

COLLEEN BROWNING (1929-2003),

The Tourist, 2002, oil on canvas

Born in County Cork, Ireland. Attended London's Slade School of Art from 1946-48, marriage to English novelist Geoffrey Wagner brought her to US in 1949 and she became a citizen in 1950. Browning taught at the Pratt Institute, City College of New York and the National Academy of Design. She has been called a leader in the modern and post-modern revival of realism in 20th century American Art. Her work tends to defy attempts to categorize it but she is recognized for her command of materials, media and devotion to understanding the human condition.

Art critic Leonard Kriegel stated, "Here is a realist painter with an interest in the world...not an interest in color alone, not in form alone, not in structure alone, but in all of these as they filter through a single consciousness...the combination of painter and person that lies behind the vision."

Browning studied the methods and manners of the Old Masters, marrying texture and form with psychologically disconcerting compositions. Her paintings reflect her interest in mystery and paradox and she found inspiration in her travels to exotic locations. She has been associated with Social Realists like Jack Levin and Magic Realists such as George Tooker and Philip Evergood.

