



JOSEPH KEIFFER

COURTHOUSE GALLERY
FINEART

JOSEPH KEIFFER

AUGUST 15 – SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

Essay by Jonathan P. Harding



Summer Flowers, oil on panel, 9.75 x 8 inches

COVER *Settling Into a Cloud Bank*, detail, oil on canvas, 20 x 30 inches

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6 court street ellsworth, maine 04605 courthousegallery.com 207 667 6611



Mount Deset to Monhegan
oil on canvas
20 x 66 inches

JOSEPH KEIFFER *INSPIRED BY LIGHT*



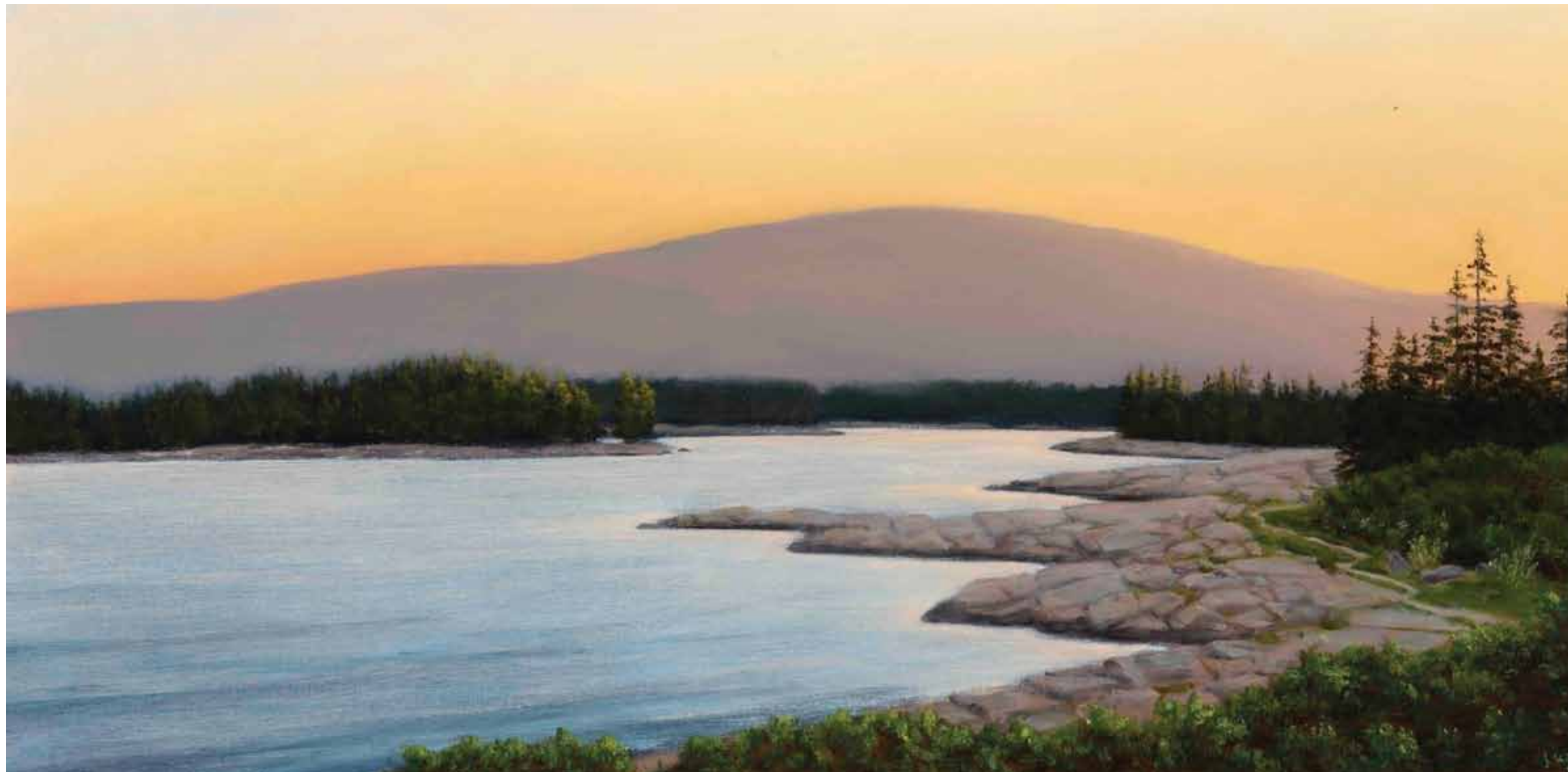
Hollyhocks!, oil on canvas, 18 x 15 inches

Joseph Keiffer always pays his debts and is the first to acknowledge the inspiration he has received from the artists of the Hudson River School. The creative process in any medium, through any voice, is built around such passions and debts but it is both rare and refreshing to hear an artist admit to them with such honesty. It would, however, be a lasting mistake to imagine that his candor has ever precluded his other, more salient, visions; this exhibition reveals his independence from any tradition or school. He is, to paraphrase Baudelaire, a painter of the modern world.

