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2012-2013 SEASON EVENTS

September 27th
AQUILA THEATRE
CYPANO DE BERGERAC
Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 pm
Tickets-$15.00
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September 29th
AQUILA THEATRE
TAMING OF THE SHREW
Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 pm
Tickets-$15.00

November 9th
CAPITOL STEPS
Lewiston Middle School Auditorium,
7:30pm Tickets-$25.00
Sponsored by Lee Auto Malls

January 26th
CHRISTOPHER O’REILLY
“OUT OF MY HANDS”
Franco American Heritage Center,
7:30pm Tickets-$25.00

February 8th
LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO
Lewiston Middle School Auditorium
7:30pm Tickets-$25.00

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Fresh Catch

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

BY DAVID SVENSON

The 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 eye-popping 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 million 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-
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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”,
for $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 col-
lege, community, and beyond. We’ve man-
aged 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
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
25 Thornton Way, #100
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Maine Night, Max Weber, Portland Museum of Art

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. Pace, 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’ 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.