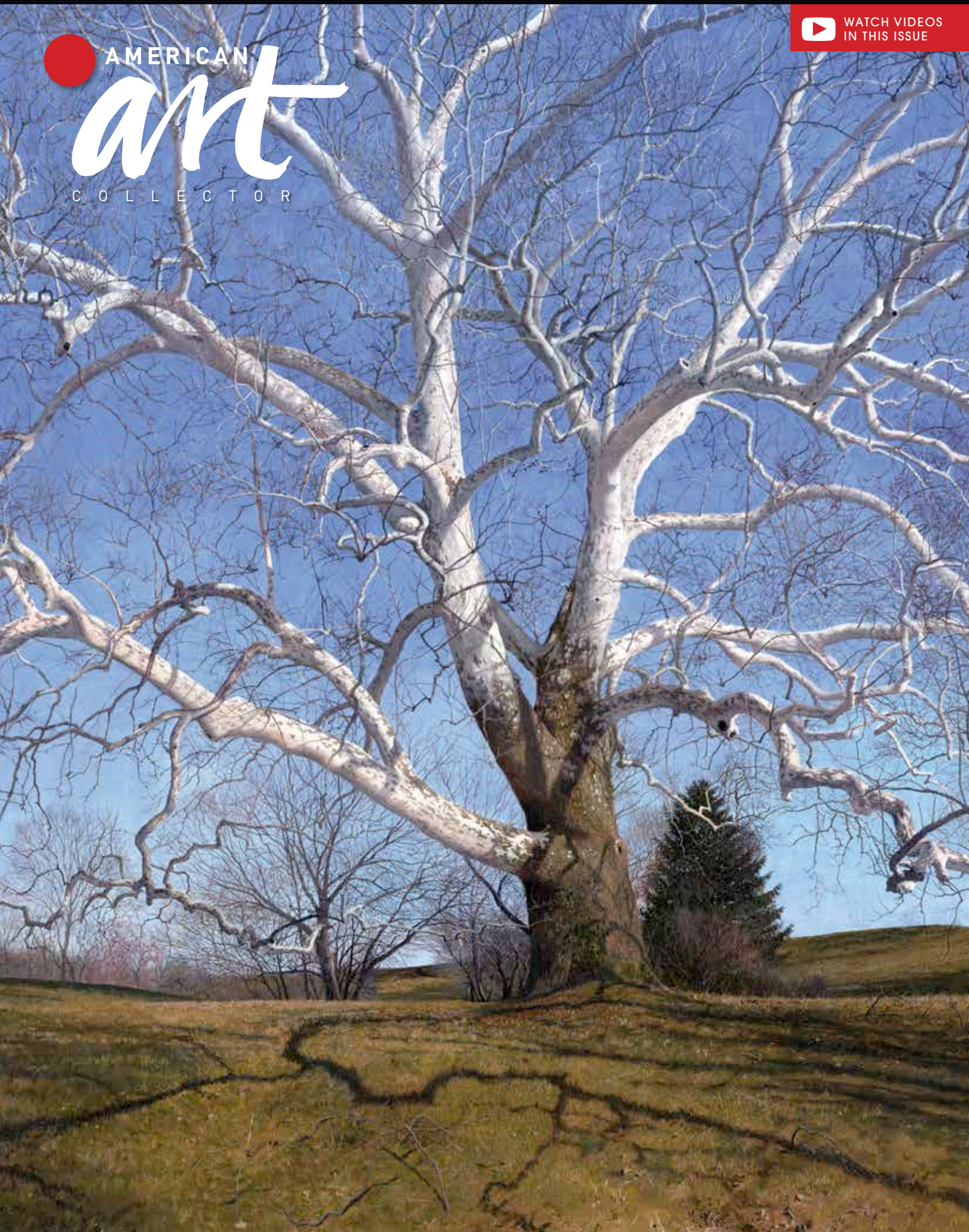


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AMERICAN  
*art*  
COLLECTOR





*Mellow Yellow*, oil on board, 9½ x 9½"



*Letting Go*, oil on board, 12 x 15"

## Laura Westlake

**L**aura Westlake, a painter and naturalist who fuels her creative energies through her love of birds and nature, has found her bliss. A native Long Islander, she is essentially a self-taught artist who has been drawing and painting from the early age of 5.

Her realistic creation of images is reflective of her former career as a commercial illustrator, but in 1990 she became disenchanted with her path and

left that world to find her more creative side. Leaving Manhattan and relocating to her home town of Stony Brook, New York, she began painting full time. She has since received numerous awards and has exhibited in galleries extensively throughout the United States.

Westlake worked mainly in colored pencils for 35 years before changing her medium to oils. Her colored pencil works and oils are similar in detail and precision,

but the oils give her a larger palette to work from with more brilliant color.

Westlake admits to being a bit of a bird whisperer, and for 25 years she has been rehabilitating wild birds. She holds federal and New York state licenses for wildlife rehabilitation and has three aviaries on her rural property, which houses many injured and orphaned birds. "It's invigorating no matter what the season and brings me so much joy and, of course, inspiration for my art," she says. "Every painting tells a story, which can be your own interpretation, and they all start with a bird."

The artist is represented by Principle Gallery in Alexandria, Virginia, and Charleston, South Carolina, and by William Ris Gallery in Jamesport, New York.



*Snow Birds*, oil on board, 7 x 12½"

### Want to See More?

(631) 323-1812 | [lorenzolake@optimum.net](mailto:lorenzolake@optimum.net)  
[www.laurawestlake.net](http://www.laurawestlake.net)

#### Represented by Principle Gallery

125 Meeting Street | Charleston, SC 29401  
 (843) 727-4500 | [art@principlecharleston.com](mailto:art@principlecharleston.com)  
[www.principlegallery.com](http://www.principlegallery.com)

 Laura Westlake Art