



JOSEPH KEIFFER

COURTHOUSE GALLERY  
FINEART

# JOSEPH KEIFFER

## Return to Acadia

JULY 24–AUGUST 18, 2013

Essay by Carl Little



*Pansies and Nasturiums*, oil on panel, 16 x 24 inches

COVER *Fourth of July, Northeast Harbor*, oil on canvas, 28 x 30 inches

COURTHOUSE GALLERY  
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*Saltwater Farm*  
oil on canvas  
20 x 40 inches

# JOSEPH KEIFFER **Return to Acadia**



*Fire Over Sutton*, oil on canvas, 18 x 12 inches

We are pleased to bring Joseph Keiffer back to Ellsworth with our first solo exhibition of his work at Courthouse Gallery. I became aware of Keiffer's work seven or eight years ago while driving down Main Street in Ellsworth. There was a small shop next to The Grand, and I often noticed the landscapes displayed in the window. The paintings stood out, even from the car. Then one day, the shop was gone.

The shop was The Armoire, owned by Francesca Zolotov. She sold a mix of objects, silver, and "works of art," and Keiffer showed his work there for over a decade before it closed in 2009. Zolotov met Keiffer in New York when he worked at Sotheby's as a cataloguer and a junior painting and print appraiser. Once Zolotov learned he was also a painter, she invited him to show at her shop in Ellsworth. Keiffer, who first came to Maine in the 1970s, began to spend more time here, and Zolotov introduced him to various spots along the coast to paint. They enjoyed many good times and successful years together.

Although Keiffer's work would fit nicely with our stable, it took some persistence to track him down. Eventually I found his name, but an internet search turned up nothing. Time passed, I got busy, lost the name, and yet, memories of the paintings lingered. This past year, I looked for his name again, and soon a new internet search brought up Keiffer's new website. A phone call led to a studio visit in New York, and to this solo show. Keiffer is delighted to be home in Ellsworth again, and we're delighted to bring him back!

—Karin Wilkes  
Courthouse Gallery

NEXT PAGE *September*, oil on canvas, 20 x 50 inches



*Wing and Wing*, oil on canvas, 28 x 30 inches



## The World According to Keiffer by Carl Little

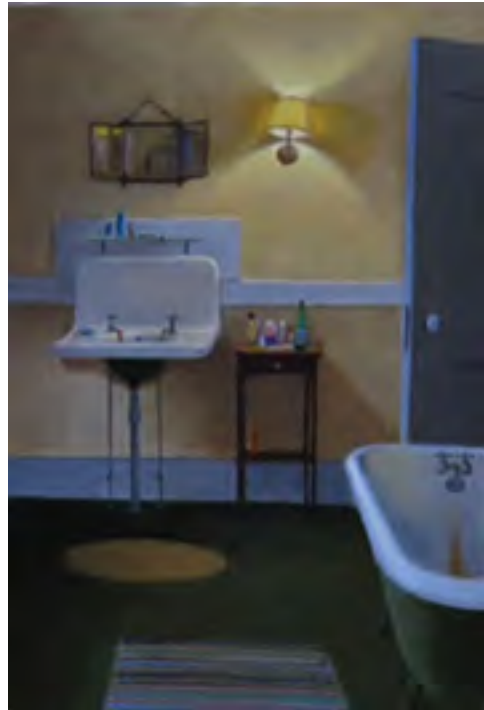
*I wouldn't want to be accused of promulgating any rules for artistic success, but I do suggest that would-be painters cannot find a better teacher than the world they see with their own eyes...*

—Joseph Keiffer

Every painter must choose—or be chosen by—a subject. As they walk through this world, certain objects and images appeal to their senses. They strive to convey these sensations by way of pigments, offering us their findings.

Joseph Keiffer presents places and objects that have caught his eye—and which in turn catch ours. He offers landscapes and still lifes; he paints both fireworks and a lamp-lit room. He is a stylist, but without overdoing it. His work sometimes has the feel of certain nineteenth century artists, yet he brings his own sensibility to bear on each canvas.

Exploring the coast of Maine, Keiffer will set up his easel before a motif and get to work. He is not afraid to take on the iconic view, be it Caterpillar Hill overlooking Eggemoggin Reach and the Deer Isle Thorofare or the Porcupine Islands dotting Frenchman Bay. His painting of Bar Island in Somesville may hark back to Fitz Henry Lane, who frequented the area, but the rendering is his alone: bright and balanced.



*The Yellow Bath*, oil on canvas, 15 x 10 inches



*Frenchman's Bay, The Porcupines*, oil on canvas, 25 x 27 inches



*Spirits and Vessels*, oil on canvas, 18 x 15 inches

Paintings of fireworks over Northeast Harbor and Sutton Island employ a profound blue reminiscent of Maxfield Parrish. Keiffer captures the light shows in mid-burst, water and anchored sailboats briefly illuminated by the pyrotechnics, smoke drifting off—transfigured night.

