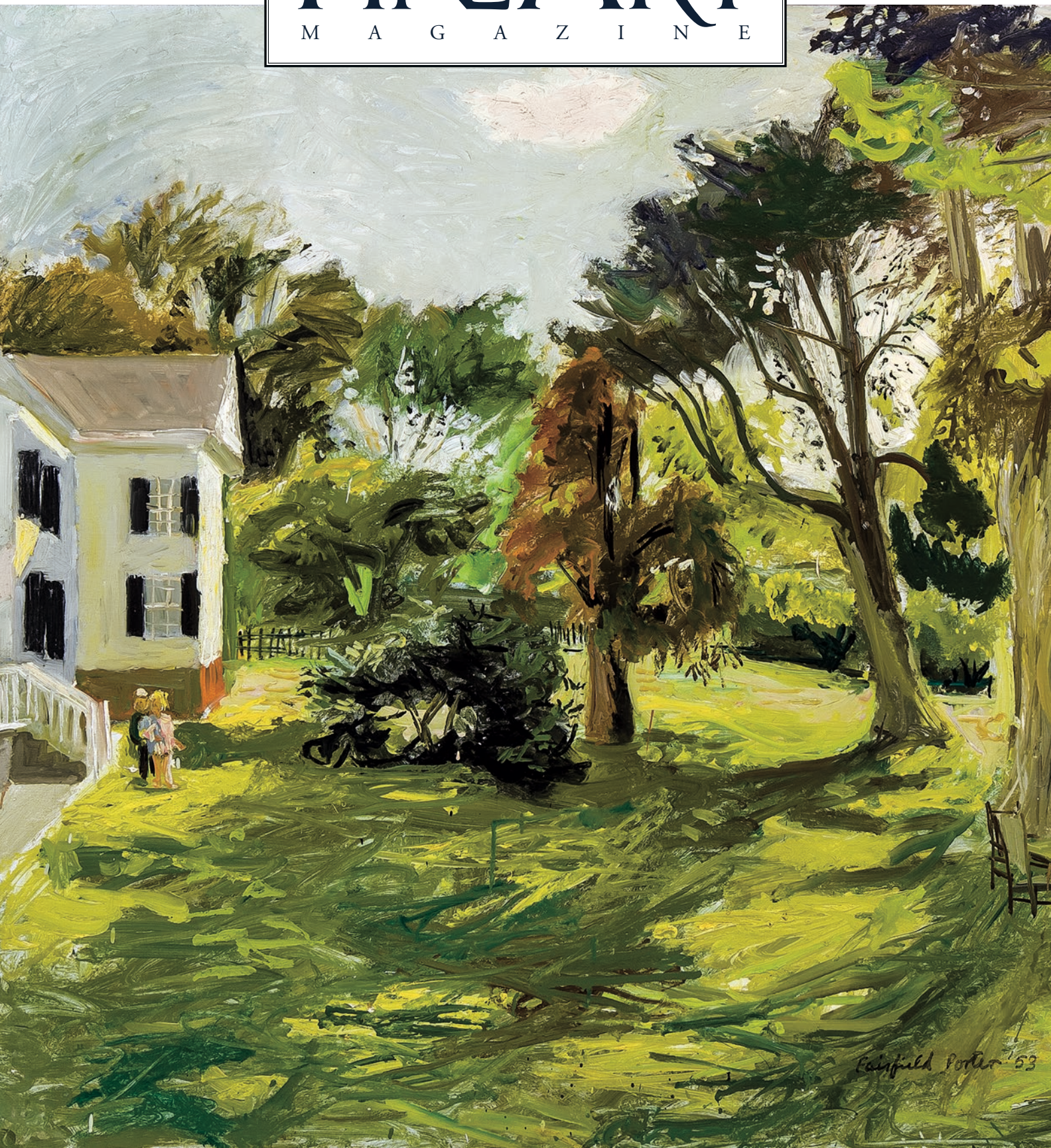


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Taking Flight

Copley's summer Sporting Sale delivers historically significant wildlife and sporting art paintings, prints, decoys and sculpture

July 25-26

Copley Fine Art Auctions

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Copley Fine Art Auctions' *Sporting Sale* is a summer highlight for steadfast collectors of wildlife and sporting art. Copley will present more than 550 paintings, prints, decoys and sculpture during the auction set for July 25 and 26 at the Radisson Hotel

in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Copley will present a group of paintings with major historical significance during this summer's sale. Among the notable offerings is Frank W. Benson's 1916 oil painting titled *Redheads In Flight* (est. \$300/500,000). This classic work is considered one of the finest waterfowl scenes by the noted American impressionist and sportsman who was known for painting such compositions. A watercolor by the same artist, *Salmon Fishing* (est. \$40/60,000), also will cross the block.

"This dynamic painting [*Redheads In Flight*] is a highly accomplished work that has the feeling the birds are

buzzing right past you," states Stephen O'Brien Jr., chairman and CEO of Copley. "Benson allows the viewer to become part of the action, reminiscent of Winslow Homer's *Right and Left*."

Ogden M. Pleissner (1905-1983) will be represented with one of the artist's most iconic and recognized images, *The Visitors* (est. \$75/85,000). Considered one of the artist's masterworks, the oil painting depicts a Southern cabin scene similar to the record-setting watercolor, *Southern Cabin*, which sold for \$138,000 at Copley's *Winter Sale*.

"This early oil painting was reproduced in 1944 as Pleissner's third of 32 limited-edition prints," O'Brien



John Frost (1890-1937), *Maryland Marsh*, Oil on board, 20 x 24 in.
Estimate: \$35/55,000



Frank L. Stick (1884-1966), *The Last Shot*, 1914. Oil on canvas, 35¾ x 27¾ in. **Estimate: \$12/18,000**



Frank W. Benson (1862-1951), *Redheads in Flight*, 1916. Oil on canvas, 36¼ x 45 in. Images courtesy Copley Fine Art Auctions.
Estimate: \$300/500,000

says. “Pleissner’s work has nowhere to go but up, as his work is included in 30 major public collections. In 1932 the Metropolitan Museum in New York purchased one of his oils, making him the youngest artist in its collection. There is no question in my mind that Pleissner will one day sit atop the

list as one of the best American painters of his generation.”

Additional highlights include John Frost’s *Maryland Marsh* (est. \$35/55,000)—the original oil for a major print published by Eugene V. Connett’s Derrydale Press in 1936—and a bronze depiction of setters by Percival Rosseau (1859-1937). Estimated at \$24,000 to \$28,000, the piece is thought to be Rosseau’s only work in bronze.

The decoy portion of the sale will include a feeding plover by Obediah Verity out of the McCleery and Mackey Collections (est. \$125/175,000). An exceptional Canada goose (est. \$80/120,000) by brothers Lemuel and Stephen Ward bookends a working canvasback decoy (est. \$40/50,000) by famous Connecticut decoy maker Charles E. “Shang” Wheeler. Decoy carvings by A. Elmer Crowell, August Haas, and Joseph W. Lincoln, along with many other named makers, will round out the offering of top-tier birds available in the sale.

Copley’s *Sporting Sale* begins at 11 a.m. Friday, July 25, for decoys and Saturday, July 26, for paintings and works on paper. ■



Frank W. Benson (1862-1951), *Salmon Fishing*, 1925. Watercolor, 14 x 19½ in. **Estimate: \$25/35,000**