



PHILIP FREY

Image Credit: Philip Frey

"As a painter, Philip Frey's goal is often a project of soft persuasion. We recognize his scenes easily enough. But as we shift our focus from the recognizable subject to the insistent forms, luscious brushwork, and compositional design, the painting slips out of representational focus and back to abstraction, the true place of Frey's poetry."

– Daniel Kany



Image: *Shifting Sun*, oil on linen, 24" x 30", 2024

Biography

In the past twenty years, **Philip Frey** has developed into one of Maine's finest landscape painters. Known as a brilliant colorist, Frey paints Maine's harbors and islands with a bold palette that captures the light and moods of his home state, from the streets of Ellsworth and Portland to Monhegan and Acadia National Park.

Frey is a nationally exhibiting artist best known for his bold paintings of Maine whose primary focus is color and light, and the inherent forms found in nature, interiors, and figures. He paints from direct perception, preferring the dynamic quality, richness, and challenges of working from life.

In 2016, the University of Maine Museum of Art mounted a solo exhibition of Frey's paintings. His work has been highlighted in several books, including *Art of Acadia*, 2016, and *Paintings of Portland*, 2018, both by brothers Carl Little and David Little, and in numerous publications, including: *Art New England*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Maine Policy Review*, the *Maine Sunday Telegram*, and the *Portland Press Herald*. In 2018 Marshall Wilkes published *Philip Frey: Here and Now*, a monograph on Frey's career by art historians and critics Carl Little and Daniel Kany. Frey's work is held in private and corporate collections both nationally and internationally, including those of writer Harlan Coben, The Jackson Laboratory, Dick Wolf Films, U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree, Donald Sussman, and the University of Maine Museum of Art.

Frey studied at Columbus College of Art and Design and graduated with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Painting from Syracuse University in 1990. He is a longtime Buddhist practitioner and has traveled to Nepal and India to study Buddhism. In 1995 he became involved in the Ellsworth Meditation Center and remains an active member. Frey lives in down east Maine, where he maintains a full-time studio nestled in the woods.



Image: *Catching the Light*, oil on linen, 30" x 40", 2024

"I make paintings that are inspired by the landscape, architecture, interior spaces and the figure. In my daily experience, I pay close attention to the ephemeral qualities of light, color and pattern that often go unnoticed. My process involves the use of brushes, palette knives and squeegees to develop a rich paint surface and abstractions that evoke a sense of momentariness and appreciation for the 'life of things'."

– Philip Frey



Image Credit: Cynthia Farr-Weinfeld



"Frey always reminds the viewer that there is a brush and a stroke, human energy, embedded in the painting, that the maker is here—but not here."

— Annaliese Jakimides

Image: *Cosmos*, oil on linen, 24" x 30", 2024



Image Credit: Friends of Acadia

Solo Exhibitions (Selected)

Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, Philip Frey: *A Quiet Eye*, Ellsworth, ME, 2024
 Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, Ellsworth, ME '09, '11, '13, '14, '16, '18, '19, '20, '22, '24
 Edgewater Gallery, Middlebury, VT, '18, '21, '23
 Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, *Philip Frey: Moment[um]*, Ellsworth, ME, 2020
 George Marshall Store Gallery, ME, 2019
 Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, *Philip Frey: Here and Now*, Ellsworth, ME, 2018
 Carver Hill Gallery, Rockland, ME 2017
 Zillman Art Museum, *Parallels: Philip Frey*, Bangor, ME 2016
 Maine Art Gallery, Kennebunk, ME 2015
 Gleason Fine Art, *New Work*, Boothbay Harbor, ME 2012

Group Exhibitions (Selected)

Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, Ellsworth, ME, 2006-2024
 Greenhut Galleries, Portland, ME 2001-2004, '14, 2016-2018, 2020-2024
 Edgewater Gallery, Middlebury, VT '17, '20, '21
 Zillman Art Museum, Bangor, ME 2020
 Maine Art Gallery, Kennebunk, ME 2008-2018
 Thos. Moser, Freeport, ME 2008, '16, '17
 Gleason Fine Art, Boothbay Harbor & Portland, ME 2010-2016
 Bert Gallery, Providence, RI 2014
 University of Maine, Lord Hall Gallery, Orono, ME 2010
 The Firehouse Gallery, Damariscotta, ME 2003-2009
 Maine Art Gallery, (two-person show), Kennebunk, ME 2009
 Penobscot Marine Museum, Searsport, ME 2004, '09
 Shaw Jewelry, Northeast Harbor, ME 2001-2008
 Élan Fine Art, Rockport, ME 2007
 George Marshall Store Gallery, York, ME 2006
 Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Ctr, Alexandria, VA 2003
 Clark House Gallery, Bangor, ME 1998-2001
 Argosy Gallery, Bar Harbor, ME 1997-2000
 McGrath Dunham Gallery, Castine, ME 1996-2000
 Between the Muse Gallery, Rockland, ME 1997
 Spring Street Gallery, Belfast, ME 1997
 June Fitzpatrick Gallery, Portland, ME 1996
 Frick Gallery, Belfast, ME 1994

Collections (Selected)

Zillman Art Museum, Bangor, ME
 The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, ME
 Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, Ellsworth, ME
 Dick Wolf, Dick Wolf Films, Universal City, CA
 Harlan Coben, NJ
 Company C, Concord, NH



Image: *Inward*, oil on linen, 30" x 24", 2023

Susan and Rod Ward, Great Cranberry, ME
Peter and Suzie Kunhardt, NY
George and Susan Schreiber, Naples, FL
Louis Vitali, Kennebunkport, ME
Neil B. Shister and Cait Clarke, Washington, DC
Acorn Capitol Management, Kennet Square, PA

Awards (Selected)

Castine Plein Air Festival, First Place Award, 2014
Heliker-LaHotan Foundation Residency, Great Cranberry Island, 2012
Good Idea Grant, Maine Arts Commission, 2004

Publications (Selected)

Arango, Jorge. Maine's Natural Beauty Masterfully Portrayed in..., Portland Press Herald, 2023
Dahmen, Jane. Talking Art in Maine, Intimate Conversations, 2021
Kany, Daniel. "Art Review: Regrets, he has a few..." Portland Press Herald, 2019
Kany, Daniel, and Carl Little. Philip Frey: Here and Now. Marshall Wilkes, 2018
Little, Carl, and David Little. Paintings of Portland. Down East Books, 2018
Burnham, Emily. "Finding Solace in Landscape." Bangor Daily News, 2016
Burnham, Emily. "Mindful of every brush stroke, Maine painter..." Bangor Daily News, 2016
Little, Carl, and David Little. Art of Acadia. Down East Books, 2016
Kany, Daniel. "Greenhut's Biennial 'Portland Show' Sets a Standard." Portland Press Herald, 2016
Kinghorn, George. "Regionalism and Contemporary Artists in Maine..." Maine Policy Review 24.1, 2015
Kadour, Ric Kasini. "Philip Frey: Lavish Attention," exhibition catalog, Maine Art Gallery, 2015
Kany, Daniel. "Summer visual arts: Feel like exploring?..." Portland Press Herald, 2015
Kany, Daniel. "Greenhut's 2014 Portland Show is a great exhibition..." Portland Press Herald, 2014
Little, Carl. "Philip Frey: In the Moment." *Art New England*, 2011.
Kany, Daniel. "The Cultural Space of Painting," exhibition catalog, Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, 2014
Gettysburg Review, Fall 2012
Little, Carl. "Fresh Ways." exhibition catalog, Courthouse Gallery Fine Art. 2011
McAvoy, Suzette. "The Canvas." Maine Home+Design, 2010
Maine Home+Design, "One's to Watch." 2009
Maine Home+Design, "Extraordinary Artists Whose Work Reflects Maine's Timeless Mystique." 2008
Little, Carl and Arnold Skolnick. Paintings of Maine: A New Collection. Down East Books, 2006
Little, Carl and Arnold Skolnick. The Art of Monhegan Island. Down East Books, 2004

