



Maine Jewish Museum

CELEBRATING MAINE'S JEWISH ART, HISTORY AND CULTURE IN A RESTORED 1921 SYNAGOGUE

Maine Jewish Museum

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Portland, ME

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Announcing the 2021-2022 Maine Jewish Museum ANNUAL APPEAL

*IN HONOR OF NANCY'S DAVIDSON'S 10TH
ANNIVERSARY AS CURATOR IN RESIDENCE*



Nancy Davidson, our wonderful Curator in Residence

Since our last Annual Appeal in 2019, we have gone through extraordinary changes both internally and externally.

While all of us have dealt with the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, two months into the pandemic the Museum had a fire which caused virtually every wall, floor and ceiling in the building to be removed. We had to totally renovate the building foot by foot from the studs outward.



Thanks to great community support and an excellent insurance company, we re-opened the Museum 10 months later in January of this year in even better condition than it was before the fire. We are so grateful for all the support and good wishes.

Now, as we look forward to a time without COVID, we are planning to hire a new Executive Director! We hope to greatly expand our cultural and historical exhibits in the

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coming year while continuing to provide the amazing art exhibits for which we have become well known.

One constant the past 10 years has been the excellent work of our Curator- In- Residence, Nancy Davidson, who will celebrate her 10th anniversary as Curator next month! Nancy has put the Museum on the arts map both locally and regionally. Nancy has the energy, creativity and good cheer of the vivacious, tireless, hard-working professional that she is and whom we all cherish.

In recognition of all that she has done, this Annual Appeal is being conducted in her honor. Additionally, an anonymous donor has agreed to fully match the first \$15,000 of contributions to the Annual Appeal, which means that your gift will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$15,000!

You can contribute by clicking this link:

<https://mainejewishmuseum.org/donate/>

You may also send a check made out to Maine Jewish Museum and mailing it to us at 267 Congress St. Portland ME 04101.



We are so grateful to you, our friends, for your steadfast support over these past 13 years! The Maine Jewish Museum is a unique institution, a link between both past and contemporary Jewish life.

We are a vibrant resource to the community: the Spiegel Art Gallery offers the best of art world luminaries, we are a community center where all are welcome, a restored building holding a rich history of Maine's Jewish past, an educational facility utilized by school groups, individuals and organizations, a Portland attraction receiving visitors from all over the world, not to mention a location for lectures, music, and live theatre.

In the coming year, we plan to continue our mission of fostering understanding and dialogue between diverse groups as well as expand our historical exhibitions and

programming in a way that is beneficial to the community at large.

In the service of accomplishing these goals; hiring our new Executive Director and to honor Nancy Davidson, we humbly ask that you contribute this holiday season!

Thank you so much, Steve Brinn

On Behalf of the Board of Directors of The Maine Jewish Museum



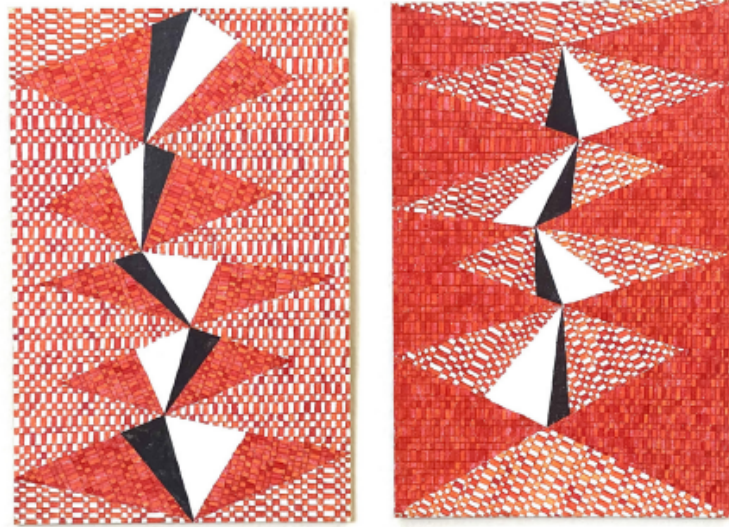
Maine Jewish Museum



While you're here...

come and take a look at our current exhibitions!
On view through January 3rd

Dialogue: Duane Paluska and Ellen Golden



Dialogue: Duane Paluska and Ellen Golden

Fineberg Family Community Room

Ellen Golden has chosen drawing as her genre to realize her aesthetic goals. What makes her drawings successful is her use of great energy, the love of small, precise details, neatness, clarity, and the ability to express notable personal insights and abilities.

