



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 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 DIEIUCO

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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