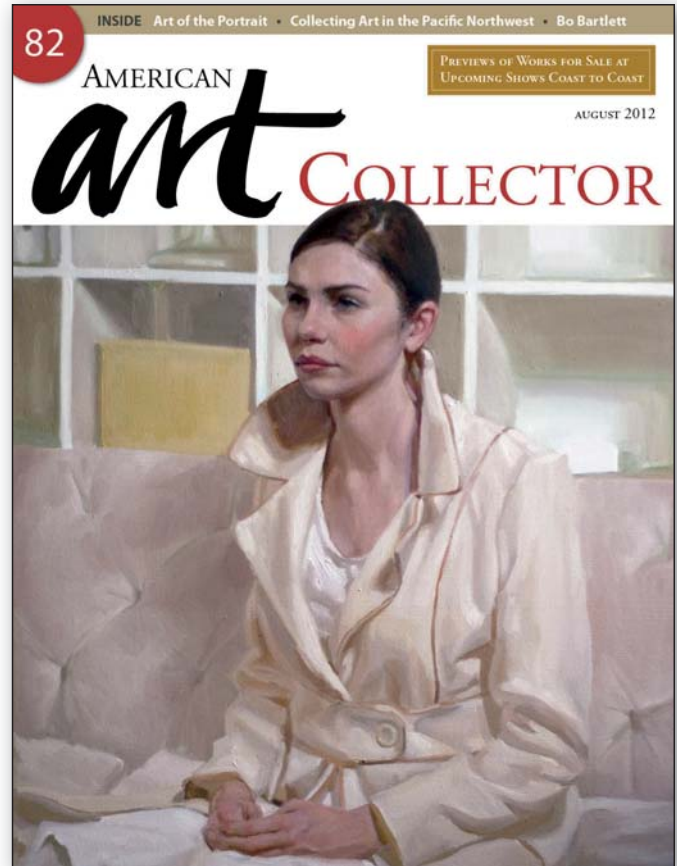


As seen in the
August 2012 issue of

 AMERICAN
art COLLECTOR



UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 35 works

July 27-Aug. 26, 2012

Dowling Walsh Gallery

365 Main Street

Rockland, ME 04841

(207) 596-0084

• SHOW LOCATION ROCKLAND, ME

SCOTT KELLEY

Children of lost whalers

Living on an island off the coast of Maine, Scott Kelley has immersed himself in the history—and forgotten history—of the area. Earlier work had focused on detailed renderings of birds of the region and Victorian-era postcards. For his new work, Kelley has delved deep into the history of whaling in America and created quiet, solitary portraits of children of lost whalers.

“This is the most research I’ve ever done for a show,” says Kelley. “And one thing I discovered

is that the New Bedford Whaling Museum has accounts of all the whaling vessels that were lost at sea and there is literally hundreds of them, with each one having a crew of 25 to 50 men. For whalers, there was a 50 percent chance they wouldn’t come back from sea.”