Keiffer can be intimate, painting a room with shelves filled with books to which we would like to retire. His still lifes of flowers are lovely: potted pansies, a rhododendron blossom in full glory, nasturtiums arranged in a simple enamel measuring cup. Speaking of cups: the painter has a special passion for vintage tin ware and glass, which comes to a kind of climax in the remarkable balancing act that is titled *Pink Plate*.

The brushwork ranges from flat to painterly, with the former the favored approach. Recreating the deck of a sailboat (*Wing and Wing*), Keiffer maintains a tight line that befits the precision of rigging, cowl vents and woodwork. By contrast, to depict the denouement of a field of lupine he turns to more impressionist means.

Like the dock that stretches out onto the water in the painting *Hancock Landing*, Joseph Keiffer leads us into a world at once familiar and enticing, Accept his invitation and set sail.

*Carl Little lives and writes on Mount Desert Island. His latest book is The Art of Francis Hamabe.*



*Dusk*, oil on canvas, 20 x 24 inches







PREVIOUS PAGE  
*Caterpillar Hill*  
oil on canvas  
24 x 48 inches

*Red, White, and Blue*  
oil on canvas  
12 x 10 inches



*The Pink Plate*, oil on canvas, 26 x 32 inches



*Rhododendron Blossoms*, oil on canvas, 10 x 8 inches



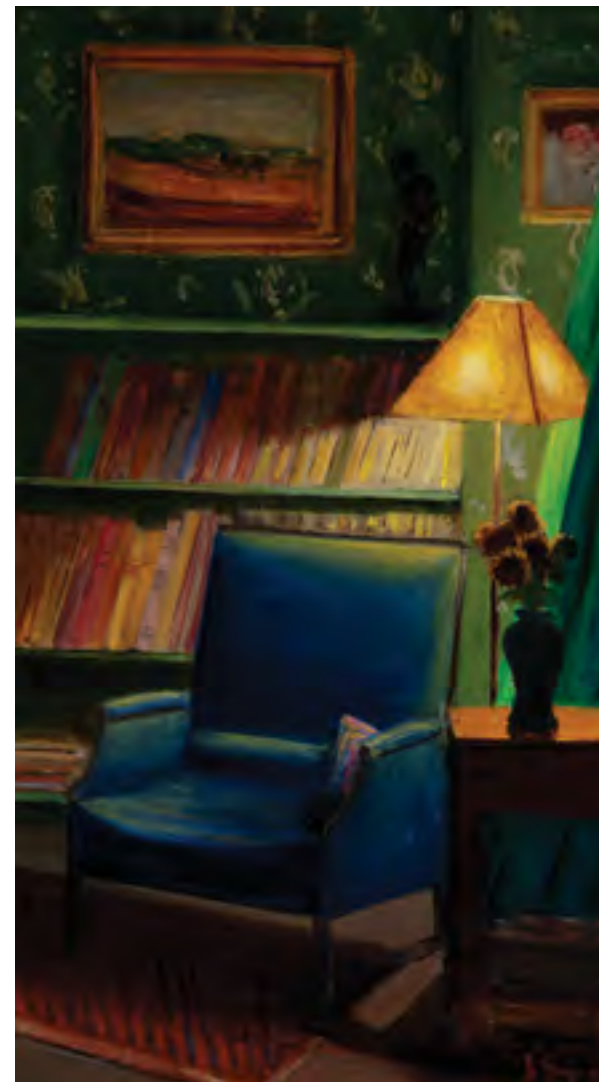
*Nasturtium and Enamel*, oil on panel, 10 x 8 inches



*Gentle Knocking*, oil on canvas, 12 x 18 inches



OPPOSITE  
*A Cozy Cottage*  
oil on canvas  
13 x 16 inches



*Blue Chair*  
oil on panel  
14 x 8 inches



*Old Things*  
oil on panel  
8 x 10 inches

*Potting Pansies*  
oil on canvas  
12 x 12 inches



*Hancock Landing*, oil on canvas, 16 x 21 inches



## JOSEPH KEIFFER

BORN New York, New York 1952

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, Return to Acadia, Ellsworth, ME 2013  
 Pamela Burns Presents, Recent Paintings, NY 2011  
 Kaaterskill Fine Arts Gallery, Catskills Retrospective, Hunter, NY 2009  
 The Armoire, While the Sweet Fields..., Ellsworth, ME 2009  
 Arlington Art Gallery, Hudson River Views, Poughkeepsie, NY 2008  
 Wingspread Gallery, Northeast Harbor, ME 2006, 2008  
 Jones/Clark, New Paintings, NY 2007  
 The Century Association, Recent Observations, NY 2007  
 Gallery @510, Joseph Keiffer, Harrisburg, PA 2006  
 The Armoire, Ellsworth, ME 1994–2009  
 Beauregard Fine Art, Landscape, Still Life, Interiors, Rumson, NJ 2005  
 Hubert Gallery, Recent Paintings, New York, NY 2004  
 Beauregard Fine Art, Rumson, NJ 2003  
 Hubert Gallery, Recent Paintings, New York, NY 2002  
 Hubert Gallery, As Far As I Can See, New York, NY 2000  
 The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, Ligonier, PA 1999

