



JOSEPH KEIFFER

COURTHOUSE GALLERY
FINEART

JOSEPH KEIFFER

Return to Acadia

JULY 24–AUGUST 18, 2013

Essay by Carl Little



Pansies and Nasturiums, oil on panel, 16 x 24 inches

COVER *Fourth of July, Northeast Harbor*, oil on canvas, 28 x 30 inches

COURTHOUSE GALLERY
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Saltwater Farm
oil on canvas
20 x 40 inches

JOSEPH KEIFFER **Return to Acadia**



Fire Over Sutton, oil on canvas, 18 x 12 inches

We are pleased to bring Joseph Keiffer back to Ellsworth with our first solo exhibition of his work at Courthouse Gallery. I became aware of Keiffer's work seven or eight years ago while driving down Main Street in Ellsworth. There was a small shop next to The Grand, and I often noticed the landscapes displayed in the window. The paintings stood out, even from the car. Then one day, the shop was gone.

The shop was The Armoire, owned by Francesca Zolotov. She sold a mix of objects, silver, and "works of art," and Keiffer showed his work there for over a decade before it closed in 2009. Zolotov met Keiffer in New York when he worked at Sotheby's as a cataloguer and a junior painting and print appraiser. Once Zolotov learned he was also a painter, she invited him to show at her shop in Ellsworth. Keiffer, who first came to Maine in the 1970s, began to spend more time here, and Zolotov introduced him to various spots along the coast to paint. They enjoyed many good times and successful years together.

Although Keiffer's work would fit nicely with our stable, it took some persistence to track him down. Eventually I found his name, but an internet search turned up nothing. Time passed, I got busy, lost the name, and yet, memories of the paintings lingered. This past year, I looked for his name again, and soon a new internet search brought up Keiffer's new website. A phone call led to a studio visit in New York, and to this solo show. Keiffer is delighted to be home in Ellsworth again, and we're delighted to bring him back!

—Karin Wilkes
Courthouse Gallery

NEXT PAGE *September*, oil on canvas, 20 x 50 inches



Wing and Wing, oil on canvas, 28 x 30 inches



The World According to Keiffer by Carl Little

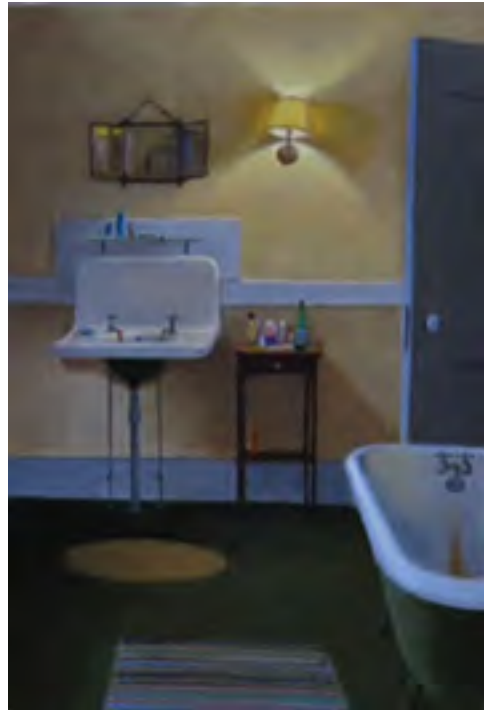
I wouldn't want to be accused of promulgating any rules for artistic success, but I do suggest that would-be painters cannot find a better teacher than the world they see with their own eyes...

—Joseph Keiffer

Every painter must choose—or be chosen by—a subject. As they walk through this world, certain objects and images appeal to their senses. They strive to convey these sensations by way of pigments, offering us their findings.

Joseph Keiffer presents places and objects that have caught his eye—and which in turn catch ours. He offers landscapes and still lifes; he paints both fireworks and a lamp-lit room. He is a stylist, but without overdoing it. His work sometimes has the feel of certain nineteenth century artists, yet he brings his own sensibility to bear on each canvas.

Exploring the coast of Maine, Keiffer will set up his easel before a motif and get to work. He is not afraid to take on the iconic view, be it Caterpillar Hill overlooking Eggemoggin Reach and the Deer Isle Thorofare or the Porcupine Islands dotting Frenchman Bay. His painting of Bar Island in Somesville may hark back to Fitz Henry Lane, who frequented the area, but the rendering is his alone: bright and balanced.



The Yellow Bath, oil on canvas, 15 x 10 inches



Frenchman's Bay, The Porcupines, oil on canvas, 25 x 27 inches



Spirits and Vessels, oil on canvas, 18 x 15 inches

Paintings of fireworks over Northeast Harbor and Sutton Island employ a profound blue reminiscent of Maxfield Parrish. Keiffer captures the light shows in mid-burst, water and anchored sailboats briefly illuminated by the pyrotechnics, smoke drifting off—transfigured night.

Keiffer can be intimate, painting a room with shelves filled with books to which we would like to retire. His still lifes of flowers are lovely: potted pansies, a rhododendron blossom in full glory, nasturtiums arranged in a simple enamel measuring cup. Speaking of cups: the painter has a special passion for vintage tin ware and glass, which comes to a kind of climax in the remarkable balancing act that is titled *Pink Plate*.

The brushwork ranges from flat to painterly, with the former the favored approach. Recreating the deck of a sailboat (*Wing and Wing*), Keiffer maintains a tight line that befits the precision of rigging, cowl vents and woodwork. By contrast, to depict the denouement of a field of lupine he turns to more impressionist means.