As a New Englander, Keiffer has a personal affinity to Maine's landscape, and *Mount Desert Island from Schoodic* celebrates the private world of the untainted shores we all seek. In *Hancock Pier*, we see its parallel, the equally elegant quay that zigzags towards a fleet of resting sailboats, Mount Desert Narrows, and Tunk Mountain. From our travels we are all aware that these two worlds, the world of nature and the of world humankind, coexist however uneasily. With every trip we are confronted by the simultaneous needs for being alone in nature and the need for society's amenities. Keiffer recognizes this dichotomy in the modern world . . . and finds beauty in both. In *Garden and Greenhouse* we see these visions combined. Our attention is first drawn



Hancock Pier, oil on canvas, 16 x 21 inches



Mount Desert Island from Schoodic, oil on canvas, 20 x 40 inches

to the lawn, the garden, and the architecture of the greenhouse, but in time, we begin to notice the coniferous forest looming in the background, and the roles of nature and mankind become one.

The paintings in this exhibition also reveal Joseph Keiffer's celebration of light. The effects of light have played a major role in his works, and early on in his career it influenced his decision to pursue representational painting. Just as we relish the changing moods light adds to nature, so does he. Compare the evening glow of *MDI from Schoodic* to the late afternoon clarity of *Garden* and *Greenhouse* or the breaking fog in *Clearing Off*, and one grasps his understanding of light on a most personal level. Keiffer's fascination with light extends well beyond his landscapes to include his passions for interiors and still life. Here, in such works as *Contemplation* or *Summer Kitchen*, we see his joy in capturing the dichotomies of the indoor and outdoor worlds, not just in subject but in light.

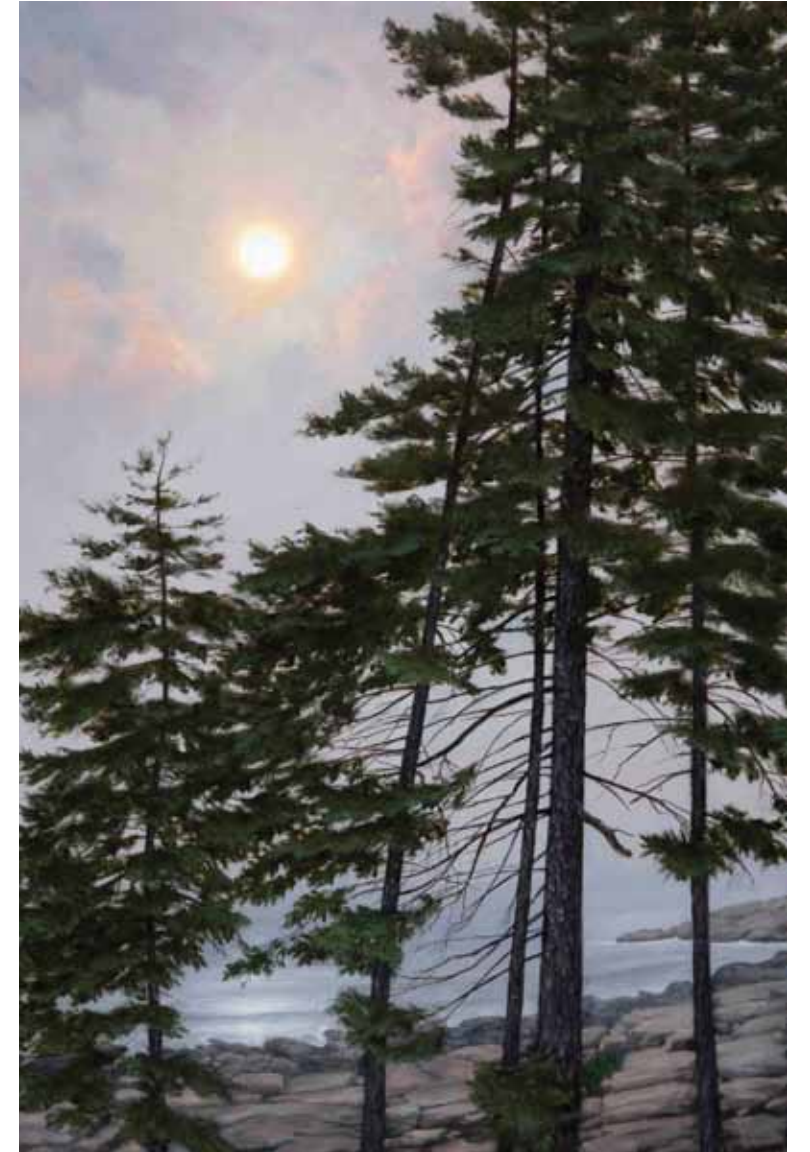
For those who have followed Joseph Keiffer's career, his landscapes, interiors, and still lifes are a perpetual source of delight and surprise. Each presents its own challenge, yet all encapsulate our shared visions of life and nature in the modern world.

