



WILLIAM IRVINE

COURTHOUSE GALLERY
FINE ART

WILLIAM IRVINE

New Explorations

JULY 13 – AUGUST 7, 2020



Out of the Fog, 2020, porcelain vase with potter Mark Bell, 12 inches

COVER *The Schoodic Surf*, 2020, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches

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



The Yellow Boat, 2020, oil on board, 36 x 48 inches



The Resting Fisherman, 2020, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches

New Explorations

I have always considered composition, the underlying structure of painting, an important means to convey one's feelings. Before the power of color was understood, the old masters principally used composition to express themselves. For instance, in Botticelli's *Primavera*, the lines flow to give the feeling of a dance. So I am always aware of composition when I paint, not just for balance and strength, but also how it can be used to affect the emotions.

Recently, a friend mentioned a painting of mine he saw several years ago, which stuck in his mind. It had an unusual composition, and I found myself revisiting that painting's structure. What followed was a number of new paintings some of which are in this show.

The canvas is divided into three parts, like a triptych, except in a triptych the three panels are generally separate paintings linked only by subject

matter. What I have done is to shift the picture plane in each section while keeping a single image. The effect is interesting. Several visitors to my studio have given me their responses. One person found the effect gave her a suspension of logic enabling her to approach the painting more through her senses.

Another mentioned the feeling of movement, be it waves or clouds, eliciting a more emotional response. Yet another said that he felt drawn into the image as if the painting were three dimensional.

For myself, I find the structure enlivens the picture in a way that suits my need for expression. I am not aware of any other artist who has used this form of composition. The joy of painting is making your own discoveries.

— William Irvine



Under the Cloud, 2020, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches



Coming About, 2020, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches



The Sleeping Sailor, 2020, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches



Hauling the Traps, 2020, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches



Two Lobsters, 2020, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches



Green Bay, 2020, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches



Mermaid Resting, 2020, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches



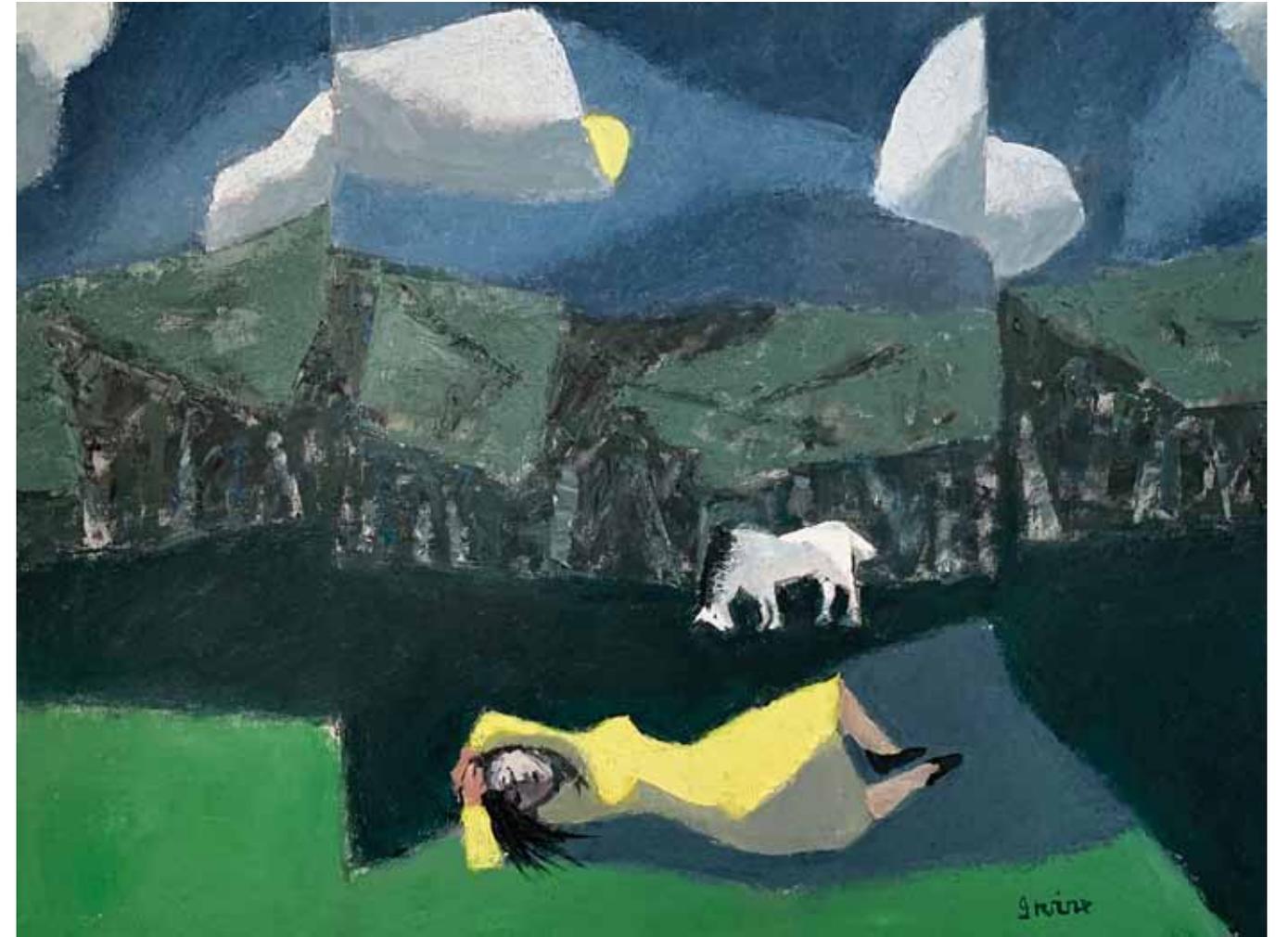
Early Morning Sail, 2020, oil on board, 36 x 48 inches



