

## UPCOMING GROUP SHOW

*Up to 16 works on show*

Jan. 22-Feb. 10, 2009

Leslie Levy Fine Art

7137 Main Street

Scottsdale, AZ 85251

(800) 765-2787

• SHOW LOCATION SCOTTSDALE, AZ

# ROBERT LADUKE AND TED POLOMIS

## Dreams and observations

Once again, artists **Robert LaDuke** and **Ted Polomis** are teaming up for a group show at Leslie Levy Fine Art in Scottsdale. This time the artists expound on “dreams and observations” in new works that offer a sense of nostalgia and whimsy.

Both artists enjoy focusing on vintage objects from the 1930s and 1940s, with Polomis working from still lifes using a realistic approach while LaDuke draws from his imagination.

“We have a nice balance. We both

have elements of nostalgia and fun,” says Polomis. “Mine are more realistic while Robert’s are very whimsical, more imagined landscapes. We’re two sides of a similar coin.”

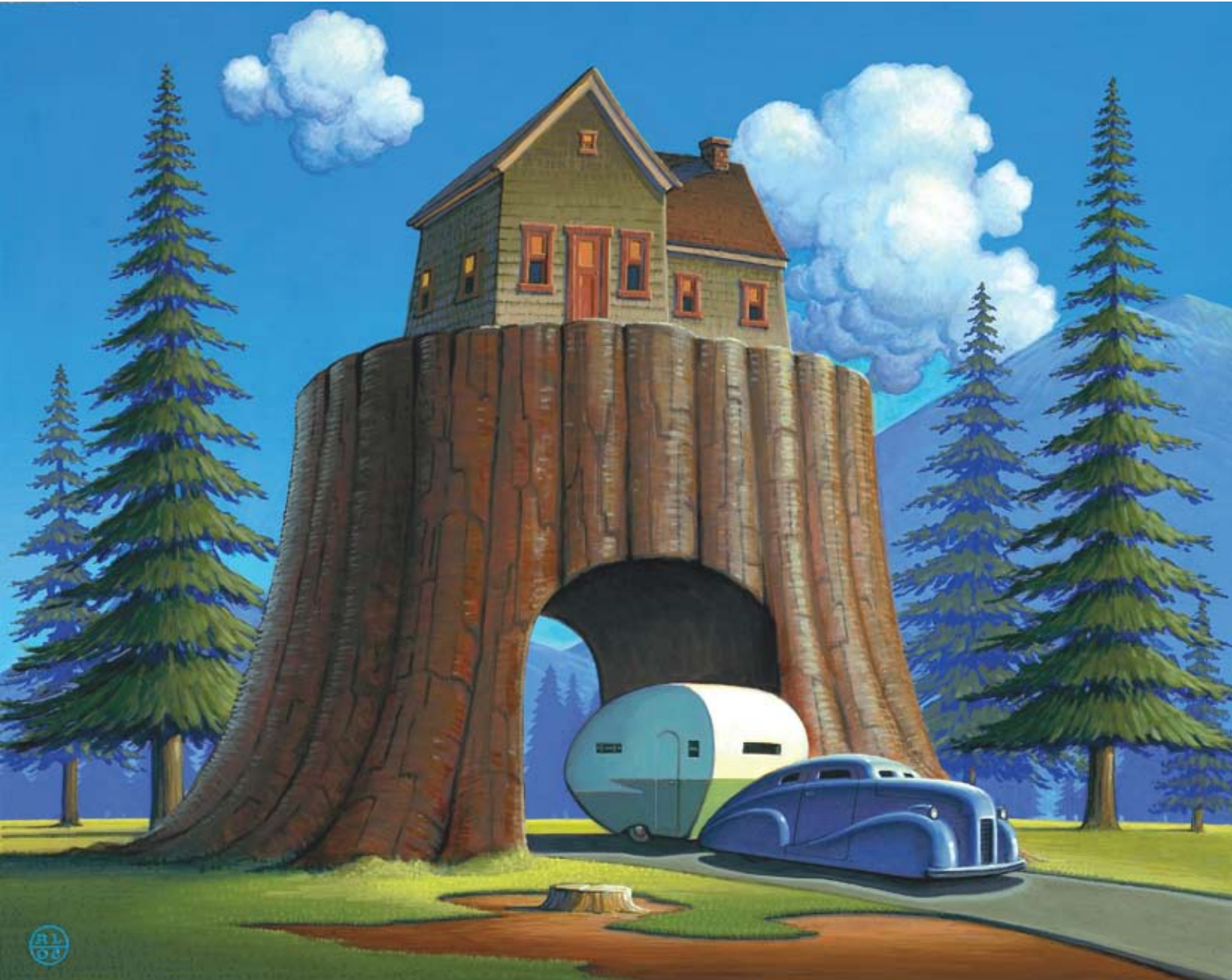
Robert LaDuke takes a surrealist, almost cartoonish, approach when combining memories, dreams and everyday life into his narrative paintings. In his new works, LaDuke paints tighter than normal, focusing more on landscapes with an object in them. These detail-oriented pieces look quite different from the artist’s past works.