— Jonathan P. Harding, Curator
The Century Association, New York

Jonathan P. Harding is the curator at the Century Association, an arts and letter organization founded by members of the Hudson River School in 1847. He was formerly the curator at the Boston Athenaeum and is author of *The Boston Athenaeum Collection: Pre-Twentieth American and European Paintings and Sculpture*. He has taught the history of art at Seton Hall University and the School of Visual Arts.



Great Head, oil on canvas, 26 x 32 inches



Clearing Off
oil on canvas
54 x 36 inches



Contemplation
oil on canvas
16 x 12 inches



Trickling Tide, oil on canvas, 18 x 20 inches



Garden Greenhouse
oil on canvas
12 x 24 inches



Summer Solstice (Fireflies)
oil on canvas
16 x 12 inches



Sunset Near Trenton, oil on canvas, 15 x 18 inches



Old Books, oil on canvas, 12 x 21 inches



Nasturtiums and Pansies on Green Gingham Cloth, oil on canvas, 16 x 20 inches



Fishing, Hancock Point
oil on canvas
18 x 16 inches



Light Fog at Schoodic Rock, oil on canvas, 28 x 30 inches



Blueberry Barren, Sedgwick, oil on panel, 10 x 20 inches



LEFT
June Lupines
oil on canvas
11 x 14 inches



RIGHT
Study of Rocks
oil on canvas
10 x 12 inches



Topsy Cups
oil on canvas
14 x 8 inches



Beachcomber, oil on canvas, 12 x 20 inches



Summer Kitchen
oil on canvas
17 x 12 inches



Yellow Plums, White Cups, oil on canvas, 8 x 10 inches



TOP
The Fruits of August
oil on canvas
11 x 12 inches



RIGHT
Red Hollyhocks
oil on canvas
10 x 8 inches



Cherries in a Cruel Cup, oil on canvas, 7 x 12 inches



JOSEPH KEIFFER (b.1952) is a realist painter who credits the Hudson River School as an important influence and source of inspiration. Keiffer's paintings ignite the senses with a cornucopia of imagery and emotions—awe, intimacy, playfulness, wonder, and joy. He takes the viewer from brilliant sunlight to twilight, from panoramic vista to cozy interior, and from fields of lavender lupine to cardboard boxes brimming with splashy annuals.

Keiffer was born in New York City. His father was a painter, and his mother was a writer, which enabled the family to spend quite a few years abroad, mainly in Europe. While living in Paris, Keiffer began painting at the age of seventeen. The following year he enrolled at Brandeis University, and after several leaves of absence to attend the New York Studio School, he graduated with degrees in philosophy and art history.

Following a year at Sotheby's "Works of Art" course, Keiffer was employed by Sotheby's as a cataloguer and appraiser of paintings, and after six years there, and three years at Doyle Galleries, he became a private art dealer

and president of a non-profit art foundation. In his thirties, Keiffer began painting full time, and for his living. In retrospect, Keiffer says, "I learned more about art history from my years in the art trade than I did in college, and I learned more about painting by looking at reality than from anything taught in art school."

In the exhibition catalog for Keiffer's 2016 solo show at Courthouse Gallery, author Lynne Barrett, an ardent collector of Keiffer's work, says:

"After you've looked long at Keiffer's paintings, a strange thing will happen, or at least it has to me. In a familiar room, you'll find you're appreciating a corner, its angles and odd charm. And standing outdoors at twilight, picking out the deepening hues of foliage and sky, you'll discover you're awake in a world waiting to be perceived."

