



JUDY BELASCO

COURTHOUSE GALLERY
FINEART

JUDY BELASCO

The Mystery of Water

JUNE 20 – JULY 14, 2018

Essay by Carl Little



Schoodic Point Wave, oil on panel, 8.5 x 12 inches

COVER *Alcyon Cove*, oil on canvas, 27.5 x 28 inches

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



Schoodic Mid-tide, oil on canvas, 20 x 22 inches



Acadia Marshland, oil on panel, 11.5 x 24 inches

JUDY BELASCO CONNECTION TO NATURE

by Carl Little



Schoodic Ledge Pond, oil on panel, 22 x 15 inches

One of Judy Belasco's greatest pleasures in life is to study the world. As she told a group of admirers at Courthouse Gallery a few years ago, "You can plunk me down anywhere and I'll look."

Belasco traces this passion for observing to her family. The child and granddaughter of artists, she learned early on to take in her surroundings. She applied that skill to photography and then to painting.

For the past twenty years or so, one of the chief objects of Belasco's observations—and of her art—has been the greater Mount Desert Island region. Working from her home base in Stockton Springs, she has explored the region, seeking out motifs that speak to her. The work in this show provides further, ample testimony to her exceptional eye and mastery of weather and light.

The territory is well known and well painted, yet Belasco manages to find new places, sometimes out of the way and heretofore unsung. Case in point: Alcyon, a retreat center at Seal Cove on Mount Desert Island's west side. Two paintings capture that intimate landscape: images of a wonderfully atmospheric fog-bound cove and a becoming wedge of beaver pond swarmed by lily pads.



Alcyon Beaver Pond, oil on canvas, 20 x 24 inches



Foggy Schoodic Point, oil on panel, 11.5 x 8 inches

Belasco can also refresh an iconic view, be it the Bass Harbor Marsh with its zigzagging estuary stretching into the distance or Cadillac Mountain as seen from Schoodic. In both instances the painter brings new light and compositional energy to the subject. Her canvases remind us why we cherish these vistas.

Likewise, Belasco revives the dynamic of the wave-washed coastline. Here is the Atlantic Ocean on a silvery gray overcast day caressing the shore or, by contrast, hurling a mighty roller against the ledges of Schoodic Point. The latter painting takes its rightful place in a line that includes Marsden Hartley and Vincent Hartgen.

And Belasco can surprise. In a manner recalling the master nineteenth century romantic Albert Pinkham Ryder, she has created the dramatic *Coastal Maine Moon*, a tour-de-force cloudscape. The painting has a transfigured night quality to it, eerie and engaging.

Remarkable in another way is *Lobster Cove*. Lines of lobster cars, those floating crates that serve as temporary holding pens, meander across the still water. Here the artist achieves a kind of magic realism.

“The longer you look,” Belasco has said, “the deeper and deeper you go.” The same can be said of these remarkable paintings. They draw us into landscapes we thought we knew but now see with greater depth and renewed wonder.

Carl Little lives and writes on Mount Desert Island. His most recent books are *Philip Frey: Here and Now* (Marshall Wilkes) and *Nature Observed: The Landscapes of Joseph Fiore* (Falcon Foundation).



Coastal Maine Moon, oil on canvas, 20 x 28 inches



Schoodic Sunset, oil on panel, 6 x 15 inches



Maine Moon
oil on canvas
48 x 31 inches



Beaver Pond, oil on panel, 10 x 22 inches



Acadia beaver Pond, oil on panel, 12 x 21 inches



Maine Inland Pond, oil on canvas, 22 x 27 inches



Lobster Cove, oil on canvas, 16.5 x 34 inches



Bass Harbor Inlet, oil on canvas, 20 x 36 inches



Cadillac from Schoodic, oil on canvas, 20 x 18 inches



Cadillac Mountain, Schoodic View, oil on panel, 10 x 14 inches



Schoodic Pebble Beach, oil on panel, 15 x 24 inches



Schoodic Island Cliff, oil on panel, 12 x 22 inches



Inlet from Island, oil on panel, 10 x 22.5 inches



Atlantic Beach, oil on panel, 8 x 12 inches



Coastal Maine, oil on panel, 9 x 12 inches



Atlantic Fall Ocean, oil on canvas, 22.5 x 34 inches



JUDY BELASCO

BORN Doylestown, Pennsylvania 1942

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, Ellsworth, ME, 2009, '11, '13, '18

F.A.N. Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, 2000, 2003

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, Ellsworth, ME, 2007–present

Mulford Gallery, Rockland, ME, 2007, '08, '09, '10

Susan Maasch Fine Art, Portland, ME, 2010

Betts Gallery, Invitational show, Belfast, ME, 2010

F.A.N. Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, 1999, 2000, '02, '08, '09

McGrath Dunham Gallery, Castine, ME, 1998, 2000, '01, '02, '03, '04, '05, '06

Maine Art Gallery, Kennebunkport, ME, 2004

SYDA Foundation (Invitational), S. Fallsburg, NY, 2003

5th Annual International Fine Arts Show, Boston, MA, 2001

4th Annual International Fine Art Show, Boston, MA, 2000

3rd Annual International Fine Art Show, Boston, MA, 1999

Museum of Modern Art, (Photography exhibition) New York, NY, 1971

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Germantown Friends School

MBNA

Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Belasco paintings are represented in numerous private collections

EDUCATION

Maine Photographic Workshop: Fine Digital Print with John Paul Caponigro, 2005

Private Study: Maine Landscape Painting with Linden Frederick, 1996–2004

Maine Photographic Workshop: Fine Digital Print, 2004

Barnstone Studios: Classical Drawing and Dynamic Symmetry, 1993–1994

Philadelphia College of Art, BFA, Photography Major, 1969–1972

Philadelphia College of Art: Painting Major, 1960–1963

WORK EXPERIENCE

Art Teacher, Germantown Friends School, Philadelphia, PA 1976–2008



Seawall Sunset, oil on panel, 9 x 12 inches

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