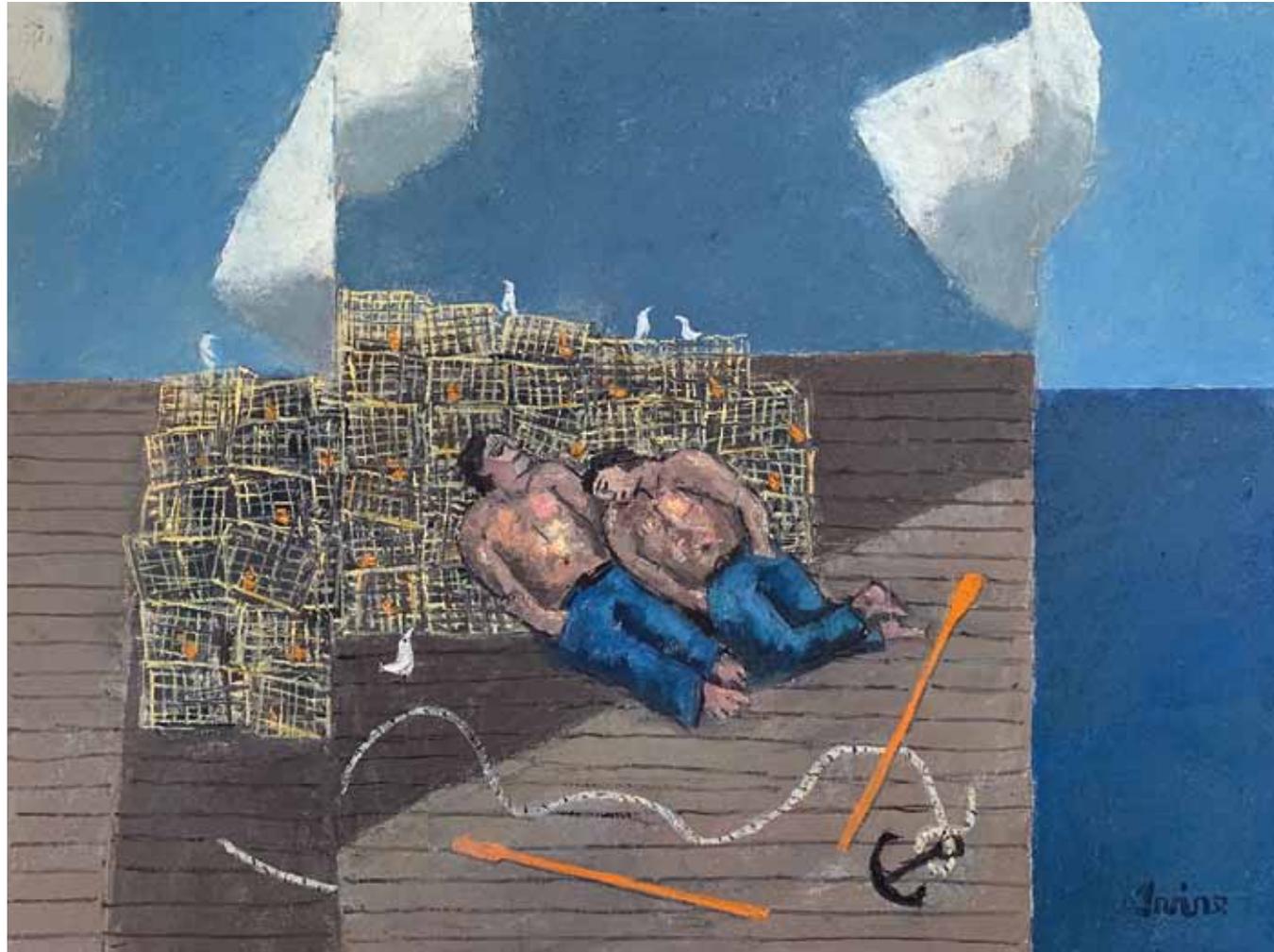
Evening Anchorage, 2020, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches



Beyond the Bay, 2020, oil on board, 36 x 48 inches



Dora Dreaming, 2020, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches



Resting Fishermen, 2020, oil on board, 30 x 40 inches



The Clam Digger's Table, 2020, oil on canvas, 36 x 36 inches



The Green Lobster Boat, 2020, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches



The Green Sea, 2020, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches



Pink Cloud, 2020, oil on canvas, 36 x 36 inches



Under the Rain Cloud, 2020, oil on canvas, 36 x 36 inches



The Lobsterman's Table, 2020, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches



Fishing Off Tinkers, 2020, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches



Sailing the Open Sea, 2020, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches



Resting Sailor, 2020, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches



The Kite Flyers, porcelain vase with potter Mark Bell, 12.5h inches



Together, porcelain vase with potter Mark Bell, 10h inches



Pain Passes, Beauty Remains, porcelain vase with potter Mark Bell, 12h inches

WILLIAM IRVINE



William Irvine and his dog, Tam O' Shanter, Brooklin, Maine, 2017

William Irvine (b. 1931) was born and raised in Troon, a small town on the Atlantic coast of Scotland, a few miles from Alloway where the poet Robert Burns was born. Irvine became interested in art as a young boy and majored in art at Marr College, a progressive secondary school in Troon. When the family of whiskey magnate Johnnie Walker heard about two budding artists at Marr (Irvine and his best friend William Crozier¹), they invited the boys for a private viewing of Walker's art collection. This was Irvine's first opportunity to see original paintings by the masters.

Irvine graduated with a degree in drawing and painting from the Glasgow School of Art in 1953. After his National Service in the Scottish army, Irvine moved to London. During

his ten years there, Irvine exhibited in many galleries, including one-man shows at the Drian Gallery and the Parton Gallery. In 1960, he met and married Stephanie Schram, an American student studying in London.

After seeing a newspaper advertisement for property in Maine, the young couple moved to the United States in 1967. They settled on the coast of Maine in Washington County. A few years later, they bought a house in Blue Hill, Maine, and the old attached barn became Irvine's studio for the next forty-two years.

Maine proved to be a turning point. Irvine combined the abstract with the figurative, producing bold new seascapes, landscapes, and still lifes. He was also moved by the everyday lives of the men and women living and working in these coastal villages. Paintings of these people, as well as his experimental seascapes, became lifelong themes for Irvine.

In 1985, Stephanie died after a long illness. Irvine married Margery Wilson in 1995. They built a house and studio on the shore overlooking the sea in Brooklin, Maine. Living in such close proximity to the ocean provides Irvine with daily sources of inspiration. He still lives there today with Margery and their Shetland sheepdog, Tam O' Shanter.