“My work flows from an intuitive and emotional response to a lifetime of experiences, travel and observation. I am interested in patterns within forms, the accumulation of small marks, the spaces in-between, the perception of space

and depth, and the interplay of color. Each drawing emerges through a process of discovery. The drawings develop slowly with each mark a response to the ones that have gone before and each element a response to what has preceded it. The process is meditative and requires being fully present and open to possibility and change. The scale reflects the intimacy of the process and the experience of being present with the work.”

Duane Paluska (1936-2020) was director of ICON Contemporary Art for over thirty years. He also devoted considerable time to studying and teaching, designing and constructing furniture and buildings, and making paintings and sculpture. Characteristics of these interests are blended to influence the creation of objects. His sculptures have influenced paintings, and elements of the paintings have influenced sculpture. “Euclid rules.”

Images: (Top) Untitled, Acrylic on canvas on board, 2019, Duane Paluska (Bottom) Mr. Magic, 2 images 6x4 ink on paper 2021, Ellen Golden

THE PUMPKIN PATCH



JUNE ATKIN

The Pumpkin Patch

A Traditional Buddhist Tale Illustrated by June Atkin

Retold by Sybil Taylor- Heian International Publisher

Spiegel Gallery

With one hundred Prismacolor Pencils making thousands of calligraphic lines, June Atkin illustrates the story of “The Wise Old Man” who teaches his quarreling pumpkins to be still. In the accord of shared silence, they realize that “We are all connected in the great... big... beautiful pumpkin patch.” “Pumpkins” grew from a union of friendship and roots.

Children of Jewish Psychoanalyst Fathers, June Atkin -
illustrator, and Sybil Taylor - writer, both chose Buddhism as

their modality of healing. Childhood friends, Sybil and June re-enter their “Land of Play” to create a book introducing children to meditation.

June, a graduate of The Yale School of Art, has taught book illustration and computer graphics at several colleges. She has exhibited drawings, etchings and paintings, nationally. The Horn Book Inc., a seminal publication on children’s books, included June in *illustrators of the decade: Illustrators of Childrens Books 1957-1966*. She is an exhibiting member of The Society of Illustrators Museum in New York City. Currently, June Atkin Studio is located on a pier in Portland, Maine

Image: The Sun Went Down Over The Garden, colored pencil



Sojourn Israel

Sean Alonzo Harris

Jody S. Sataloff Art and History Pavilion

At the end of 2019, I traveled to Israel with staff and students from the Center for Small Town Jewish Life at Colby College to document their educational experience. We were an eclectic group from all walks of faith, Jewish,

Muslim, Christian, and nonbelievers. The trip focused on gaining a deeper understanding of the history, culture, and conflict between Israel and Palestine. This body of photographs captures moments of everyday street life in between and through our shared learning and reflection on Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Nazareth."

Sean Alonzo Harris is a professional editorial, commercial and fine art photographer concentrating on narrative and environmental portraiture. Over the past 25 years, Sean's work has been featured in a range of national publications, advertising campaigns, and exhibitions. In these varied contexts, Sean's work focuses on human experience and identity and examines how individuals visualize themselves and how they are portrayed. He has received several awards and grants for his work including, Good Idea Grant and Arts in the Capital Program, from the Maine Arts Commission, the Broderson Bronze Award, and the VanDerZee Black Heritage Award, from the University of Lowell. Sean was selected as one of the 60 most collectible artists in Maine and featured in Maine Home and Design magazine.

Image: We Were All Once Refugee, 21"x14.5"

Maine Jewish Museum

267 Congress Street

Portland, ME

Hours: Sunday through Friday 12am-4pm Closed: Saturdays

Masks required for all visitors.

Please maintain 6 ft distance from one another.

The mission of the Maine Jewish Museum is to honor the contributions and diversity of Maine's Jewish immigrants in the context of the American experience. Through exhibits and programming, the Museum seeks to build bridges of appreciation and understanding with people of all backgrounds.

Join us in celebrating Jewish ART, HISTORY and CULTURE in Maine.



Maine Jewish Museum | 267 Congress St, Portland, ME 04101

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