

Roadside art of Jeffrey L. Neumann

By Douglas C. Toome



The T.O.C., formerly in Springfield, MA, now a parking lot

Elm Tree Motel, Crayville, NY



Crane Motel, Roswell, N/A

While most SCA members battle the blight of big box retail outlets with a digital camera, Jeffrey L. Neumann uses a tool from an earlier era. Skilled with a paintbrush using either oils or watercolors, Neumann executes his paintings of post World War II architectural vernacular to, as he notes, "provide opportunities for our youth to experience the rich tapestry of 20th Century roadside America through preservation and education."

It was difficult selecting a favorite, let alone winnowing down which pieces to feature in this issue. Examining the weathered clapboards of "The Lobster Pot" one can almost get a whiff of the salt air and visualize the little tin containing melted butter that will be sitting on the dinner plate next to the steaming crustacean.

Neumann's nocturnal renderings of establishments like the Tic Toc Lounge powerfully convey the beauty of the neon-lit facades yet capture the slight hesitation that invariably strikes us when we think about walking through the entrance of an unfamiliar place at night. It's a little rush of adrenaline that I can't seem to get when opening the door of corporate chain.

Jeffrey Neumann recently opened a studio and gallery in Hillsdale, New York, where he teaches art courses. For more information, see www.neumannfineart.com/.



Kindles Donuts, Los Angeles, CA



Lobster Pot, Provincetown, MA

Saints and Sinners Package Liquors, Espanola, N/M



Dog House, Albuquerque, N/M