

RETURN TO VACATIONLAND

COASTAL MAINE ARTISTS HOPE FOR A BANNER SUMMER



The summer art calendar in coastal Maine is jam-packed by design.

During the cold depths of a northern New England winter, all of us involved in the Maine art scene have plenty of time to think and plan. We know exactly when the away-crowds will return. We know precisely how short that window of opportunity is. And we take each and every effort to optimize our gallery and museum programming in the ways most likely to bring our diverse communities of artists, enthusiasts and collectors together for festive gatherings under summer skies, once again.

In contrast to last year's busy season, when the lingering COVID-19 pandemic dominated many arts organizations into a series of half-steps and false starts; the summer of 2022 is shaping up to be a banner year for Maine-based artists and cultural institutions.

That's precisely why we wanted to offer this coastal Maine summer arts preview: to shine ample light on a select cross-section of buzz-worthy fine art

WANDERLUST

DAVID LUSSIER GALLERY
66 WALLINGFORD SQUARE
KITTERY, MAINE
OPENS JUNE 3

**OGUNQUIT ART ASSOCIATION:
EXPRESSIONS**
MAY 25 THROUGH JULY 23
BARN GALLERY
3 HARTWIG LANE
OGUNQUIT, MAINE

**JIM MORIN: DRAWING AND
PAINTING**
MAY 1 THROUGH OCTOBER 31
**OGUNQUIT MUSEUM OF
AMERICAN ART**
543 SHORE ROAD
OGUNQUIT, MAINE

THE VIEW FROM HERE
MAY 28 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 11
**CENTER FOR MAINE
CONTEMPORARY ART**
21 WINTER ST.
ROCKLAND, MAINE

**ACT OF SIGHT: THE TSIARAS
FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY
COLLECTION**
THROUGH AUGUST 14
COLBY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART
5600 MAYFLOWER HILL
WATERVILLE, MAINE

**Lisa Yuskavage, *Yellow Studio*, 2021. ©
Lisa Yuskavage. Courtesy the artist and
David Zwirner.**



Arthur Leipzig (American, 1918–2014), *Chalk Games*, 1959, gelatin silver print, 14 1/2" x 18 1/2" (The Tsiaras Family Photography Collection), at Colby College Museum of Art.

occurrences taking place in Vacationland as the weather warms up. Get ready to hit the road, grab a lobster roll and go see some art!

KITTERY, MAINE

Where to start? A few turns away from the four-lane commercialized-monotony of Route 1 in Kittery is where you'll discover the Foreside district; several walkable blocks bursting with a high density of foodie-approved eateries, boutique shops and art galleries.

One brand new Kittery Foreside gallery that should be a must-visit on your list is the David Lussier Gallery (66 Wallingford Square, Kittery; davidlussiergallery.com).

"Our grand opening will be June 3 from 5-9 p.m.," states award winning contemporary impressionist, nationally-recognized plein air painter and gallery owner David Lussier. "We will specialize in plein air paintings and New England landscapes and seascapes. In addition to myself, my wife Pamela Lussier, plus family members Benjamin Lussier and Jennifer Simpson, will be the primary focus of the gallery. This summer, we'll be hosting a Maine Seacoast and Island Summer exhibition, which will include invited artists."

OGUNQUIT, MAINE

A couple of towns up the coastal road, just a short distance past the Nubble Lighthouse, is where you'll find Ogunquit, Maine. This four square-mile town, and its storied Ogunquit Art Colony, have a well-documented reputation as integral



Anne Ireland, *Basin Blues*, at Elizabeth Moss Galleries, Portland.

On September 16, 1928, a group of artists and friends met at the Perkins Cove Studio of painter Charles H. Woodbury to organize an art group that would exhibit fine art and provide educational programs in Ogunquit. Their tradition continues today at Barn Gallery (3 Hartwig Lane, Ogunquit; barngallery.org) where juried members of the Ogunquit Art Association (Maine's original artists' group) host their vibrant exhibitions, inspiring gallery talks, lively panel discussions, illuminating demonstrations and enlightening workshops.

