



PHILIP FREY

COURTHOUSE GALLERY  
FINE ART

# PHILIP FREY

## Island Portrait

JULY 24–AUGUST 18, 2013



*Last Shack Standing*, oil on canvas, 8 x 10 inches  
COVER *Waiting for a Crew*, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches

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6 court street ellsworth, maine 04605 [courthousegallery.com](http://courthousegallery.com) 207 667 6611



*The Pool, Low Tide*  
oil on canvas  
18 x 24 inches



*Rusty*  
oil on canvas  
8 x 10 inches



*Misty Pool*, oil on canvas, 24 x 36 inches

# PHILIP FREY

## Island Portrait



*For Sale*, oil on canvas, 6 x 6 inches

In his new body of work, *Island Portrait*, Philip Frey renews his enthusiasm for invigorating brushwork and for bright, bold color. Unlike many of his peers, Frey embraces change, challenging himself to grow. In recent years, he has transitioned from acrylics to oils, and from realism to abstraction. While each foray has produced good results, fans of Frey's earlier work will be pleased to see a return to his expressionistic style and to more painterly brushwork.

Frey's new approach to light and color has the sensibilities of two notable East Coast artists who summered on Maine islands—Fairfield Porter of Great Spruce Head Island, and Dorothy Eisner of Great Cranberry Isle. Inspired by Porter, who stressed light and the physical properties of the paint, Frey worked *en plein air* on top of Cadillac Mountain to capture the grandeur of Frenchman's Bay in his painting *From the Top to the Archipelago*. Frey's block-like strokes of luminous color dominate the surface, a technique uniquely "Frey" that unifies his work throughout this series.

While many of Eisner's island paintings evoke a carefree life of summer parties, croquet games, and lounging in lawn chairs, Frey portrays his longtime interest in working waterfronts and the natural landscape. *Waiting for a Crew* shares an affinity with Eisner's graphic style and her preference for bold greens and purples, particularly in her croquet paintings. Frey's composition of tethered dinghies deliberately points attention toward the edge of



*You Can Do It!*, oil on canvas, 24 x 36 inches



*Opposites Attract*, oil on canvas, 8 x 10 inches

an exquisitely painted dock. On occasion, Frey has used a heavy hand with contrast, sometimes sacrificing gestalt. But, in *Waiting*, he nails this balance between tension and harmony perfectly.

On a smaller scale, *Last Shack Standing* captures the solitude of ice fishing on a late winter morning. Frey's subtle shift between the muted tones of the shoreline and the cool accents of the melting ice bring a satisfying balance between the two planes. In *Opposites Attract* and *Rusty*, he demonstrates his competence as a draftsman and his capacity to make a composition compelling. He skillfully uses tight framing, foreshortening, and the juxtaposition of several objects. His color transitions have a new sophistication, and he uses a beautiful range of brilliant blues, and gritty browns, greens, and yellows to reveal the erosion of tarnished metal. *The Pool, Low Tide*, uses a similar pallet as if the rock formations along the shore are subjected to the same harshness the sea air inflicts the abandoned pickup truck.

*Island Portrait* stems from Frey's experience as a resident at The Heliker-LaHotan Foundation on Great Cranberry Isle. He was one of twenty-one artists awarded a 2012 residency. Frey and a group of six artists came together for a three-week residency on the island where they worked uninterrupted in the studios once used by John Heliker and Robert LaHotan.

From this experience Frey reconnected with his painterly roots with gusto, making *Island Portrait* a delightful vision.

Karin Wilkes  
*Courthouse Gallery Fine Art*



*Into the Depths*, oil on canvas, 8 x 10 inches



*Early to Work*, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches



*Summer Heat*, oil on canvas, 18 x 24 inches



*A Way Through*, oil on canvas, 18 x 24 inches



*Sparkle*  
oil on canvas  
8 x 10 inches



*Summer Light, Great Cranberry Island*  
oil on canvas  
8 x 10 inches



*Light Through the Maples*, oil on canvas, 18 x 24 inches



*From the Top to the Archipelago, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches*