Education

BFA (Painting) Cum Laude, Syracuse University, NY, 1990
Columbus College of Art & Design, Columbus, OH, 1986-88

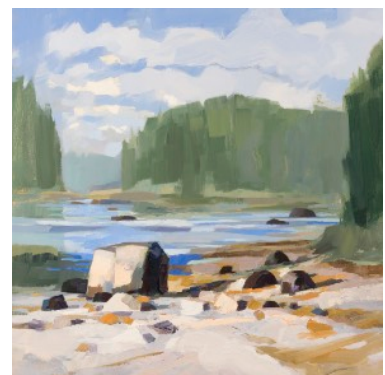


Image: *Here and There*, oil on linen, 24" x 24", 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



CONTACT: Philip Frey (207) 422-2008
info@philipfrey.com www.philipfrey.com

**Philip Frey’s *A Quiet Eye*
Looks at the Life of Things**

When you take in Philip Frey’s latest collection of oil paintings, you immediately see his passion for color, light, and appreciation of the world around him. You feel the peacefulness, reflective quality, and sense of place he evokes about the subjects special to him: the landscape, interiors, and the figure. As you look more closely, the surface of the painting comes alive with texture and movement that reveal the artist’s hand and energy, through the

use of various tools: brushes, palette knives, and squeegees. It is as if the work—and the painter—are softly persuading us to slow down and pause for a moment, and pay attention what is around us. The upcoming exhibition, Philip Frey: *A Quiet Eye* will be on view June 7—July 5, 2024 at Courthouse Gallery Fine Art.

“I make paintings that are inspired by the landscape, architecture, interior spaces and the figure. In my daily experience, I pay close attention to the ephemeral qualities of light, color and pattern that often go unnoticed. My process involves the use of brushes, palette knives and squeegees to develop a rich paint surface and abstractions that evoke a sense of momentariness and appreciation for the ‘life of things’,” said Frey.

Philip Frey was born in Maine in 1967. In the past twenty five years, he has developed into one of Maine’s finest landscape painters—known as a brilliant colorist who paints with a bold yet subtle palette that captures the light and moods of his home state and beyond. Frey is a nationally exhibiting artist, with a long and steady show history in acclaimed galleries. His work is held in prominent private and corporate collections. The monograph, Philip Frey: Here and Now, was published in 2018. With an introduction by curator George Kinghorn, and essays by art critics Daniel Kany and Carl Little, it presents the first in-depth look at Frey’s body of work. The Zillman Art Museum mounted a solo exhibition of his work in 2016. Frey holds a BFA in Painting from Syracuse University (’90). He is represented by Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, Edgewater Gallery, and Greenhut Galleries. www.philipfrey.com

“Frey’s art occupies the nexus between contemporary painting and brushy traditionalism. If there is a focus to this new direction in Maine painting, his art is it.” — Daniel Kany, writer and art critic

Philip Frey: *A Quiet Eye*

Courthouse Gallery Fine Art

June 7—July 5, 2024 / Artist Reception Wednesday, June 12, 5:00–7:00 PM

Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, 6 Court St., Ellsworth, ME 04605

Hours: May/June, Monday – Saturday, 10am – 5:30pm. Phone: (207) 667-6611

Email: info@courthousegallery.com Website: www.courthousegallery.com

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CONTACT: Philip Frey (207) 422-2008 info@philipfrey.com www.philipfrey.com