1. Irvine and William Crozier attended Marr College and the Glasgow School of Art together. They moved to London and became part of the artistic and literary scene of 1950s Soho. Crozier went on to become a noted British painter.

ONE PERSON EXHIBITIONS

Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, Ellsworth, ME 2012, 2014–2020
Greenhut Gallery, Portland, ME 2017
The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland 2016
Marshall Store Gallery, York, ME 2015
Gleason Gallery, Boothbay Harbor, ME 2011, '12, '13, '14
Leighton Gallery, Blue Hill, ME 1986–2011
Firehouse Gallery, Damariscotta, ME 2002–2009
Studio E, Palm Beach, FL 2003–2006
Shaw Gallery, Northeast Harbor, ME 2003, '05, '07
McGrath Dunham Gallery, Castine, ME 2001–2006
George Marshall Store Gallery, York, ME 2005
Eastland Gallery, Portland, ME 2001
Carnegie Museum, University of Maine, Orono, ME 2000
Davidson and Daughters, Portland, ME 1996, 1999
Leighton Gallery, Westford, MA 1982, 1995
Art Alliance, Philadelphia, PA 1993
June Fitzpatrick Gallery, Portland, ME 1992
Bayview Gallery, Portland, ME 1989
Noel Butcher Gallery, Philadelphia, PA 1982–1986
John Little Gallery, Clark University, Worcester, MA 1980
Rudolph Gallery, Woodstock, NY and Miami, FL 1968–1976
Drian Gallery, London, England 1960, 1962
Parton Gallery, London, England 1960
McLellan Gallery, Glasgow, Scotland 1958
Carnegie Library, Ayr, Scotland 1949

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, Ellsworth, ME 2007–present
Gleason Gallery, Boothbay Harbor, ME 2011–present
George Marshall Store Gallery, York, ME 2007–present
Greenhut Gallery, Portland, ME 2006–present
Elan Gallery, Rockport, ME 2007
Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, ME 2006–2013
Turtle Gallery, Deer Isle, ME 2006
Penobscot Marine Museum at Searsport, ME 2002
Marine Environmental Research Institute, Blue Hill, ME 2001
Monmouth Museum, Lincroft, NJ 1984
Mast Cove Gallery, Kennebunkport, ME

Gregory Boon Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
Congress Square Gallery, Portland, ME
National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC
Munson Gallery, New Haven, CT 1982
American Art Cultural Center, Washington, DC 1978
Shore Gallery, Boston, MA 1970–1973
Portal Gallery, London, England
Artists International Association, London, England
Blue Hill Library, Blue Hill, ME
Scottish Arts Council, Edinburgh, Scotland 1953

PUBLIC AND CORPORATE COLLECTIONS

Art in Embassies Program, Republic of Lithuania
Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, Ellsworth, ME
Hand and Flower Press, London, England
Marine Environmental Research Institute, Blue Hill, ME
Rouse Corporation, Pittsburgh, PA
Scottish Arts Council, Edinburgh, Scotland
University of Maine Museum of Art, Bangor, ME

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Irvine, William. *William Irvine: At Home*. Marshall Wilkes 2018
Little, Carl. *William Irvine: A Painter's Journey*. Marshall Wilkes 2014
Down East, Kim Ridley, April 2010
Maine Home + Design, Suzanne McEvoy, August 2008
Maine Painters, Carl Little, editor, September 2006
Maine Sunday Telegram, Philip Isaacson 2001, Ken Greenleaf 1996
Maine Times, Feature Article, Donna Gold 2000
Bangor Daily News, Feature Article 1999, 2000
Art New England, Carl Little 2000
Portland Press Herald 1992, 1999
Preview 1993
The Maine Times 1991
The Philadelphia Inquirer 1983
ArtNews, Ann Jarmusch 1983
Maine Life 1979
The London Observer 1960

EDUCATION

Glasgow School of Art, DA, Scotland



Fishermen Resting, 2020, oil on board, 36 x 48 inches



The Green Sea, 2020, oil on canvas, 24 x 30 inches

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