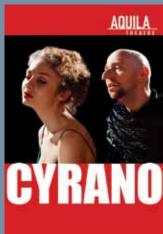
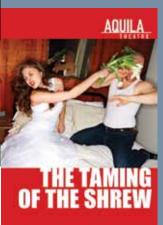
2012-2013 SEASON EVENTS











CHRISTOPHER O'REIL

RESERVATIONS:

L/A Arts 782-7228 www.laarts.org L/A Arts, 221 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, ME

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November 9th

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Insider's tip: The smart money collects what the museums are buying.

Pine and Moon David Driskell Portland Museum of Art

Carved Ceremonial

Mask, Songye People, Bates College Museum of Art

CLOCKWEE FROM TO PLETE BATS COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART/LUC DEMERS, CREMONIAL HEIMET MASK BAULE PEOPLES, IVORY COAST, 20TH CENTURY, POLYCHROMED WOOD; CASE ANTIQUES, INC. AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS : WOMANINY YELLOW DRESS; PMA: DAVID DRISKELL (UNITED STATES, B.1931), PINE AND MOON , 1971 OIL ON NASONITE, MUSEUM PURCHASE WITH SUPPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE COLLECTION; COURTESY OF FARNSWORTH MUSEUM, HOOK FILE PHOTO

BY DAVID SVENSON

he members of the Maine Art Museum Trail are like the Seven Sisters, pursuing acquisitions across the night sky. Inside Bates, Bowdoin, Colby, Farnsworth, Ogunquit, Portland, and University of Maine, curators are filling wall space with eyepopping masterpieces and shiny dark horses, establishing trends that private collectors eagerly follow.

Colby College Museum of Art spent nearly \$3 million for the metallic sculpture *Voltri-Bolton II* by David Smith (1906-1965) at a Sotheby's auction. "We pinpointed Smith as an artist that would strengthen our holding on post-war American art," curator Beth Finch says. "We have work by Richard Serra and Sol LeWitt, but Smith came before those two. He fills in an area we saw a need for.

"We'd been planning [to obtain a Smith]. The right opportunity came, and we were able to make it happen," Finch says.

Who decides what to spend \$3 mil-

lion on? Smith says, "There's always a group of artists we're thinking about. The purchase was a progression of thinking by the curatorial staff and a board of directors. It was a group effort."

Sometimes buying art isn't about creating a distinctively new exhibit. "We already owned work by Sherrie Levine (b. 1947)," Finch says, "but by purchasing her *Barcham Green Portfolio* (1986) we bring more depth to the way we can represent her work."

In between adding to a pre-existing collection and creating a new di-

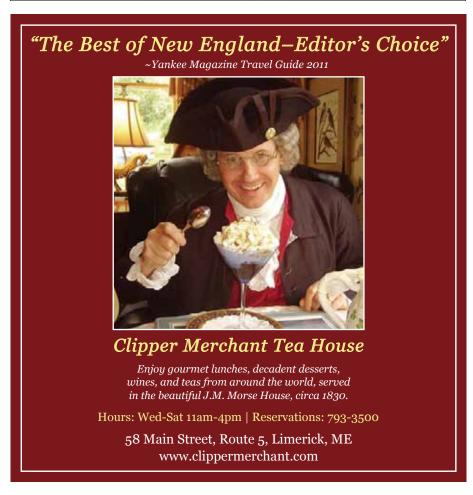
Woman in Yellow Dress Joseph Delaney Bates College Museum of Art \$3,944

> Eve, after 1862 John Adams Jackson Farnsworth Art Museum

> > SEPTEMBER 2012 37

Fine Art for the Way Life Should Be BERLIAN Shop MAINE at berlianarts.com Wrens in Clay



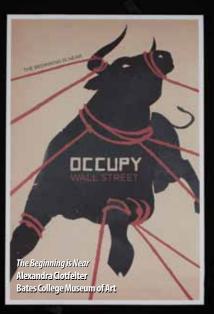


DOLLARS&SENSE

rective, Colby's purchase of Enrique Chagoya's (b. 1953) Escape from Fantasylandia: An Illegal Alien's Survival Guide (2011) is a tool to further their collection and facilitate the curriculum of the college. "Chagoya's work is provocative. This piece deals with his experience with illegal immigration," Finch says. "It has great interest with our students, for printmakers and those in political science, history, American studies, and Latin American studies—it represents what we do as a teaching museum."

And it does all this for a good price. Shark's Ink printers sells the lithograph, from a run of 30 and measuring 9 ½-by-80",





BATES COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART/ LUC DEMERS, ALEXANDRA CLOTFELTER, THE BEGINNING IS NEAR [FROM THE OCCUPRINT PORTFOLIO, BROOKLYN ARTIST'S ALLIANCEI, 2012, OFFSET

tor \$3,600.

