## As seen in the March 2011 issue of





#### **UPCOMING SHOW**

### ISABELLE DU TOIT

# Earthly concerns

ost collectors know Isabelle du Toit for her meticulously detailed bird paintings shown against a large dark background that seemed to sometimes overwhelm the winged subjects on the canvas. People were drawn in by the colorful birds, but then after much thought and looking would come to understand her deeper message—about us having to look after such creatures or else.

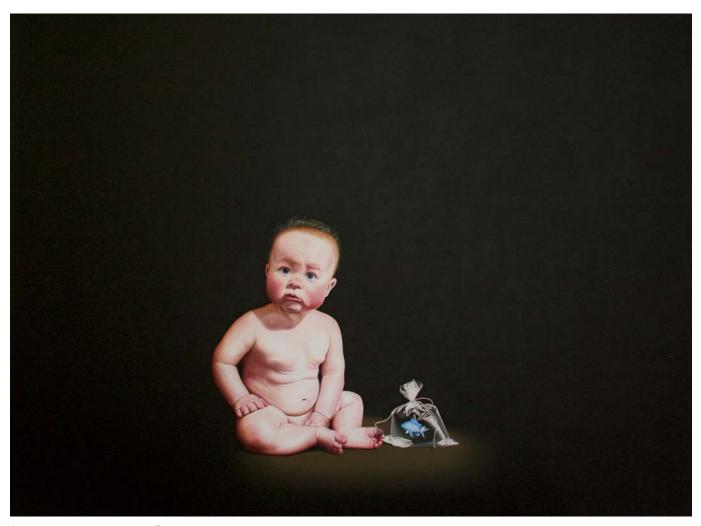
However, du Toit was afraid people were not getting the message, so she found a new subject to act as a vehicle for these warnings and found something that everyone finds precious and delicate and are protective of—babies.

"I was frustrated and wanted my message to get across better while also being able to show more of what I felt. I felt that I had been hiding behind the birds," says du Toit. "Babies are the perfect medium for me because what I'm most passionate about is the planet and the animals that live on it."

Du Toit wants people to understand what she sees as the gravity of our relationship with the environment. If it is not tended to, we will lose it. And that is the message she wants to get across through her use of various animals and objects shown with the babies.

"These paintings are not about a specific baby, but about mankind" explains du Toit. What I'm asking is how do we sustain a happy world for animals and for us. We are linked as we are one in the same species, and if one goes down, the rest go down."

In the painting *Oceans*, du Toit shows the baby with a plastic bag tied to its foot. And,



Oceans, oil on canvas, 36 x 48"



Cerulean Warbler, oil on canvas, 36 x 48"

#### The Collector Says ...

"Isabelle du Toit's work is breathtaking and her newborns are beautiful, harrowing with anguishing realism, accusing...They inflict onto us a sorrow which is not only theirs." — *Anonymous* 



OIL, OIL ON CANVAS, 36 X 48"

inside the bag is a small blue fish. For her, it too exemplifies this point: we are tied to the sea, there is a link between us, and if we destroy the ocean, this action will come back and destroy us in the end.

"There is a lot of frustration in the work," remarks du Toit. "It is about empathy. I'm trying to make people feel how I feel, how animals feel. I want them to get an idea of what it would be like to be an animal."

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to www.americanartcollector.com



	Small	Medium	Large	
2011	N/A	\$20,000	N/A	