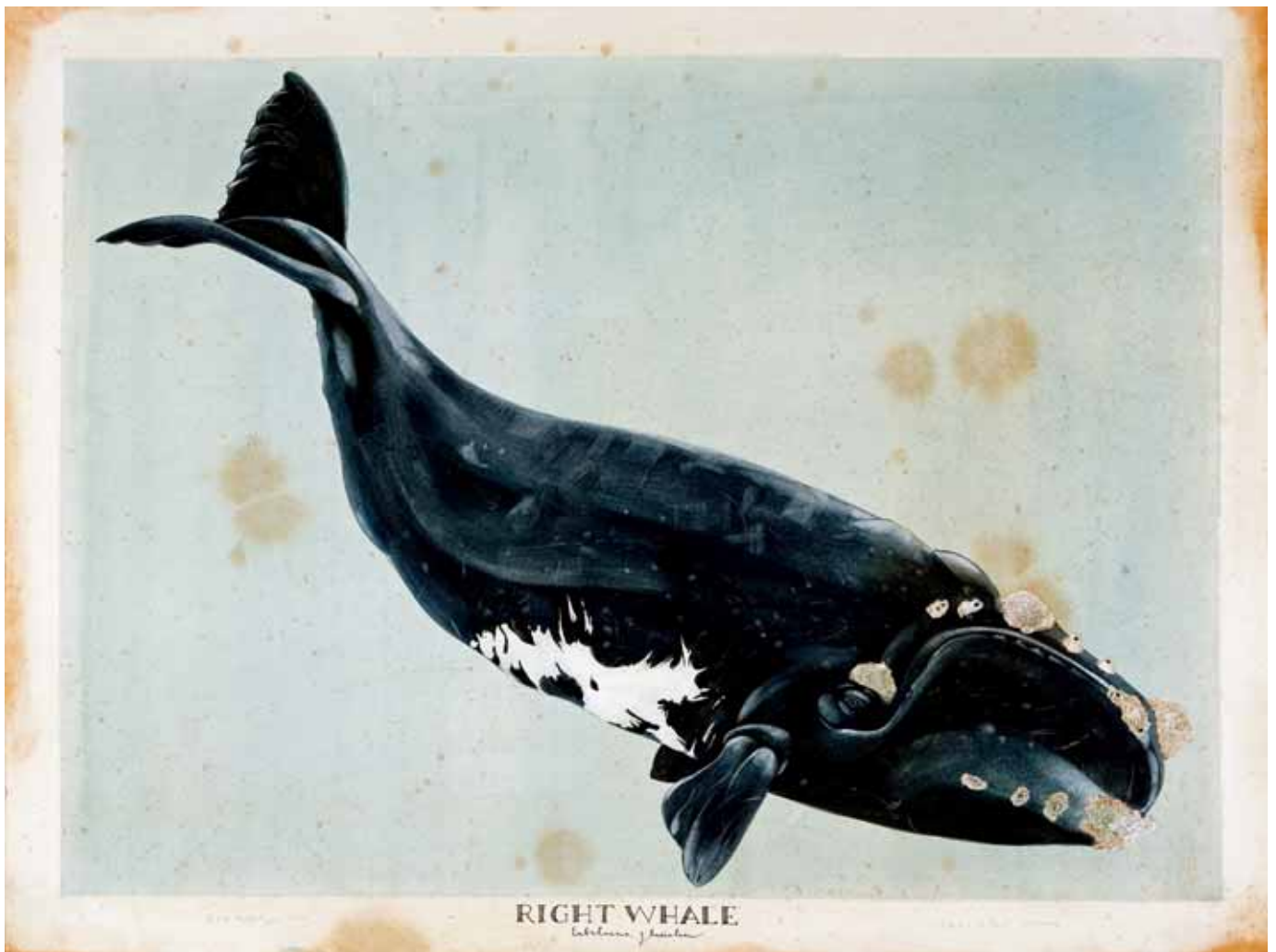
Thinking of that fact brought Kelley to envision the sacrifices that these men and their families made at that time.

“I think about all these wives and children who would go down to the docks and wave