"The Ogunquit Art Association is celebrating their 94th Anniversary in 2022," stated Ogunquit Arts Collaborative President, Deidre O'Flaherty. "This exciting new season of art exhibitions and programs by artists of the Ogunquit Art Association begins with our Opening Exhibitions at Barn Gallery running from Wednesday, May 25 through Saturday, July 23. Virtual versions of our exhibitions will be made available on barngallery.org. Also, much of the work will be seen on our Barn Gallery Facebook and Instagram accounts."

Nearby, the Ogunquit Museum of American Art -

OMAA (543 Shore Road, Ogunquit; ogunquitmuseum.org), a true ocean-front gem of a small museum, mounts a variety of engaging modern and contemporary exhibition programs from May through October.

Among the OMAA's multiple noteworthy summer exhibitions this year is "Jim Morin: Drawing and Painting" (May 1-October 31, 2022) featuring the multi-faceted work of Jim Morin (b. 1953, Washington, D.C. and now a resident of Ogunquit). Best known as the distinguished editorial cartoonist for The Miami Herald for over 40 years, Morin is a longtime painter in oil and a multiple Pulitzer Prize winner in journalism for his cartoons.

"This season the Museum has assembled incredible pieces in many mediums that reflect different views of American art," said Amanda Lahikainen, Executive Director of Ogunquit Museum of American Art. "We are very excited to welcome our visitors to share in the beauty of the works of art in our vibrant galleries. We will also be revealing the newly installed signature window that reveals our incredible view of the Atlantic Ocean."

DON'T MISS: The birthplace of the legendary Ogunquit

Barn Gallery, Ogunquit. (Photo by Eric J. Taubert).



David Lussier Gallery, in Kittery.

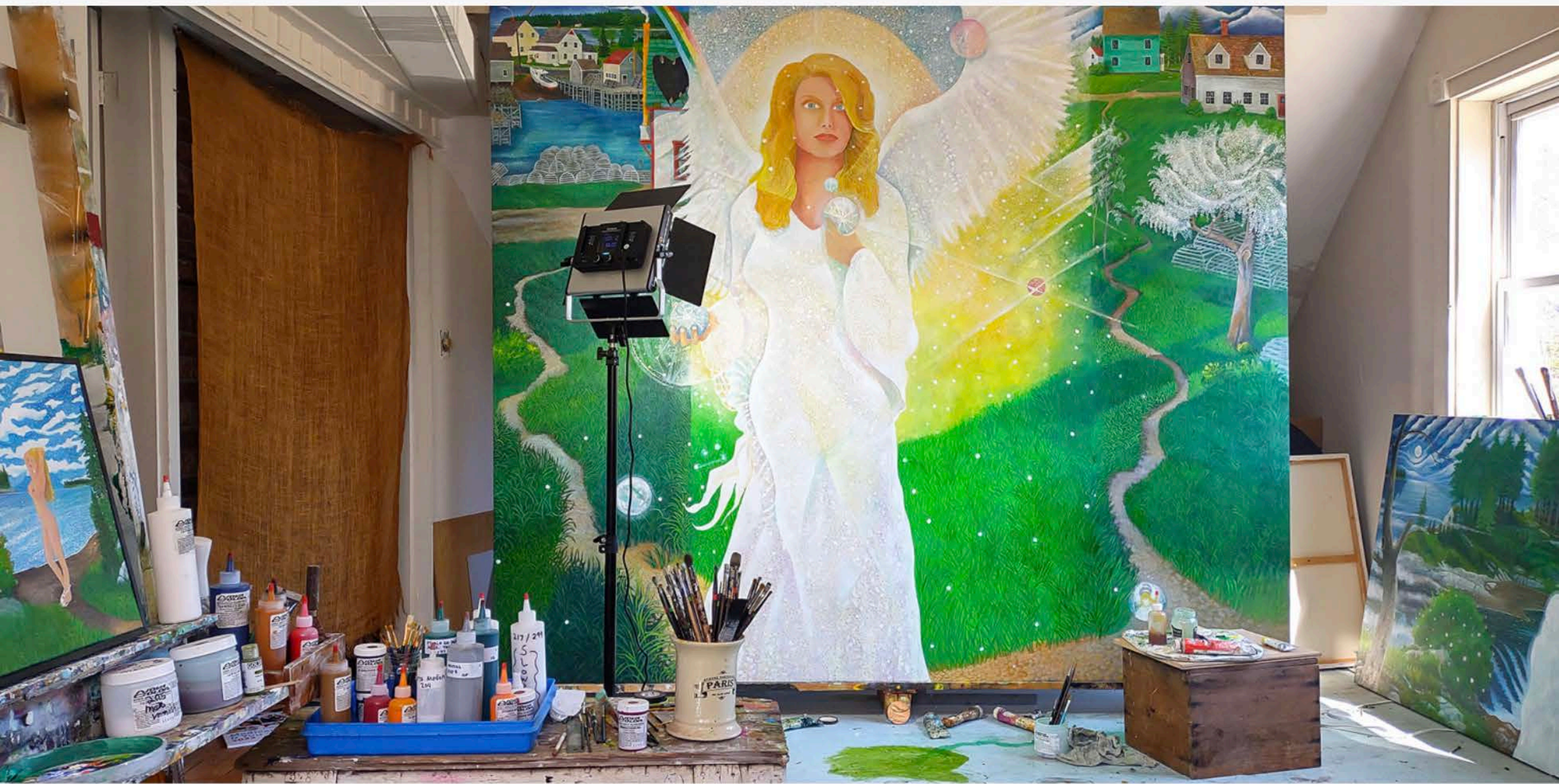
Art Colony now also serves as the beating heart of one of Maine's most important cultural happenings! If you attend Ogunquit's 2nd Annual Perkins Cove Plein Air Event on Saturday, September 10 (ogunquitperkinscovepleinair.com), you'll be able to enjoy the timeless sight of plein air painters in the act of putting brush to canvas in — and around — Perkins Cove. There will be judging for Professional, Amateur, and People's Choice awards plus a Wet Paint Sale. There will also be historical tours, art history talks, artist demonstrations, and live music in Perkins Cove.