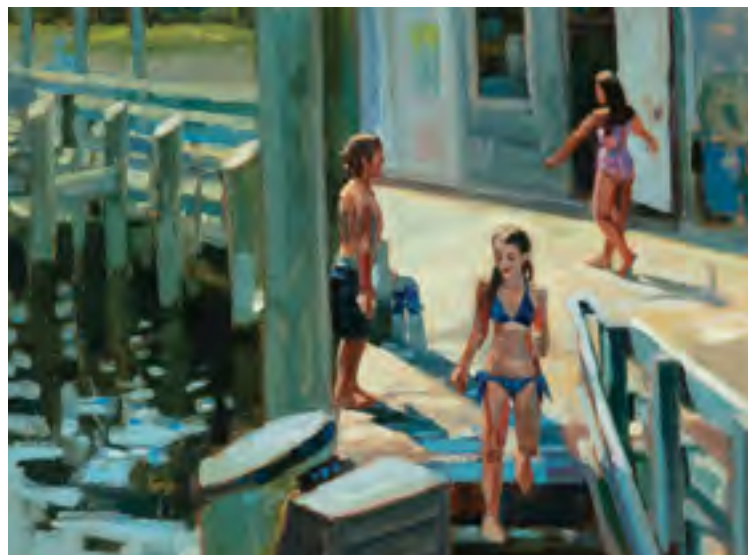


*Thrumcap and MDI, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches*





*Dreaming of Matisse*  
oil on canvas  
12 x 16 inches



*Diver, Swimmer and Acrobat*  
oil on canvas  
12 x 16 inches



*I See a Pattern*, oil on canvas, 18 x 24 inches



*Layers from Great Cranberry*  
oil on canvas  
9 x 12 inches

*Study in Yellow*  
oil on canvas  
12 x 16 inches



*From the Top*, oil on canvas, 18 x 24 inches



*Reflecting Spring*  
oil on canvas  
12 x 16 inches

*Dozer and Van*  
oil on canvas  
12 x 16 inches



*Light Play*, oil on canvas, 18 x 24 inches

# PHILIP FREY

PHOTO KELLY DIEIUC



Philip Frey painting on top of Cadillac Mountain

BORN 1967, Portland, Maine

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, Ellsworth, ME 2009, '11, '13  
Gleason Fine Art, Boothbay Harbor, ME 2012  
Thomas Moser, Freeport, ME 2008

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, Ellsworth, ME 2006–2013  
Gleason Fine Art, Boothbay Harbor, ME 2010–2013  
Maine Art Gallery, Kennebunk, ME 2008–2013  
University of Maine, Lord Hall Gallery, Orono, ME 2010  
Maine Art Gallery, (2-person show), Kennebunk, ME 2009  
The Firehouse Gallery, Damariscotta, ME 2003–2009  
Maine Art Gallery, Kennebunk, ME 2008, 2009  
Shaw Jewelry, Northeast Harbor, ME 2001–2008  
Élan Fine Art, (juried) Rockport, ME 2007  
Shaw Jewelry, (2-person show) Northeast Harbor, ME 2006  
George Marshall Store Gallery, ME 2006  
Greenhut Galleries, Portland, ME 2001–2004  
Penobscot Marine Museum, (juried), Searsport, ME 2004

Target Gallery, (juried), Alexandria, VA 2003  
Clark House Gallery, Bangor, ME 1998, '99, 2000, '01  
Argosy Gallery, Bar Harbor, ME 1997, 98, '99, 2000  
McGrath Dunham Gallery, Castine, ME 1996, '97, 98, '99, 2000  
Between the Muse Gallery, Rockland, ME 1997  
Spring Street Gallery, Belfast, ME 1997  
June Fitzpatrick Gallery, Portland, ME 1996  
Frick Gallery, Belfast, ME 1994

## SELECTED CORPORATE COLLECTIONS

Acorn Capitol Management, PA  
Company C, NH  
Dick Wolf Films, Dick Wolf, CA

## AWARDS

Heliker-LaHotan Foundation Residency, Great Cranberry Island 2012  
Good Idea Grant, Maine Arts Commission 2004

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Gettysburg Review*, Fall 2012  
Courthouse Gallery Fine Art Exhibition Catalog, "Fresh Ways." Carl Little. 2011  
*Maine Home+Design*, "The Canvas." Suzette McAvoy. 2010  
*Maine Home+Design*, "One's to Watch" 2009  
*Maine Home+Design*, "Extraordinary Artists Whose Work Reflects Maine's Timeless Mystique." 2008  
*Paintings of Maine: A New Collection*. Carl Little/Arnold Skolnick. 2006.  
Down East Books. 2006  
*The Art of Monhegan Island*. Carl Little/Arnold Skolnick. Down East Books. 2004

## EDUCATION

BFA (Painting) Cum Laude, Syracuse University, NY 1990  
Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus, OH 1986–1988



*Into the View*, oil on canvas, 11.5 x 23 inches

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