



JOHN NEVILLE

COURTHOUSE GALLERY
FINEART

JOHN NEVILLE

Let's Go Fishing

JULY 23 – AUGUST 13, 2017

ESSAY BY ALAN DEACON



Rowers, oil on canvas, 9 x 12 inches

COVER *Hauling the Trawl*, oil on canvas, 24 x 36 inches

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Furling the Foresail, oil on canvas, 24 x 36 inches



Setting a Trawl, oil on canvas, 24 x 36 inches

JOHN NEVILLE **Let's Go Fishing**

There were stories about bootlegging, bad luck, record catches, rivalries, and drunken husbands—all of which became the basis for John Neville's rich pictorial language.



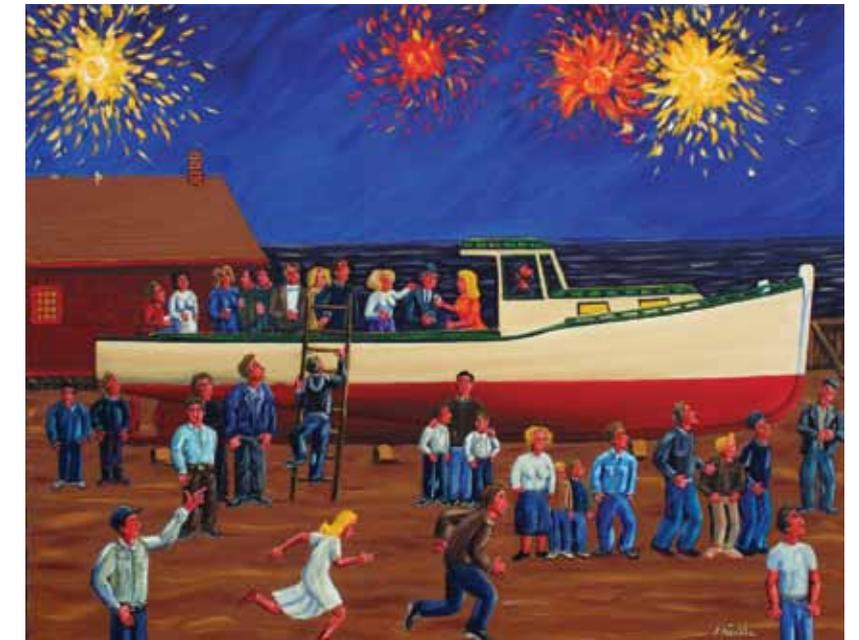
Schooner in Big Waves, oil on canvas, 11 x 14 inches

John Neville's nostalgic portrayals of bygone days chronicle the daily lives of the local fishermen and their women from his childhood village. A native of Nova Scotia, Neville was born in Halls Harbour, on the Bay of Fundy, to a family of boat builders and fishermen where hard work was taken for granted. He grew up fishing with his father, building boats, and listening to the tales of men and women in the local villages. There were stories about bootlegging, bad luck, record catches, rivalries, and drunken husbands—all of which became the basis for his rich pictorial language.

Neville is a gifted storyteller whose interpretation of this fishing folklore has made him a unique visual artist. He often approaches a subject with humor, as in *Tug of War*. In Neville's version man and fish engage in a friendly tug of war with each team cheering on their comrades. The strength of Neville's paintings lies in his knowledge of fishing and seafaring, as well as his ability to draw, a skill he



Going to Set a Net, oil on canvas, 24 x 36 inches



July 4th World Cruise
oil on canvas
22 x 28 inches

LEFT
Fishing Village, ca. 1950
oil on canvas
38 x 60 inches



Tug of War, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches

developed as an engraver and from his training at Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and the Centre Gravure de Contemporaine in Geneva, Switzerland.

Neville began as a printmaker and maintained a studio in Hall's Harbour for twenty years, where he made over two hundred hand-pulled intaglio etchings on copper plates. In the 1990s, Neville began painting exclusively with oils after an adverse reaction to the printmaking chemicals. His narrative oil paintings are instantly recognizable by his bold use of color and abstract overtones. Strong fishermen with boxer like knuckles are wary as they pull on oars that strain and give under the weight of water. Choppy seas add rhythm to Neville's paintings often with towering waves that resemble the peaks of an alpine mountain.