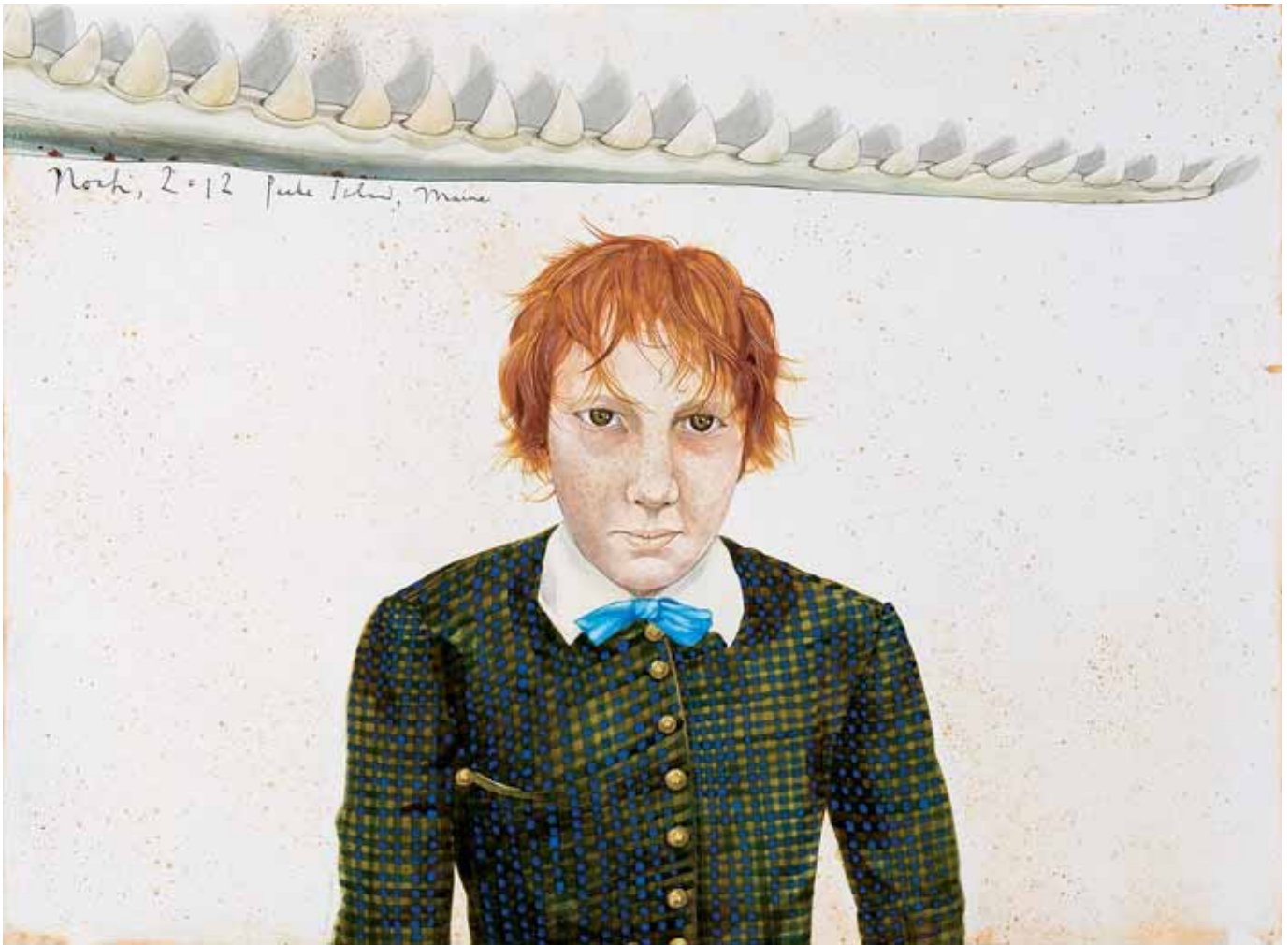
goodbye to their husbands and fathers and so many of them would never return. And those that did return would be gone for sometimes up to three years at a time.”

What Kelley also discovered is that most of the history of the whaling industry is either missing or, possibly, was never written down. The golden age of whaling in America was around 1850 and it had a profound effect on the early beginnings of this country.

“What stories were written are hard to



The Right Whale, watercolor on paper, 30 x 40"



The Children of Lost Whalers - Noah, watercolor on paper, 22 x 29¾"

The Collector Says . . .

"The fresh way Scott uses colors and his mastery of drawing can be seen not only in his many studies of birds, but also in other subject matter such as his landscape studies from his trip to Antarctica and in his uncannily detailed duplications of early 20th-century postcards of American scenes."

— David Robinson

come by," says Kelley. "One of the reasons I believe is that the industry was founded and run by Quakers and they recorded the wind, the weather, the tide and how many whales they brought back. Usually they wouldn't even record the deaths, so much of the romance and stories of that whole history is pretty much lost."

The exhibition also includes portraits done in a scientific style of the whales themselves. Kelley wanted these images to look like they were out of a book, a textbook of whales, though like the portraits there exists little information about this as well.

"There's not a lot of clear images out there of what a living, intact sperm whale looks like and I wanted to paint the whales in their entirety," says Kelley. ●



The Children of Lost Whalers - Silas, watercolor on paper, 23½ x 22"

For a direct link to the
exhibiting gallery go to 

www.americanartcollector.com