



PHILIP FREY

COURTHOUSE GALLERY FINE ART

COVER

*Docked, Winter Harbor Yacht Club*

oil on linen

30 x 40 inches

2011

*Mist over the Porcupines*

oil on linen

9 x 12 inches

2011

# PHILIP FREY

JULY 13–AUGUST 7, 2011

Essay by Carl Little

Photography by Ken Woisard



COURTHOUSE GALLERY  
FINEART

court street ellsworth, maine 04605 [courthousegallery.com](http://courthousegallery.com) 207 667 6611

## PHILIP FREY *Fresh Ways*

Painter Philip Frey has found a new freedom. In the past year he has transitioned from acrylic to oil while exploring an approach to the landscape that leans into the abstract.

Frey has always welcomed abstraction, but the oil medium has allowed him to bring a new dynamic to his brushwork and palette. Working wet into wet, he relishes the flow of paint and being able to blend hues and produce effects not possible in acrylic.<sup>1</sup>

At the same time, Frey has loosened his ties with the motif. He is less beholden to on-site sketches and photographs as he develops the larger pieces, on canvas and panel, and takes greater license with the world around him.<sup>2</sup>

The stand-outs of the show are several paintings based on memories of islands off Hancock and Schoodic Points and Grindstone Neck, a stretch of coast to which Frey continues to lay painterly claim. These iconic shapes set against the sea and sky have a modernist edge, bold yet dream-like.



*Violet and Blue Bald Porcupine*, oil on linen, 10 x 10 inches, 2011



*Island Dream, Light Comes Through*, oil on panel, 30 x 30 inches, 2011



*Afternoon Breeze from Schoodic*, oil on panel, 11 x 14 inches, 2011



*Misty Mountain from Grindstone*, oil on panel, 11 x 14 inches, 2011

The exhibition features a number of fine small sketches, among them, a study of docked dinghies at the Winter Harbor Yacht Club and a view of Little Long Pond on Mount Desert Island. Frey also returned to Monhegan, to paint its companion island Manana, and has taken another turn at rendering a favorite fishermen's co-op.

This new work will broaden the Philip Frey fan base, which has grown in recent years in response to radiant downeast landscapes and a notable series of portraits of Ellsworth. Like the painter, we welcome a fresh way of viewing our part of Maine.

—Carl Little

Carl Little's *Edward Hopper's New England* has been published in a new edition. *The Art of Francis Hamabe* is due out in the fall.

#### Notes

The text is based on a visit to Frey's Sullivan studio on May 23, 2011.

1. Frey has not abandoned acrylic. In some of the smaller pieces, the medium serves as the base for oil.
2. A conversation with Alex Katz at the Farnsworth Art Museum last year helped Frey refine this process. Katz described the steps he takes working from small to large, and how he tries to complete the final painting in one go, a notion Frey found liberating.



*Blushing Sky*, oil on panel, 30 x 30 inches, 2011



*Mist Moving In*, oil on canvas, 36 x 72 inches, 2011



*Green and Blue: Winter Harbor Co-op*, oil on linen, 36 x 72 inches, 2011



*Getting Ready for Summer*  
oil on panel  
7.5 x 9.75 inches  
2011



*Evening Light, Stonington*  
oil on panel  
7.5 x 9.5 inches  
2011



*Lemon Light over Manana*, oil on linen, 30 x 40 inches, 2011



*Returning from a Day on the Water (Hancock)*  
oil on linen  
8 x 10 inches  
2011



*Union River From Indian Point*  
oil on linen  
8 x 10 inches  
2011



*Light Comes Through*, acrylic on canvas, 48 x 60 inches, 2011



*Water, Island, Sky Study*, oil on linen, 5 x 7 inches, 2011



*Schoodic Tide*, oil on panel, 8 x 10 inches, 2011



*The Mystery of Light*, oil on linen, 5 x 7 inches, 2011

## PHILIP FREY

BORN 1967, Portland, Maine

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, Ellsworth, ME 2009, 2011

Thosmas Moser, Freeport, ME 2008

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, Ellsworth, ME 2006, '07, '08, '09, '10

Maine Art Gallery, Kennebunk, ME, 2008, '09, '10, '11

Gleason Fine Art, Boothbay Harbor, ME, 2010, 2011

Maine Art Gallery, (2-person show), Kennebunk, ME 2009

The Firehouse Gallery, Damariscotta, ME 2003, '04, '05, '06, '07, '08, '09

Maine Art Gallery, Kennebunk, ME 2008, 2009

Shaw Jewelry, Northeast Harbor, ME 2001, '02, '03, '04, '05, '06, '07, '08

Élan Fine Art, (juried) Rockport, ME 2007

Shaw Jewelry, (2-person show) Northeast Harbor, ME 2006

George Marshall Store Gallery, ME 2006

Greenhut Galleries, Portland, ME 2001, '02, '03, '04

Penobscot Marine Museum, (juried), Searsport, ME 2004

Target Gallery, (juried), Alexandria, VA 2003

Clark House Gallery, Bangor, ME 1998, '99, 2000, '01

Argosy Gallery, Bar Harbor, ME 1997, '98, '99, 2000

McGrath Dunham Gallery, Castine, ME 1996, '97, '98, '99, 2000

Between the Muse Gallery, Rockland, ME 1997

Spring Street Gallery, Belfast, ME 1997

June Fitzpatrick Gallery, Portland, ME 1996

Frick Gallery, Belfast, ME 1994

### SELECTED CORPORATE COLLECTIONS

Acorn Capitol Management, PA

Company C, NH

Dick Wolf Films, Dick Wolf, CA

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Maine Home+Design, "One's to Watch" 2009

Maine Home+Design, "Extraordinary Artists Whose Work Reflects Maine's Timeless Mystique." 2008

Paintings of Maine: A New Collection. Carl Little/Arnold Skolnick. 2006. Down East Books. 2006

The Art of Monhegan Island. Carl Little/Arnold Skolnick. Down East Books. 2004

### EDUCATION

BFA (Painting) Cum Laude, Syracuse University, NY, 1990

Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus, OH, 1986–1988



Philip Frey at his studio in Sullivan.





*Water, Island, Sky*, 2011, oil on linen, 18 x 24 inches

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