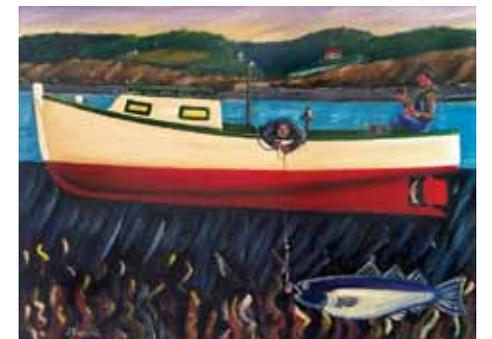
In this latest exhibition there are familiar themes. The wonderful *Setting the Trawl* with the trance-like state of the dory fishermen. The red dory is a focal point, in particular Neville's iconic overhead bird's-eye view of a dory loaded with bluefish. Or, the dory is tossed about in a lonely sea with just the comfort of a sailboat on the horizon. *The Knitter and the Fisherman* offers a humorous and lighter side, and in the serene *Fishing Village, ca.1950*, one cannot escape the high tide. The harbour is swollen. This is the way of life in the Bay of Fundy.

— Alan Deacon

Alan Deacon has been an avid art collector for over fifty years. Deacon is the authenticator of paintings by Maude Lewis, who is Canada's best known folk artist. Alan lives in Wolfville, Nova Scotia.



Handliners, oil on canvas, 10 x 8 inches



Drifting Low Tide, oil on canvas, 8 x 10 inches



Mermaid Knitting, oil on chest, 18h x 19.5 x 37.5 inches



Mermaid Knitting View 2



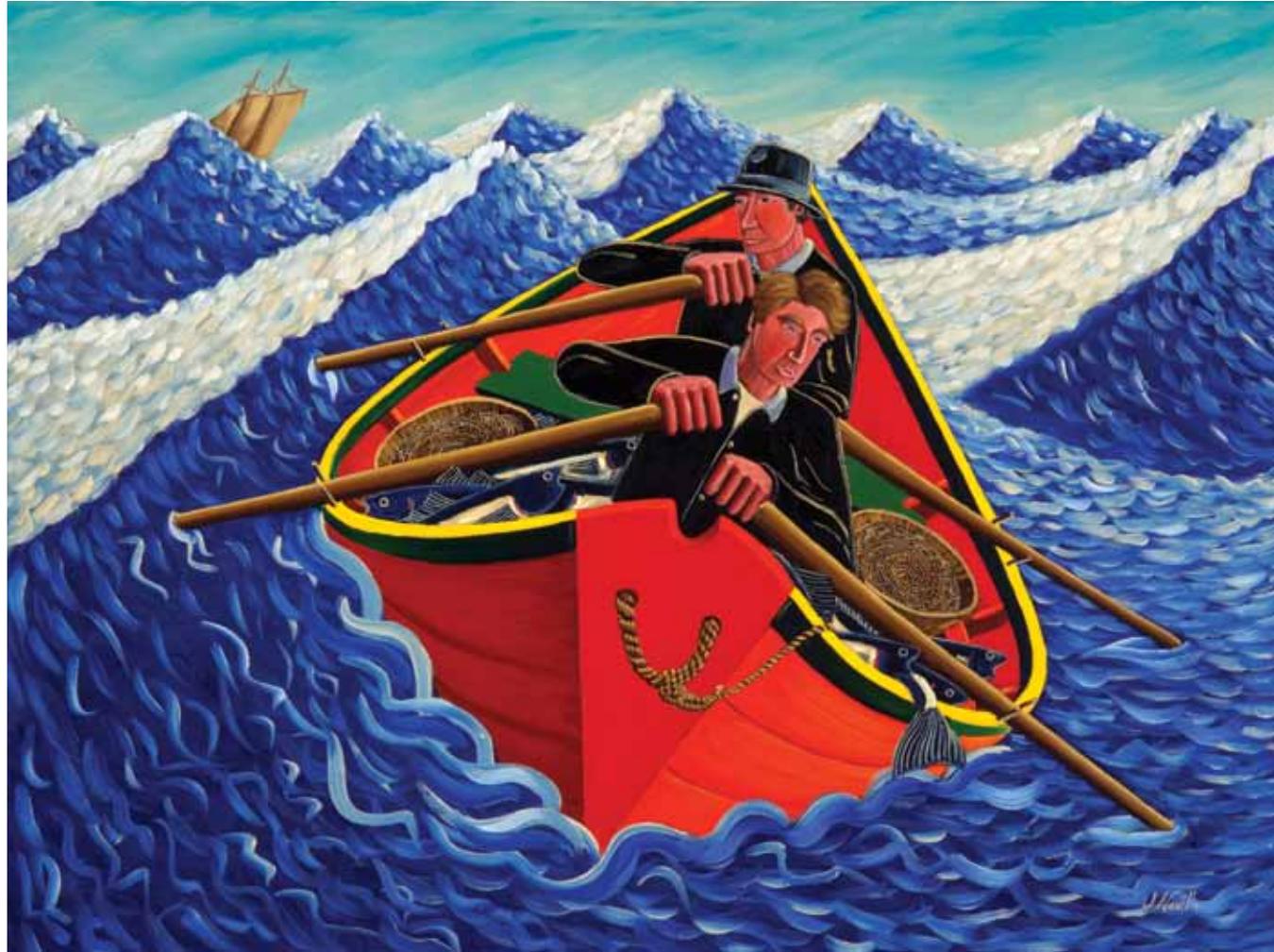
Handliners, oil on canvas, 24 x 36 inches