Incorporating more trees and mountains into his work marks a shift for this California artist who usually emphasizes a form of transportation or technology in his paintings. The new images also showcase more background, another transition by an artist who usually prefers to focus on the middle ground and foreground.

Painting 16 hours a day leaves little time for LaDuke to go camping or enjoy the ocean, two of his favorite pastimes. In these new works, inspired by an urge to



TED POLOMIS, CAT'S IN THE CRADLE, OIL ON PANEL, 12 X 18"



ROBERT LADUKE, TREE HOUSE, ACRYLIC ON PANEL, 19 X 23"



TED POLOMIS, GOT MILK, OIL ON PANEL, 10 X 24"





ROBERT LADUKE, HIDEAWAY, ACRYLIC ON PANEL, 10½ X 22"

travel, he brings the landscape inside since he can't visit them physically. Such scenes offer a sense of escapism that LaDuke portrays in a fanciful, surrealist fashion.

A favorite of his new works is titled *Tree House*, inspired in part by his imagination and in part by childhood memories of visiting Sequoia National Park and driving through a tree. This metaphorical painting implies that in the

battle of man against nature, man wins. The subtle stump in front represents another tree sacrificed for a picture-perfect opportunity.

"*Tree House* is cute and happy but there's sadness to it. As a kid, I thought it was cool but now I see this beautiful object that we had to do something else to it to satisfy man," says LaDuke. "It's cartoon-like with exaggerated scale and there's something about the power of

something that large that comes through."

The theme of escapism continues in LaDuke's piece *Hideaway*.

"I love nature but never get out into it. I love the idea of only getting somewhere by a seaplane," he says.

Ted Polomis' new work has advanced technically. Working from still life objects gives his images a sense of realism and authenticity. Polomis started painting



*The Gallery Says . . .*

“Both Robert LaDuke and Ted Polomis have a sense of humor and an appreciation for the post-World War II happy-go-lucky era. The paintings of these artists are based on the toys of that time period. While Polomis’ paintings of toys and tattered stuffed animals are extremely detailed and often have 3-D quality, LaDuke enjoys creating an action-packed story line much like in the comic books of that era.”

— *Leslie Levy, Owner, Leslie Levy Fine Art*





TED POLOMIS, FIRE SALE, OIL ON PANEL, 10½ X 16"

from still life after Sept. 11, 2001. Prior to that horrific day, he says he didn't like painting still lifes, especially in college. In 2005 he began producing his popular toy-themed still lifes.

"Once I found objects I loved, it made all the difference in the world. It felt nice because it was from life; there's nothing phony about it. The results are more enjoyable and more successful," says Polomis. "They're all fun, whimsical objects that might give people some

thought and remembrance. Most of these toys were from my parents or even my grandparents' time."

In his recent works, Polomis continues to explore the theme of vintage toys, most of them produced by Wyandotte Toys (All Metal Products Co.). Whether observing antique metal cars and trucks or stuffed animals, the artist thrives in revisiting history. He paints in a 308-year-old studio room in his native Massachusetts, he says, "So

I'm always conscience of being a piece of the timeline."

Drawn to fun, rounded objects, especially vehicles of the 1920s through 1940s, Polomis says he finds the big wheel wells artistically inviting.

"I really love these things because they're so simple. The more beat up the more I like them. They have character of a life long-lived," he adds.

Polomis' new painting titled *Got Milk* plays on words while encouraging the



ROBERT LADUKE, WINTER, ACRYLIC ON PANEL, 12 X 8"

viewer to look at old things in a new way.

"I like to put on fun titles that might tie in to modern things. It gives it a kick into our time but it also has fun with the object. I want the painting to pay homage to the object," the artist says. "All these objects that I do are very simple, iconic paintings, almost meditative." ●

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to



[www.americanartcollector.com](http://www.americanartcollector.com)

### Price Range Indicator

*Our at-a-glance Price Range Indicator shows what you can expect to pay for this artist's work.*

#### Robert LaDuke

	Small	Medium	Large
2001	\$2,600	\$3,100	\$4,600
2009	\$6,500	\$9,500	\$13,000

### Price Range Indicator

*Our at-a-glance Price Range Indicator shows what you can expect to pay for this artist's work.*

#### Ted Polomis

	Small	Medium	Large
2001	\$800	\$1,200	N/A
2009	\$3,500	\$4,500	\$9,000