

As seen in the
July 2011 issue of

 AMERICAN
art COLLECTOR



UPCOMING GROUP SHOW

Up to 18 works

July 16-Aug. 30, 2011

Sandpiper Gallery

2019 C Middle Street

Sullivan's Island, SC 29482

(843) 883-0200

• SHOW LOCATION SULLIVAN'S ISLAND, SC

**BETH MCLEAN AND
LESLIE PRATT-THOMAS**



Coastal heritage



LESLIE PRATT-THOMAS, WET FEET, OIL ON LINEN, 20 X 40"

Leslie Pratt-Thomas and Beth McLean are fellow painters living in the Charleston area, but, even more, they are very good friends. The two paint together, travel together, study together and are both inspired by the beautiful surroundings of the South Carolina Lowcountry and its beaches, marshes and wildlife.

"We have a special friendship," says McLean. "Our work and subject matter are somewhat similar yet also different enough so that we complement one another. We learn so much from sharing with each other as we study, paint and grow together as artists."

Living in the area, Pratt-Thomas has developed a fondness for the shorebirds of the

Lowcountry and they have become a major subject for her paintings. The love of these birds began after the recent oil spill in the Gulf Coast.

"I began thinking about how easy it would be for something as environmentally devastating as that to happen off our coast—possibly changing our marshes and the lives of our shorebirds," says Pratt-Thomas.

When she looked into this further, she found out that there is only one institution on the East Coast—the Avian Conservation Center—that cleans oiled birds. After hearing this, Pratt-Thomas donated a large painting for their next fundraiser and started making an effort to become more attentive to the local

birds she sees on her walks around Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

"It is rated highly by Audubon as a place to see a wide variety of shorebirds," says Pratt-Thomas. "I see lots of gulls, herons, egrets, ibises, oystercatchers, kingfishers, as well as many of the smaller varieties. My walks have become much more than exercise for my canines and me—it has become an aesthetic adventure." ●

*For a direct link to the
exhibiting gallery go to*



www.americanartcollector.com



LESLIE PRATT-THOMAS, FLAPS UP, OIL ON BOARD, 11 X 14"



BETH MCLEAN, INTO THE SUN, OIL ON PANEL, 8 X 6"



BETH MCLEAN, CLOSE, OIL ON CANVAS, 24 X 30"