Knitter and the Fisherman, oil on canvas, 24 x 36 inches



Torching the Water
oil on canvas
38 x 60 inches



Blue Water, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches



Let's Go Fishing, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches



Brothers in the Fog, oil on canvas, 16 x 20 inches



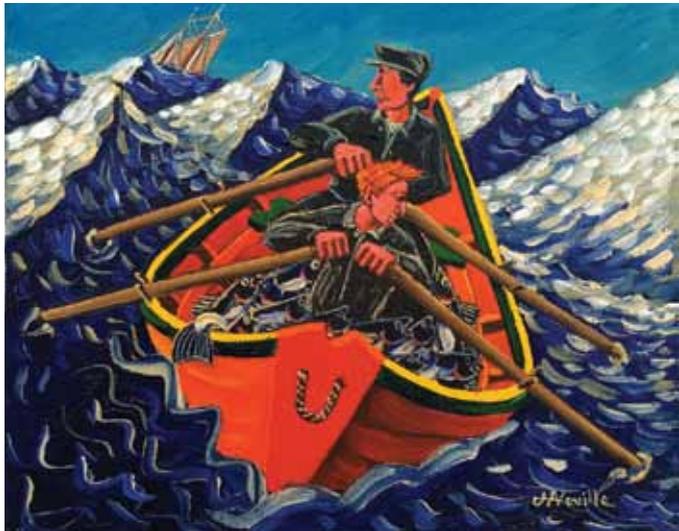
Boater's Paradise (No Wake), oil on canvas, 24 x 36 inches

Dory Full of Blue Fish
oil on canvas
38 x 60 inches





Big Seas
oil on canvas
12 x 16 inches



Rough Seas
oil on canvas
8 x 10 inches



Rower Standing Up, oil on canvas, 24 x 36 inches



JOHN NEVILLE

BORN 1952, Hall's Harbour, Nova Scotia, Canada

ONE PERSON EXHIBITIONS

Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, Ellsworth, ME 2010, 2012, 2014, 2017

Firehouse Gallery, Damariscotta, ME 1999–2002

Fog Forest Gallery, Sackville, New Brunswick 1999

Gallery House, Nobleboro, ME 1993, '94, '96

Houston North Gallery, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia 1992, '93, '94, '96, 2000

Marianne Friedland Gallery, Toronto, Ontario 1994

South Street Seaport Museum, NY 1993

Acadia University Art Gallery, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, 1989

Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Nova Scotia 1988

Great George Street Gallery, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island 1987

University of New Brunswick, Saint John, New Brunswick 1980

Last Great Canadian Art Gallery, Annapolis, Nova Scotia 1977

Anna Leonowens Gallery, NSCAD, Halifax, Nova Scotia 1976

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, Ellsworth, ME 2009–2017

Carol Craven Gallery, Martha's Vineyard, MA 2002, 2005

Acadia University Collection, Wolfville, Nova Scotia 1999

Houston North Gallery, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia 1984, '85, '87, '88, '91, '99, 2002

Taigh Chearsabhagh, Nort Uist, Scotland 1998

An Laintair Gallery, Isle of Lewis, Scotland 1998

Tobera Mory Gallery, Isle of Mull, Scotland 1998

ACA Gallery, Manhattan, NY 1997

Gallery House, Nobleboro, ME 1991 '92, '95, '97

Open Eye, Edinburgh, Scotland 1996

Dalhousie Art Gallery, Nova Scotia 1994

COLLECTIONS

Dundee Education Authority Collection, Scotland

Saint Mary's and Dalhousie University Art Galleries, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Canada Council Art Bank

Confederation Center Art Gallery, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

University of New Brunswick, Saint John, New Brunswick

Nova Scotia Art Bank and Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Museum of Fine Arts, Geneva, Switzerland

Acadia University Art Gallery, Wolfville, Nova Scotia

Esso Resources Canada, Calgary, Alberta

The Canadian Fund, Ottawa, Ontario

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts, NS College of Art and Design, Halifax, NS, 1972–76

Center De Gravure Contemporaries, Geneva, Switzerland, 1975–76

BACK COVER

Pollock in the Dory

oil on canvas

24 x 36 inches



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