

GEOFFREY GEARY

A Sense of Style

Inspired by Masters of the Past



Etta Love
Sanford, North Carolina
Oil on canvas, 40 x 28 inches.



Geoffrey Geary

Geoffrey Geary is an outstanding young New Jersey-based portrait artist who has, as you can see on these pages, an extraordinary

sensitive approach to portraits of women. These paintings are examples of high style and elegance, careful and thorough in their execution. Geary will tell you that he derives his inspiration from the works of Van Dyck, Winterhalter, Bouguereau and Sargent. Franz Xaver Winterhalter (1805-1873) was a painter of cool, refined, elegant portraits of wealthy and titled men and women in the 19th century. He was a rival of Philip de László (see pages 4-9 in this publication) for the record of having painted the most royal sitters in the history of portraiture. Winterhalter's cool elegance is reflected in Geary's paintings shown here.

Geary's best known painting, the *Portrait of Connie Stohler* (right) is a superb example of sophisticated refinement in contemporary portraiture. The beautiful dress could not be surpassed — it is a marvel of draftsmanship, brushwork and tonal perception. The highlights on the satin trim constitute the master strokes of this painting. The beautiful head, turning away from the direction of the figure, is enveloped in a veil of soft twilight tonality. The contours of the figure are set off by the



Diane and Kristin Darr
Greenwich, Connecticut
Oil on canvas, 42 x 26 inches

Connie Stohler
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Oil on canvas, 60 x 27 inches

strong dark of the doorway. Note how important is the tonal gradation on the wall behind the figure to the viewer's right. Finally, the beautiful table and floral still life provide further touches of refined elegance to the composition.

In the portrait of *Etta Love* (page 26) we have a symphony of cool mauve, lilac and blue tones which enhance the aristocratic refinement of the image. The dress is remarkably graceful and beautiful in its folds. The extravagant bouquet at

Concluded on page 34.