



TODAY'S
MASTERS

BY MATTHIAS ANDERSON



(TOP) *Melting Snow: Swedish Lapland in Spring*, 2021, oil on linen, 15 3/4 x 21 3/4 in. ■ (LEFT) Ulrich Gleiter painting *Melting Snow: Swedish Lapland in Spring*; photo: Mikael Tuominen

ULRICH GLEITER PAINTING THE WORLD

Ulrich Gleiter (b. 1977) is a man on the move whose latest plein air paintings will settle, though only briefly, at Denver's Gallery 1261 from June 24 through July 15. On view in his exhibition *Migration* will be almost 40 works, primarily landscapes, that evoke recent travels in French Burgundy, Finland, Sweden, Portugal, Spanish Andalucia, and Croatia's Dalmatian islands.

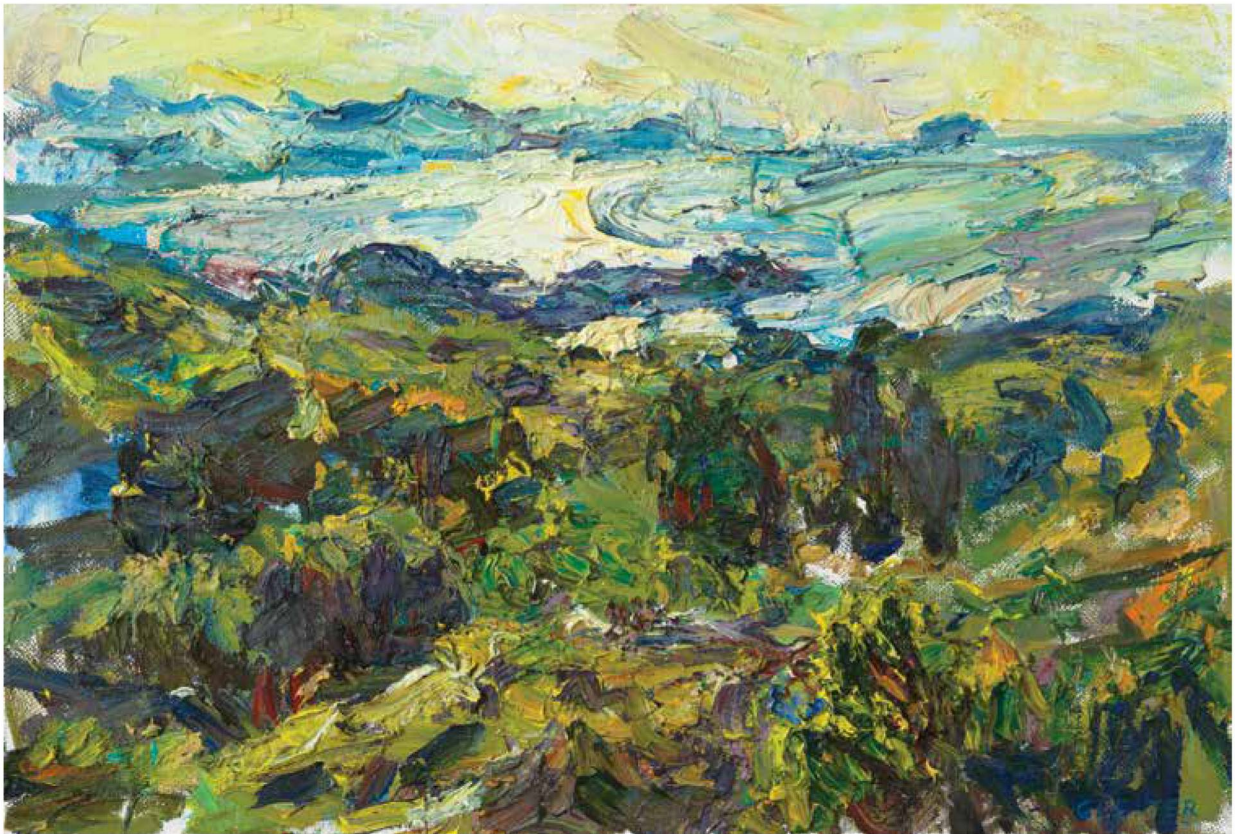
Born in Saarbrücken, Germany, Gleiter pursued his undergraduate studies at Dresden's Academy of Fine Arts, where he learned to paint with the bold, colorful strokes handed down from the early 20th-century German expressionists. Students there

prioritized their individuality — no one but you could have made this picture, they were told.

Gleiter then absorbed a different view of artistry during his exchange year at Moscow's Surikov Institute, followed by six more years at the Repin Institute in St. Petersburg. Russian training emphasizes mastery of the process of drawing and painting the nude — not as precisely as in U.S. ateliers, but with more emphasis on how relative value is established by the play of light and shadow. Despite the international renown of their country's naturalist landscapists, Russian professors do not actually teach plein air painting, instead encouraging students to make a picture outdoors every day if possible.



(LEFT) *Cortijo in the Sierra Alhamilla (Andalusia, Spain)*, 2021, oil on linen, 27 1/2 x 21 2/3 in.
■ (ABOVE) *French Town*, 2020, oil on linen, 28 x 32 in. ■ (BELOW) *Dalmatian Coast (Near Dubrovnik)*, 2018, oil on linen, 22 x 31 1/2 in.





(LEFT) *Midnight Sun on the Karelian Lakes (Finland)*, 2021, oil on linen, 20 x 16 in. ■ (ABOVE) *Brook (Caucasus Mountains, Russia)*, 2013, oil on linen, 27 1/2 x 35 1/2 in.

Gleiter was glad to do so, relying heavily on such historical forerunners as Isaac Levitan (1860–1900).

Gleiter has become well known among collectors for his dynamic landscapes and scenes of untouched nature, developed on site throughout the year in various regions of Europe. As suggested in a snowy photo illustrated here, he paints in all kinds of weather. Last year, the artist was quarantining for four months in a remote Finnish cabin, a site originally intended only as an overnight stop on a drive from Lapland to Germany. He explains, “In order to feel what I’m painting, I need to be in touch with nature. To watch the sunsets, observe how the snow is melting and how the weather changes. This inspiration is invaluable.”

In this anxious era of international strife, Gleiter feels a renewed appreciation for nature’s timelessness — for its inspiring capacity to rise above the ins and outs of man-made problems. Today, he says, “I often think about the history of an area where I am painting, about how many troubles and beautiful things may have happened there. Most importantly, I am humbled to observe how natural forces never stop moving.” ●

Information: gallery1261.com, ulrichgleiter.com. Gleiter’s next solo show will occur at Berlin’s Sandau & Leo Galerie in December (sandau-leo.de).

MATTHIAS ANDERSON is a contributing writer to *Fine Art Connoisseur*.