



DINING ALONE, OIL, 11 x 14.

**Lael Weyenberg...** A little more than five years ago, Lael Weyenberg was a floral designer living on Bainbridge Island, WA, when she found herself contemplating becoming a painter. She had always wanted to know how to paint but had figured artistic skill was something one had to be born with. Still, the idea persisted, so she approached local artist Cheri Christensen about becoming her student. "I told her I wanted to learn how to paint light and emotion," says Weyenberg. "She looked at me, started laughing, and said, is that *all?*"

From Christensen, Weyenberg learned the technique of laying in dark colors first and working up to light colors that can be seen in her still-life paintings. "I like simplicity and mood," she says. When setting up a still life, she strives to create intimacy. "I like to feel connected to what I'm painting, so often I will paint a single piece of fruit or a few cherries lined up," she says. "If I put in too many objects I lose the intimacy."

It should come as no surprise to viewers of Weyenberg's works that one of her favorite artists is John Singer Sargent. "I am drawn to the immediacy, the energy, the light against dark, and the mood found in his paintings," she says. In addition to her still lifes, Weyenberg—who moved to New Mexico two years ago—paints landscapes and interiors. "I like to keep moving and to paint what is beautiful to me," she says. Weyenberg is represented by *MB* in Santa Fe, NM, and Roby King Galleries, Bainbridge Island, WA. —*MB*

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