SOLO EXHIBITIONS (selected)

Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, Ellsworth, ME 2013, '14, '16, '18
 Gallery Neptune & Brown, Washington, DC 2016–2017
 Jane Roberts Fine Art, An American Eye, Paris, France 2015
 Pamela Burns Presents, Recent Paintings, NY 2011
 Kaaterskill Fine Arts Gallery, Catskills Retrospective, Hunter, NY 2009
 The Armoire, While the Sweet Fields..., Ellsworth, ME 2009
 Arlington Art Gallery, Hudson River Views, Poughkeepsie, NY 2008
 Wingspread Gallery, Northeast Harbor, ME 2006, 2008
 Jones/Clark, New Paintings, NY 2007
 The Century Association, Recent Observations, NY 2007
 Gallery @510, Joseph Keiffer, Harrisburg, PA 2006
 The Armoire, Ellsworth, ME 1994–2009
 Beauregard Fine Art, Landscape, Still Life, Interiors, Rumson, NJ 2005
 Hubert Gallery, Recent Paintings, New York, NY 2004
 Beauregard Fine Art, Rumson, NJ 2003

Hubert Gallery, Recent Paintings, New York, NY 2002
 Hubert Gallery, As Far As I Can See, New York, NY 2000
 The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, Ligonier, PA 1999
 St. John's College Art Gallery, Santa Fe, NM 1999
 70th Street Art Gallery, New York, NY 1995–99
 Meadow Creek Gallery, Edina, MN 1996
 Capstick-Dale Fine Arts, NY 1993
 Tiglietto, Kent, CT 1992
 Blue Mountain Gallery, New York, NY 1992
 Garrison Art Center, Garrison, NY 1990

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (selected)

Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, Ellsworth, ME 2013–2018
 Windham Fine Arts, Windham, NY 2016–2018
 Spanierman Gallery, New York, NY 2011, '12, '13, '14
 The Gallery at Frenchmen's Bay, MDI, ME 2011–12
 Midtown-Payson Gallery, Transport, Hobe Sound, FL 2010
 Hoorn-Ashby Gallery, Landscape, NY 2007–08
 Hubert Gallery, The Painted Gift, NY 1999–2004
 The Century Association, Professional Painters, NY 1997–2007
 Wingspread Gallery, Northeast Harbor, ME 1999–2001
 Sherry French Gallery, New York, NY 1998–99
 Spring Bull Gallery, Summer Invitational, Newport, RI 1999
 Sherry French Gallery, *Mainely Maine*, NY 1997–98
 Peter Hastings Falk, Madison, CT 1997
 Gleason Gallery, Boothbay Harbor, ME 1997
 The Schoolhouse Gallery, Croton Falls, NY 1995–97
 Bert Gallery, Providence, RI 1994–95
 Closson's Gallery, Cincinnati, OH 1993–95
 Connoisseur Gallery, Rhinebeck, NY 1992–95
 Montgomery Gallery, San Francisco, CA 1993
 Alexander Gallery, New York, NY 1992
 Blue Mountain Gallery, New York, NY 1990–91
 Garrison Art Center, Garrison, NY 1987–90
 Sherry French Gallery, NY 1989, 1990

COLLECTIONS (selected)

Adelphi University, Garden City, NY
 The Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, MA
 Bryn Mawr College, Special Collections Library, Bryn Mawr, PA
 Ms. Eleanor Alter and Dr. Allan Lans, NY
 Mr. W.M. Brady, New York, NY
 Ms. Dominique Browning, NY
 Ms. Candace Carpenter, NY
 Ms. Jane Curtin, Egremont, MA
 Mrs. F.E. Dixon, Lafayette Hill, PA
 Mrs. Richard B. Fisher, NY
 Mr. and Mrs. Peter Fairbanks, San Francisco, CA
 Mr. and Mrs. Ben Ali Haggin, NY
 Mr. and Mrs. George Hambrecht, New York, NY
 Mr and Mrs. Stuart Janney, Baltimore, MD
 Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Kennedy, New York, NY



Low Tide, oil on canvas, 12 x 18 inches



Mr. and Mrs. William I. Koch, Palm Beach, FL
Mr. Nicholas Lemann, New York, NY
Mr. James Maroney, Leicester, VT
Mr. and Mrs. A.D. McCulloch, Bryn Mawr, PA
Mr. and Mrs. Armour Mellon, Ligonier, PA
Mrs. Charles Moffett, New York, NY
Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Milbank, NY
Ms. Joan Morgan, Washington, DC
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nederlander and Pat Cook, New York, NY
Ambassador and Mrs. John Ong, OG
Mr. John Whitney Payson, Hobe Sound, FL
Pfizer Art Collection
Mr. Marc Porter, New York, NY
Mr. G. Remak Ramsay, NY
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Rathbone, New Canaan, NY
Sir Peter and Lady Ricketts, London, England
Mr. and Mrs. George Segal, Kent, CT
Mme. Arlette Serullaz, Paris, France
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sillerman, NY
Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, Greensburg, PA
Mr. Jerry Speyer/Katherine Farley, NY
Ms. Linda Vester, NY
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Widing, Ligonier, PA

EDUCATION

Brandeis University, BA
New York Studio School
Sotheby's Works of Art Course

French Staircase, oil on canvas, 20 x 10 inches



Typewriter, oil on canvas, 10 x 12 inches

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