PORTLAND, MAINE

The "Forest City" of Portland, Maine, boasts a robust, summer arts and culture scene.

The Union of Maine Visual Artists - UMVA (theumva.org) represents visual artists statewide in all fields of endeavor and welcomes those who support contemporary artists in Maine. The UMVA is dedicated to upholding the dignity of artists, while creating positive social change





Charles Wilder Oakes Studio, in Spruce Head.

through the arts.

For the summer of 2022, the UMVA will have multiple dynamic exhibits in their gallery at the Portland Media Center (516 Congress Street, Portland).

August brings the "Sea Changes: Transformations Wanted" (reception August 5) exhibition to the UMVA gallery. This show will be composed of a series of constructed and abstracted vignettes of both dystopian and utopian worlds simultaneously, by artist Joanne Tarlin.

Just over a mile away, on the East End of the city, is where you'll find the newly-launched Portland location

of Elizabeth Moss Galleries (100 Fore Street, Suite B, Portland; elizabethmoss galleries.com) which has an Anne Ireland (August 19-September 10) exhibition slated for late summer. Ireland's colorful work is instantly recognizable; and among her many, many other accomplishments in the art world, she is also a three-time L.L. Bean catalog cover artist.

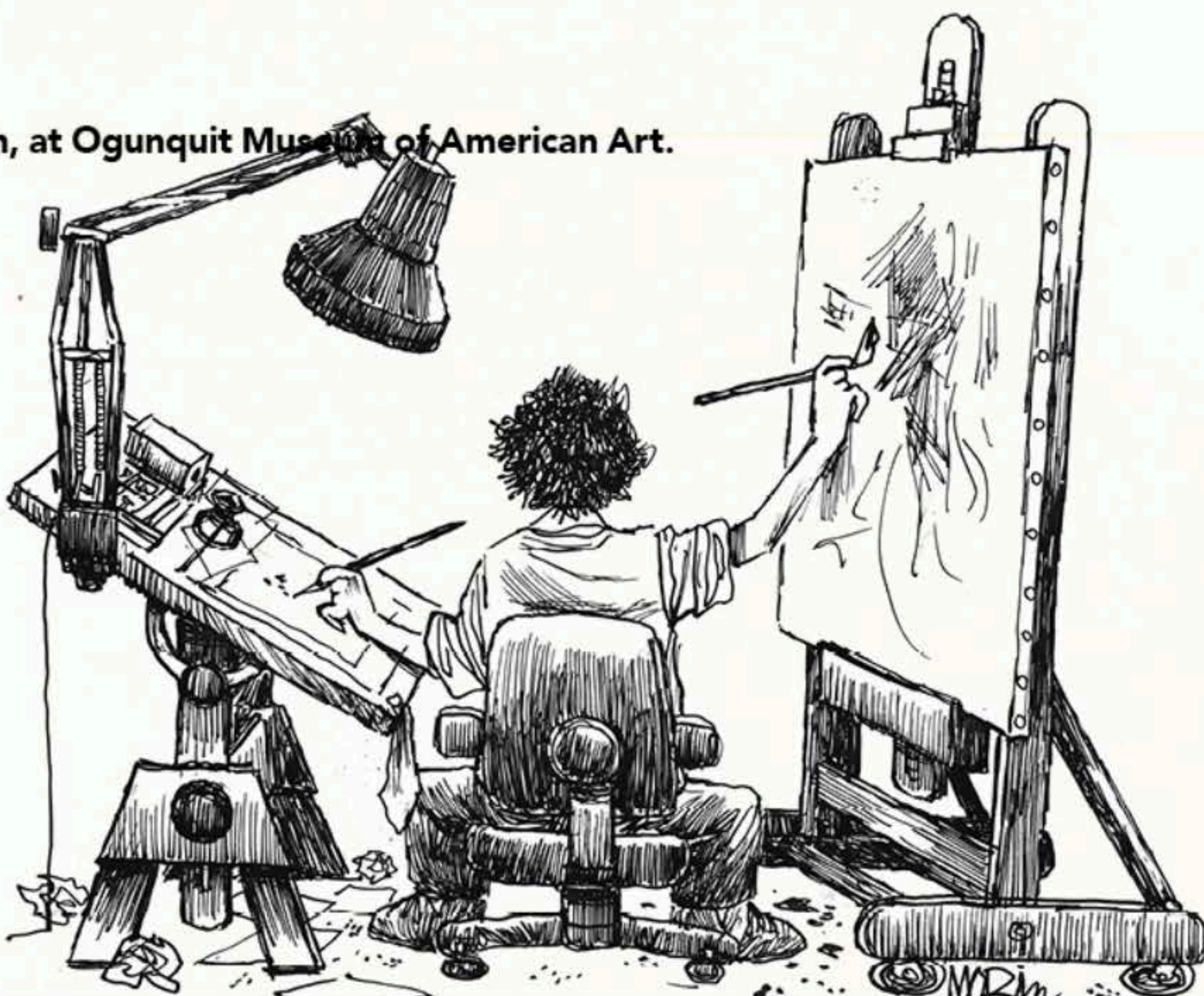
"Sunny seaside towns, rocky shorelines, and rolling hills show up frequently in the works of Maine-based artist Anne Ireland," stated Elizabeth Moss, owner/director of Moss Galleries. "Although the subject matter of Ireland's

paintings seem to epitomize regional landscapes, there is nothing typical in their renderings. Her high intensity oranges, graying lilacs and spring greens throw these scenes into a new contemporary realm. Ireland carefully composes her carefree, timeless, sunny days. It's easy to become captivated by the juxtaposition of colors, light and modernist forms. Each painting is an invitation into her light-filled world."

ROCKLAND, MAINE

Moving further north, through

Jim Morin, at Ogunquit Museum of American Art.



Midcoast Maine, you'll eventually arrive in Rockland where the exuberant art scene holds sway with an always-growing number of galleries and cultural events.