Philip Frey Teaches the Art of Plein Painting in Acadia National Park



The Elemental Landscape: Plein-Air Painting Workshop with Philip Frey

Schoodic Institute, Winter Harbor, ME
September 10 - 15, 2024

In partnership with Schoodic Institute of Acadia National Park, Philip Frey is offering a plein-air painting workshop for dedicated painters with intermediate to advanced skills. He will offer pivotal lessons designed to develop your skills and confidence, clarify your artistic vision, and enhance your creativity as a painter. You will learn to improve your paintings by understanding and applying the rules of drawing, composition and color. This will include: simplifying what you see

through sketching; painting in ‘grisaille’ (black and white) and limited palettes; as well as understanding the principles fundamental to creating masterful compositions used by the Old Masters. There will be daily one-on-one instruction, demos, group critiques, and exploration of the . Be prepared to be challenged artistically, develop insights, and have fun while enjoying the exhilarating Maine coast.

Frey is a celebrated career artist and instructor. He is known for his engaging , illuminating, and positive teaching style. He is skilled at addressing his students’ abilities and helping them mature as an artist.

“Phil Frey is not only an inspiringly dynamic artist but a patient and insightful teacher. His workshop transformed the way I look at the world and how I now approach the ever dating blank canvas... which is not with confident intention! Having access to and learning from an artist of his caliber is truly a gift.”

— Queennette Santiago, Petaluma, CA, former student

TO REGISTER for the workshop, visit <https://schoodicinstitute.org/event/painting-workshop-with-philip-frey/> Cost: Commuter: \$1175 / Residential: \$1875

For questions, pricing, and availability, please contact Michelle Pinkham at (207) 288-1356 or mpinkham@schoodicinstitute.org

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Social Media: [instagram.com/philip_frey](https://www.instagram.com/philip_frey) / philipfrey.com



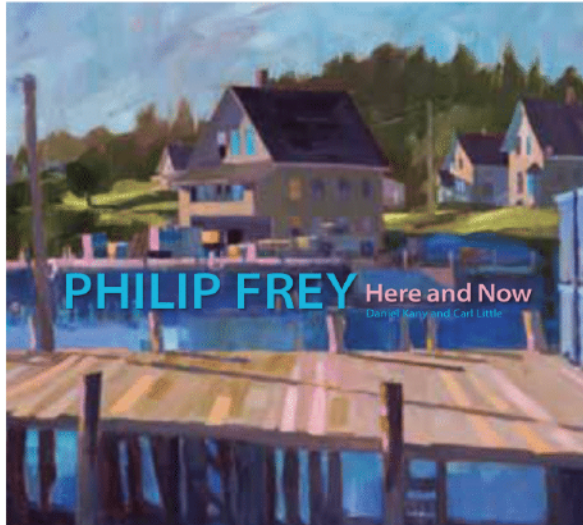
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PHILIP FREY: *Here and Now* by Daniel Kany and Carl Little

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“As a painter, Philip Frey’s goal is often a project of soft persuasion. We recognize his scenes easily enough. But as we shift our focus from the recognizable subject to the insistent forms, luscious brushwork, and compositional design, the painting slips out of representational focus and back to abstraction, the true place of Frey’s poetry.”

— Daniel Kany

PHILIP FREY: Here and Now In the past twenty years, Philip Frey has developed into one of Maine’s finest landscape painters. Known as a brilliant colorist, Frey paints Maine’s harbors and islands with a bold palette that captures the light and moods of his home state, from the streets of Ellsworth and Portland to Monhegan and Acadia National Park.

With an introduction by curator George Kinghorn, and essays by art critics Daniel Kany and Carl Little, *Philip Frey: Here and Now* presents the first in-depth look at Frey’s body of work. Kinghorn highlights Frey’s remarkable ability to render complex motifs by way of dynamic planes of color, while Kany and Little place the artist in an art-historical context. In response to Frey’s role in Maine’s evolving contemporary art scene, Kany sums it up best: “Frey’s art occupies the nexus between contemporary painting and brushy traditionalism. If there is a focus to this new direction in Maine painting, his art is it.”

