

Philip Frey

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BIOGRAPHY

Philip Frey was born in Portland, Maine in 1967 and graduated with a BFA in painting from Syracuse University in 1990. He counts his early studies with artist Alan Bray as a major influence. The artist currently resides in a simple home and paints in a secluded studio in the woods of Sullivan, Maine. Having lived in Maine most of his life, Philip has a strong connection to the state and all its varied forms. It's natural that his work centers around both rural and urban landscape, working fishing villages, as well as the figure and interior spaces. He paints en plein air and uses photographic reference to inform his larger studio work. Philip is represented by Courthouse Gallery Fine Art, Gleason Fine Art, and Maine Art Paintings and Sculpture.

Philip says of his own work, "My work begins with a feeling - a connection to my everyday experience: evocative colors; unexpected patterns of light or the sublime quality of ordinary objects. A painterly approach to painting - showing the actual brush strokes on the surface of the canvas is equally important. In terms of influence, I feel a strong kinship to Fairfield Porter's work for his abstractions and focus on the ordinary, and Edward Hopper's bold, juicy early paintings created on Monhegan Island. Their work has given me some clues on how to explore the fertile space between abstraction and realism. My vision is to marry those influences with my colorist and painterly attitudes."

Daniel Kany writes in the Courthouse Gallery Fine Art 2014 exhibition catalog essay, *Philip Frey and the cultural space of painting*, "Frey's compositions concurrently address both the two-dimensional design of painting and the spatial reality of the natural world. Moreover, Frey clearly enjoys the back-and-forth between art and nature: Some of his strongest and smartest recent works feature a series of ice fishing shacks he associates with Mondrian's iconic grids or Malevich's Suprematist geometry."

"In two brilliant studies of ice fishing shacks, Frey invokes a pair of 20th-century masters. With its rich blue, *Mondrian's Ice Fishing Shack* might also carry the name of Yves Klein. *Malevich's Ice Fishing Shack* offers a wonderful and humble geometric-abstract abode in a northern setting," writes Carl Little in an Art New England review of Philip's solo exhibit at Courthouse Gallery Fine Art in 2014.