Just a few hundred feet from the famed Farnsworth Art Museum (16 Museum St.; farnsworthmuseum.org) is where you'll find the Center for Maine Contemporary Art - CMCA (21 Winter St.; cmcanow.org), the state's preeminent contemporary arts organization.

The upcoming exhibition, "The View from Here" (May 28-September 11), will be one of the key ways in which CMCA celebrates their 70th Anniversary year. This exhibition will feature works by over a dozen artists who have previously exhibited or otherwise been involved at CMCA across the organization's history, including Katherine Bradford, Ann Craven, Lois Dodd, Linden Frederick, Tessa Green-O'Brien, Wade Kavanaugh & Stephen Nguyen, Aaron Stephan, tectonic industries and Nicole Wittenberg.

CMCA's Executive Director & Chief Curator, Timothy Peterson, stated, "We are delighted to have this opportunity to invite back these leading Maine and Maine-connected artists to CMCA for our 70th anniversary year, highlighting both new developments in their works and within the field of contemporary art."

BEFORE YOU LEAVE TOWN: While you're in the Rockland area, you should definitely try to catch a glimpse of the rapturously-seraphic artwork of auto-didactic mixed-media Maine artist, Charles Wilder Oakes



Katherine Bradford, *Summer Night*, 2021, acrylic on canvas, 68" x 80", at the Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockland..

(31 Cline Road in Spruce Head, Maine); visits to his studio are by appointment only; wilderoakes.com.

Oakes was born in Rockland, Maine, and raised just south in Port Clyde, on the St. George peninsula. His father was a lifelong fisherman and his mother packed sardines at the town canning factory. Drawing much of his inspiration from growing up in Port Clyde (and a mystical experience he had as a child, wherein he saw and communicated with an angel); Oakes' brightly-colored and often intensely-autobiographical paintings seamlessly transport the viewer to a sumptuously off-kilter dream place where weathered wood, lobster boats, painted buoys and salty landscapes whisper an intriguing story so loud that you can almost hear the seagulls scream.

"My major focus, right now," Oakes said, "is to get my big angel painting wrapped up. It's big for me, at 7 feet by 8 feet. There's a new gallery I was invited to show with in

Katherine Bradford, *Summer Night*, 2021, acrylic on canvas, 68" x 80", at the Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockland.