This book offers readers thoughtful commentary and a glorious, full-bodied color representation of Frey’s work, much of it created over the last decade. His paintings are imbued with an immediacy that reflects his commitment to being “in the present,” whether responding to a panoramic view from the summit of Cadillac Mountain, a working waterfront, or an intimate interior.

Philip Frey: Here and Now is a gift to aficionados of Maine art. Here is a painter whose sense of place is profound and whose art is a feast for the eyes.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

PHILIP FREY is a nationally exhibiting artist best known for his bold paintings of Maine’s coastline, landscape, and working waterfronts. His primary focus is color and light, and the inherent forms found in nature, interiors, and figures. He paints from direct perception, preferring the dynamic quality, richness, and challenges of working from life.

In 2016, the University of Maine Museum of Art mounted a solo exhibition of Frey’s work. His work has been highlighted in several books, including *Art of Acadia*, 2016, and *Paintings of Portland*, 2018, both by brothers Carl Little

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Frey studied at Columbus College of Art and Design and graduated with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Painting from Syracuse University in 1990. He is a longtime practitioner of Buddha Dharma and has traveled to Nepal and India to study with renowned teachers. In 1995 he became involved in the Ellsworth Meditation Center and remains an active member. Frey lives in downeast Maine, where he maintains a full-time studio nestled in the woods.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

DANIEL KANY is an art historian, art critic, and freelance writer. More than 420 of Kany's art criticism columns have appeared in the *Maine Sunday Telegram* and *Portland Press Herald*. Kany has authored dozens of catalogs, publications, and magazine articles about art and artists. Kany serves on the editorial board of the *Maine Arts Journal: The UMVA Quarterly* and is an adjunct at the New Hampshire Institute of Art. He has won multiple awards from the Maine Press Association for his art criticism. Kany studied at Bowdoin College and then at Johns Hopkins University under Michael Fried and Yves-Alain Bois. An experienced curator, Kany has been a director of the Center on Contemporary Art in Seattle, Friesen Gallery, William Traver Gallery, and the Daniel Kany Gallery. Kany lives in Cumberland, Maine, with his dog, cat and two sons.

GEORGE KINGHORN has served as the Executive Director and Curator of the University of Maine Museum of Art (UMMA) since June 2008. Prior to UMMA, Kinghorn spent nine years at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Jacksonville, Florida, where he served in several positions, including Deputy Director and Chief Curator and Director. Throughout his career, he has curated over one hundred modern and contemporary art exhibitions. Kinghorn received his Master of Fine Arts degree in studio art from Michigan State University.

CARL LITTLE is the author of numerous art books, including monographs on John Singer Sargent, Winslow Homer, Edward Hopper, Dahlov Ipcar, Beverly Hallam, Francis Hamabe, Joel Babb, William Irvine, Jeffery Becton, Wendy Turner, Irene Olivieri, and Philip Barter. *Eric Hopkins: Above and Beyond* won the first John N. Cole Prize from Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance. He edited his brother David Little's book *Art of Katahdin* and co-authored with him *Art of Acadia*, 2016, and *Paintings of Portland*, 2018. Little writes for *Art New England*, *Island Journal*, *Hyperallergic*, *Maine Boats*, *Homes & Harbors*, and *Ornament*. He has helped produce several Maine Masters films, including the award-winning *Imber's Left Hand*. His poetry is featured in five anthologies edited by Wesley McNair. A native New Yorker, Carl Little moved to Mount Desert Island in 1989. He holds degrees from Dartmouth, Columbia, and Middlebury. Little is the communications manager at the Maine Community Foundation.

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by Daniel Kany and Carl Little

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Image: *Harbor Light*, oil on linen, 30"x 40", 2024

To request hi-res images, please email us at: info@philipfrey.com

For copies of exhibition catalogs and links to videos visit Philip's [Press Page](#).

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Exhibition catalogs & videos:
[Press Page.](#)

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Image Credit: Philip Frey

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