Like the dock that stretches out onto the water in the painting *Hancock Landing*, Joseph Keiffer leads us into a world at once familiar and enticing, Accept his invitation and set sail.

Carl Little lives and writes on Mount Desert Island. His latest book is The Art of Francis Hamabe.



Dusk, oil on canvas, 20 x 24 inches





PREVIOUS PAGE
Caterpillar Hill
oil on canvas
24 x 48 inches

Red, White, and Blue
oil on canvas
12 x 10 inches



The Pink Plate, oil on canvas, 26 x 32 inches



Rhododendron Blossoms, oil on canvas, 10 x 8 inches



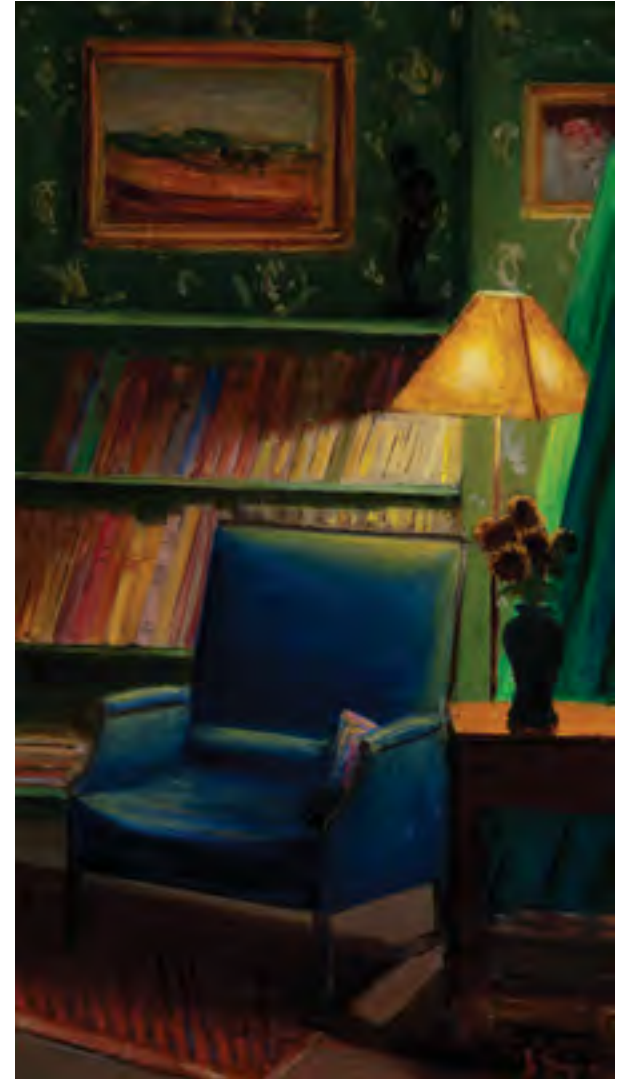
Nasturtium and Enamel, oil on panel, 10 x 8 inches



Gentle Knocking, oil on canvas, 12 x 18 inches



OPPOSITE
A Cozy Cottage
oil on canvas
13 x 16 inches



Blue Chair
oil on panel
14 x 8 inches



Old Things
oil on panel
8 x 10 inches



Potting Pansies
oil on canvas
12 x 12 inches



Hancock Landing, oil on canvas, 16 x 21 inches



JOSEPH KEIFFER

BORN New York, New York 1952

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, Return to Acadia, Ellsworth, ME 2013
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

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Spanierman Gallery, New Consignments, New York, NY 2011–13
The Gallery at Frenchmen's Bay, Mount Desert Island, ME 2011–12
Spanierman Gallery, Maine: An Artist's Retreat, New York, NY 2011
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

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Adelphi University, Garden City, NY
Ms. Eleanor Alter/Dr. Allan Lans, NY
Mr. W.M. Brady, 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. Rudolph Giuliani, NY, NY
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Ali Haggin, NY
Mr and Mrs. Stuart Janney, Baltimore, MD
Mr. and Mrs. William I. Koch, Palm Beach, FL
Mr. and Mrs. E.J.Landrigan, NY
Mr. Nicholas Lemann, NY, NY
Mr. and Mrs. A.D.McCulloch, Bryn Mawr, PA
Mr. and Mrs. Armour Mellon, Ligonier, PA
Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Milbank, NY
Ms. Joan Morgan, Washington, DC
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nederlander and Pat Cook, New York, NY



Old Books, oil on canvas, 9 x 14 inches

Ambassador and Mrs. John Ong, OG
Mr. John Whitney Payson, Hobe Sound, FL
Pfizer Art Collection
Mr. Marc Porter, New York, NY



Garden, Winter Harbor, oil on canvas, 10 x 13 inches

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Puccio, NY
Mr. and Mrs. George Segal, Kent, CT
Mr. G. Remak Ramsay, NY
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Rathbone, New Canaan, NY
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



Schoodic from Acadia, oil on canvas, 16 x 20 inches
BACK COVER *Somesville Landing, detail*, oil on canvas, 18 x 36 inches

A detailed landscape painting depicting a serene scene at sunset. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the warm, golden light of the setting sun. A rocky shoreline leads to a lush green lawn. In the middle ground, a large, white, two-story house with a prominent chimney is nestled among tall, dark green trees. To the right of the house, a tall, thin flagpole stands. In the background, a church steeple is visible, partially obscured by a large, leafy tree. The sky is a soft gradient of orange and yellow, suggesting the time is either dawn or dusk. The overall mood is peaceful and idyllic.

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