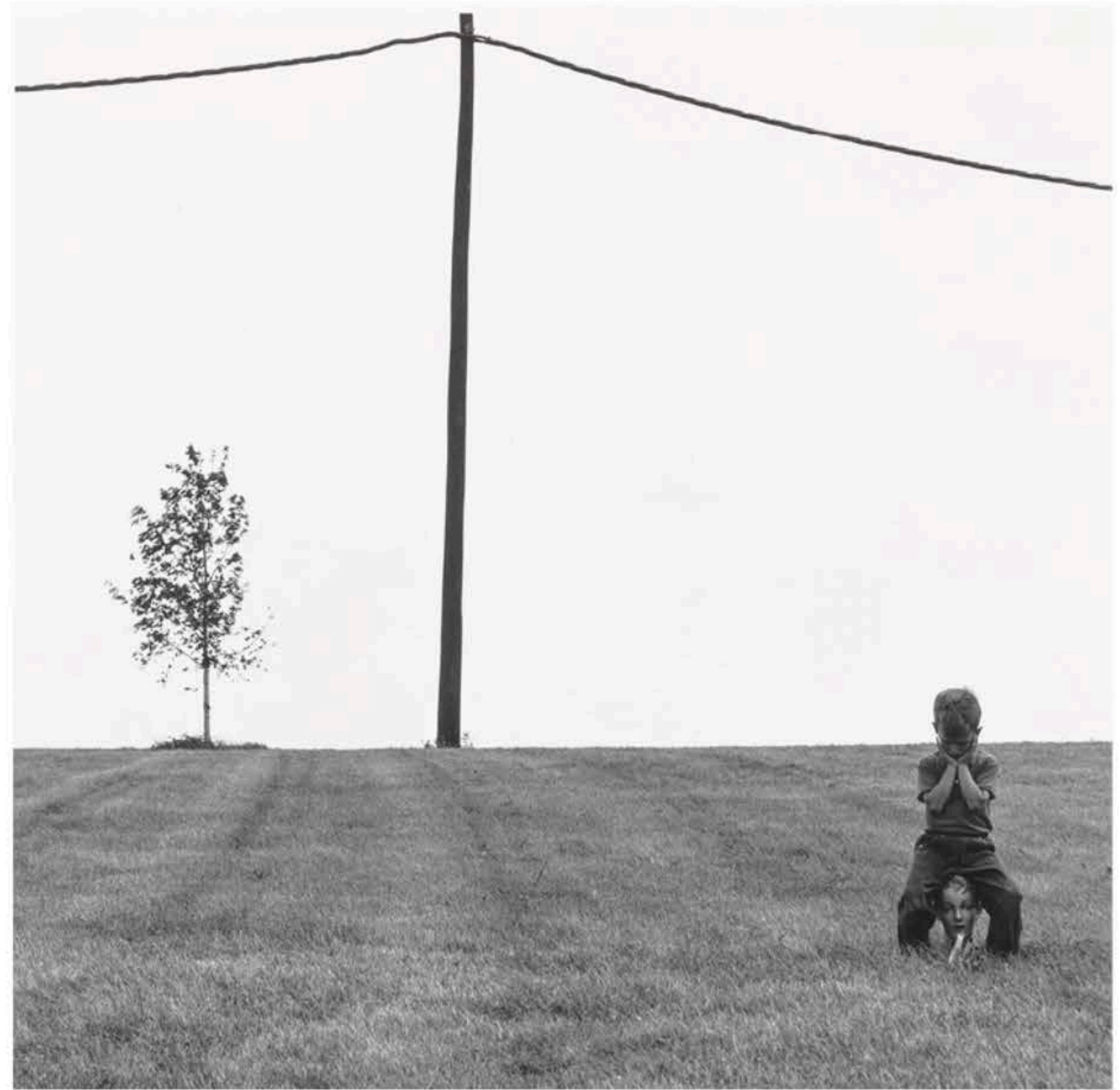


Rockland called Gallery Two (399 Main St.). I also have four paintings in the summer auction at Thomaston Place Auction Galleries (51 Atlantic Hwy, Thomaston; thomastonauction.com) coming up in August."

WATERVILLE, MAINE

A detour inland will bring you to Colby College Museum of Art (5600 Mayflower Hill, Waterville; museum.colby.edu), where a transformative gift of more than 500 photographs from the private collection of Dr. William Tsiaras and Nancy Meyer Tsiaras has significantly expanded and deepened the Museum's photography holdings. Highlights from this collection are the focus of an important exhibition, "Act of Sight: The Tsiaras Family Photography Collection" that's on view through August 14 and has a related publication.

All you need to do is peruse a representative sample of the photographers who have work present in this show to see why this exhibition is well-worth the drive to Colby: Ansel Adams, Clarence White, Edward Steichen, Berenice Abbott, Edward Weston, Dorothea Lange, Margaret Bourke-White, Arthur Rothstein, Roy DeCarava, Helen Levitt, Arthur Leipzig, Garry Winogrand, Emmet Gowin, Joe Deal, William Christenberry, Gordon Parks, Imogen Cunningham, Lauren Greenfield, Arien



Ralph Eugene Meatyard (American, 1925–1972), *Untitled*, ca. 1959, gelatin silver print, 9 3/4" x 10" (The Tsiaras Family Photography Collection), at Colby College Museum of Art.

Chang, Annie Leibovitz and Lucas Samaras. Need we say more?

"The response to the announcement of the Tsiaras Collection gift and the exhibition have been extraordinary," said Colby Museum Chief Curator, Beth Finch. "We have had visitors from throughout New England and beyond, and ample use of the exhibition by Colby classes. Many photographers have sought out the show and appreciate the unique vision and network of relationships through which Dr. Bill Tsiaras built the collection, one beautiful print at a time."

Eric J. Taubert