St. John's College Art Gallery, Santa Fe, NM 1999  
 70th Street Art Gallery, New York, NY 1995–99  
 Meadow Creek Gallery, Edina, MN 1996  
 Capstick-Dale Fine Arts, NY 1993  
 Tiglietto, Kent, CT 1992  
 Blue Mountain Gallery, New York, NY 1992  
 Garrison Art Center, Garrison, NY 1990

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Spanierman Gallery, New Consignments, New York, NY 2011–13  
 The Gallery at Frenchmen's Bay, Mount Desert Island, ME 2011–12  
 Spanierman Gallery, Maine: An Artist's Retreat, New York, NY 2011  
 Midtown-Payson Gallery, Transport, Hobe Sound, FL 2010  
 Hoorn-Ashby Gallery, Landscape, NY 2007–08  
 Hubert Gallery, The Painted Gift, NY 1999–2004  
 The Century Association, Professional Painters, NY 1997–2007  
 Wingspread Gallery, Northeast Harbor, ME 1999–2001  
 Sherry French Gallery, New York, NY 1998–99  
 Spring Bull Gallery, Summer Invitational, Newport, RI 1999  
 Sherry French Gallery, *Mainely Maine*, NY 1997–98  
 Peter Hastings Falk, Madison, CT 1997  
 Gleason Gallery, Boothbay Harbor, ME 1997  
 The Schoolhouse Gallery, Croton Falls, NY 1995–97  
 Bert Gallery, Providence, RI 1994–95  
 Closson's Gallery, Cincinnati, OH 1993–95  
 Connoisseur Gallery, Rhinebeck, NY 1992–95  
 Montgomery Gallery, San Francisco, CA 1993  
 Alexander Gallery, New York, NY 1992  
 Blue Mountain Gallery, New York, NY 1990–91  
 Garrison Art Center, Garrison, NY 1987–90  
 Sherry French Gallery, NY 1989, 1990

### SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Adelphi University, Garden City, NY  
 Ms. Eleanor Alter/Dr. Allan Lans, NY  
 Mr. W.M. Brady, NY  
 Ms. Dominique Browning, NY  
 Ms. Candace Carpenter, NY  
 Ms. Jane Curtin, Egremont, MA  
 Mrs. F.E.Dixon, Lafayette Hill, PA  
 Mrs. Richard B. Fisher, NY  
 Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Giuliani, NY, NY  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ben Ali Haggin, NY  
 Mr and Mrs. Stuart Janney, Baltimore, MD  
 Mr. and Mrs. William I. Koch, Palm Beach, FL  
 Mr. and Mrs. E.J.Landrigan, NY  
 Mr. Nicholas Lemann, NY, NY  
 Mr. and Mrs. A.D.McCulloch, Bryn Mawr, PA  
 Mr. and Mrs. Armour Mellon, Ligonier, PA  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Milbank, NY  
 Ms. Joan Morgan, Washington, DC  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nederlander and Pat Cook, New York, NY



*Old Books*, oil on canvas, 9 x 14 inches

Ambassador and Mrs. John Ong, OG  
 Mr. John Whitney Payson, Hobe Sound, FL  
 Pfizer Art Collection  
 Mr. Marc Porter, New York, NY



*Garden, Winter Harbor*, oil on canvas, 10 x 13 inches

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Puccio, NY  
 Mr. and Mrs. George Segal, Kent, CT  
 Mr. G. Remak Ramsay, NY  
 Mr. and Mrs. Peter Rathbone, New Canaan, NY  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sillerman, NY  
 Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, Greensburg, PA  
 Mr. Jerry Speyer/Katherine Farley, NY  
 Ms. Linda Vester, NY  
 Mr. and Mrs. Eric Widing, Ligonier, PA

### EDUCATION

Brandeis University, BA  
 New York Studio School  
 Sotheby's Works of Art Course



*Schoodic from Acadia*, oil on canvas, 16 x 20 inches  
BACK COVER *Somesville Landing, detail*, oil on canvas, 18 x 36 inches

A detailed landscape painting showing a white house with a porch nestled among lush green trees. To the left, a white church steeple rises above the foliage. In the foreground, a body of water is bordered by a rocky shore and a field of colorful flowers. The sky is a soft, warm orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

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