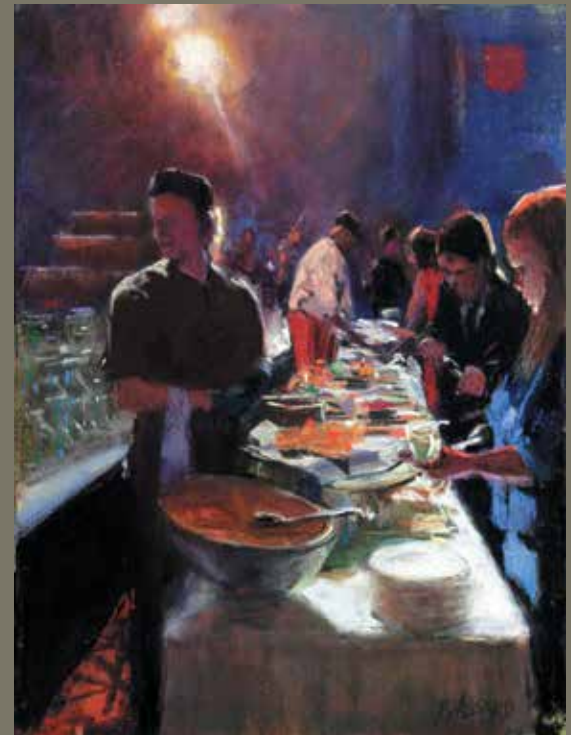


(ABOVE LEFT) TONY ARMENDARIZ (b. 1964), *Feeding Nairobi*, 2020, watercolor on paper, 18 x 24 in., private collection ■ (ABOVE RIGHT) AIMEE ERICKSON (b. 1967), *Something to Think About*, 2019, oil on canvas, 30 x 30 in., private collection ■ (BELOW) NARELLE ZELLER (b. 1978), *Bury Me with a Mandarin*, 2018, oil on ACM panel, 23 3/5 x 31 1/2 in., 33 Contemporary Gallery (Chicago)





(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) JOHN CAGGIANO (b. 1949), *Joe's Inn*, 2018, oil on linen panel, 12 x 12 in., available from the artist ■ LISA CUNNINGHAM (b. 1964), *Speciali di Oggi*, 2021, pastel on paper mounted on board, 18 x 24 in., Patricia Hutton Galleries (Doylestown, Pennsylvania) ■ TRACY EVERLY (b. 1968), *Trattoria Pesce Pasta*, 2020, oil on linen panel, 16 x 20 in., available from the artist ■ MANON SANDER (b. 1967), *Sunnyside Up*, 2019, oil on canvas, 12 x 12 in., available through the artist ■ NICOLE FINGER (b. 1966), *Sauced*, 2018, oil on canvas, 24 x 24 in., Victory Contemporary (Santa Fe)



(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) **THALIA STRATTON** (b. 1957), *Waiter in Repose II*, 2019, oil on canvas, 16 x 12 in., available through the artist ■ **JILL BANKS** (b. 1958), *After Hours*, 2020, oil on linen, 36 x 24 in., available from the artist ■ **RAY HASSARD** (b. 1949), *Food, Glorious Food*, 2014, pastel on panel, 16 x 12 in., private collection ■ **NANCIE KING MERTZ** (b. 1952), *If You Can't Stand the Heat, Get Out of the Kitchen*, 2017, pastel on uArt 400, 10 x 10 in., available through the artist



DOUG WEBB (b. 1946), *The Wedding Cake*, 2010, acrylic on linen, 16 x 12 in., collection of Eileen Kaminsky



(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) LORI PUTNAM (b. 1962), *Celebrate Diversity*, 2021, oil on linen, 11 x 14 in., Meyer Vogl Gallery (Charleston) ■ MARY ASLIN (b. 1962), *The Important Things*, 2015, pastel on canvas mounted on board, 26 x 23 in., private collection ■ LAURIE HENDRICKS (b. 1950), *Caffè Vicola del Cinque*, 2018, oil on canvas, 24 x 20 in., private collection ■ ALAN FETTERMAN (b. 1958), *The Apple*, 2009, oil on board, 10 x 8 in., private collection ■ STEPHANIE SPAY (b. 1975), *Olfactory Transport*, 2021, oil on linen, 18 x 24 in., on view at the Richmond Art Museum (Indiana) through January 8