Bates College Museum of Art in Lewiston takes a similar approach by matching works against the college's curriculum as well as current events. "One of our strengths is to exhibit work on a level that's meaningful," museum director Dan Mills says, "to the college, community, and beyond. We've managed to do that with this year's additions."

One of Bates's recent purchases reflects a 20-year goal of Mills's. "I've been paying a





lot of attention to Joseph Delaney since the mid-90s. I mounted an exhibition on him in the past, and when the opportunity to acquire something of his for the collection came up, it seemed like a great addition."

The June 30 purchase of *Woman in Yellow Dress* from Case Antiques in Knoxville, Tennessee, which sold for \$3,944 according to their website, helps "expand the narrative of the collection," Mills says.

"It's uncharacteristic to acquire a oneof-a-kind work sight unseen, but this case merited going ahead with the purchase," Mills says. "I had a friend look at it for me [in Tennessee]. I've not personally seen it."

Delaney's painting brings a whole narrative of American art history to the museum. "Delaney studied at the Art Students League with Thomas Hart Benton, and he was a friend of Jackson Pollock before he was known at all, frankly.

"Delaney lived a Spartan life in New York. It was Alex Haley (author of *Roots*) at University of Tennessee who really encouraged Delaney to return and be an artist in residence in Knoxville, which he did for the last 10 years of his life."

The addition of Delaney to Bates came at an opportune time. "There's a paradox here," Mills says of the purchase. "We can

(Continued on page 78)

MAINE WOMEN PIONEERS III

This major Art Exhibition Program, curated by Andres A. Verzosa, Gael May McGibben and Anne B. Zill, and extending over a ten-month period will feature works by 48 living women artists in four different clusters:

> Vanguard, October 12-December 16, 2012 Homage, January 2-March 3, 2013 Worldview, March 12-May 12, 2013 Dirigo, May 22-July 21, 2013



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Enjoying Retirement Together

"We wouldn't think of living anywhere that wouldn't welcome our dog," say Thornton Oaks residents Jim and Deanna Baxter. Bailey rides on the back of Jim's bike as they enjoy Brunswick's bike path along the Androscoggin River. The three also enjoy kayaking. "We keep the kayaks on top of the car and the bikes on the back," says Deanna; "it's a lot easier that way to get up and go."

Even those who no longer keep pets enjoy interacting with the four-footed residents. "Our Scotty, Bailey, is very popular!" adds Jim.

Are you looking for a pet-friendly community to call home? To learn more about Thornton Oaks, contact Henry Recknagel at 800-729-8033 or thoaks@gwi.net. We also invite you to visit our website to meet more of our residents.









www.thorntonoaks.com

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(l to r): David Mitchell, Christopher Rogers, Lauren Schaefer-Bove, Zara Machatine, Steve Guthrie, Dana Ricker

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DOLLARS& SENSE

Fresh Catch (continued from page 39)

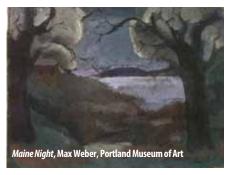
only acquire the painting because the market hasn't caught up with the recognition of an artist like Delaney yet, who's considered a fine artist but may not have traction in the secondary market."

At the intersection of market awareness and a collection's desires is a fresh purchase at Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland. "John Adams Jackson's (1825-1879) *Eve, after 1862* is a type of work that was common in the mid-nineteenth century," chief curator Michael Komanecky says. "It was very fashionable among the collecting elite in the U.S. There were very few sculptors from Maine, however, who handled marble like this.

"So it was especially exciting to discover this particular artist, from Bath, who did this caliber of work and who was available on the market."

Komanecky discovered the 26-inch tall bust at Conner Rosenkranz in New York City in April and acquired it at the end of July. "I went to see it, and it was terrific," Komanecky says. "It'll look spectacular in the Rothschild Gallery. It's beautiful."

The walls of Portland Museum of Art continue to change thanks to local connections and "serendipity," as in the case of Carl Sprinchorn's M.H. Peace, Poetry, and Place, says senior curator Susan Danly. "We found this in the Barridoff catalogue, and we happen to



have a related drawing. This new Sprinchorn gives us a body of work." According to Barridoff Galleries's auction history, the drawing was purchased for \$4,320.

With a contemporary artist living in Falmouth, Danly made sure to include David Driskell's *Pine and Moon* in their collection. "David was interested in placing a major painting in the museum," Danly says. "The pine tree is so iconic. It's painterly and romantic."

>> To see the complete list of acquisitions from area museums, visit portlandmonthly.com/portmag/2012/08/fresh-catch-extras.

