

GAIL SPAIEN

Born 1958, Hartford, CT
Lives and works in South Portland, ME

EDUCATION

MFA, San Francisco Art Institute, CA
BFA, University of Southern Maine, ME

MAJOR COLLECTIONS

Memorial Sloane Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
Fidelity Investments, Boston, MA
Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME
University of New England, Portland, ME
University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME
OZ Art NWA, Bentonville, AK

SELECTED SOLO AND TWO PERSON EXHIBITIONS

2025 Arranging Flowers, Taymour Grahne Projects, Dubai, UAE
Biennial, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockland, ME
Observed and Imagined, Mrs., organized by Hilary Schaffner, Queens, NY
Staying In, curated by Michael Yuan, 1969 Gallery, Tribeca, NY
2024 NADA Miami, Hilary Schaffner, Independent Curator, Portland, ME
Gail Spaien: New Paintings, Nancy Margolis Gallery, online
Light in Every Room: Lynne Drexler and Gail Spaien, Moss Gallery, Portland, ME
2023 Gail Spaien and Heather Wilcoxon, studio e gallery, Seattle, WA
A Painting Is a Place, Taymour Grahne Projects, London, UK
2022 Before the taking of a toast and tea, Nancy Margolis Gallery, online
2021 Still Life with Water, Nancy Margolis Gallery, online
2019 Bonsai Cottage, AD Gallery, University of North Carolina, Pembroke, NC
Renegade Mirage, Carol Calo Gallery, Stonehill College, Easton, MA
2017 Serenade, Ogunquit Museum of American Art, Ogunquit, ME
2016 Still-Lifes and Botanicals, Coastal Maine Botanical Garden, Boothbay, ME
2014 Dozier Bell and Gail Spaien, Aucocisco Galleries, Portland, ME

SELECTED SOLO AND TWO PERSON EXHIBITIONS (CONT.)

- 2013 New Paintings, Ellen Miller Gallery, Boston, MA
2012 The World Over, Institute of Contemporary Art, Portland, ME,(Curator: Daniel Fuller, catalog)
2010 Between: Gail Spaien and Ahmed Alsoudani, Aucocisco Galleries, Portland, ME
In Winter, Garden, Archive Project 6, Miller Block, Boston, MA
2008 Garden Archive, Project 4, Museums of Old York, George Marshall Store Gallery, York, ME
Garden Archive, Project 5, William Scott Gallery, Provincetown, MA
2006 New Work, Miller Block Gallery, Boston, MA
2004 Damon Lehrer and Gail Spaien, William Scott Gallery, Boston MA
2003 Charm, Museums of Old York, George Marshall Store, York, ME
2002 Samplers and Mourning Paintings, Aucocisco Galleries, Portland, ME
2001 Domestic Time, Vanier Gallery, Tucson, AZ
2000 Counting, Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, ME
Art Houston: Introductions, Jack Meier Gallery, Houston, TX
1998 At the Edge of Wind, Robert Clements Fine Arts, Portland, ME
1992 New Work, Gump's Gallery, San Francisco, CA
1991 Introductions, 91, Gump's Gallery, San Francisco, CA
1989 Visiting Artist Exhibition, Center Gallery, University of Maine, Gorham, ME
1985 Gail Spaien and Heather Wilcoxon, Diego Rivera Gallery, San Francisco Art Insitute, San Francisco, CA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Interior worlds, Taymour Grahne Projects, online
Contemporary Domesticity II, Taymour Grahne Projects, London, UK
2023 Art and Ekphrastic Poetry, Page Gallery, Camden, ME
Interiors, Page Gallery, Camden, ME
2022 The More the Merrier, Grant Walquist Gallery, Portland, ME
Interior, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockland, ME
Activated Spaces, Nancy Margolis Gallery Pop-up show, Alice Gauvin Gallery, Portland, ME
2021 In Here, studio e gallery, Seattle, WA
Mixing it Up, Maine Jewish Museum, Portland, ME

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS (CONT.)

- 2021 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan School Artists, Maine Jewish Museum, Portland, ME
- 2020 20, Zero Station, Portland, ME
Pam Brown, Gail Spaien, Julia Zanes, Michael Stasiuck, George Marshall Store Gallery, York, ME
- 2019 Flowering Inside/Outside, Nancy Margolis Gallery, NY
Perfection, Able Baker Contemporary, Portland, ME (Curator, Hilary Irons)
SPF 32, Ulmer Brewery, Brooklyn, NY (Curator, Madeline Mermall)
- 2017 American Genre: Contemporary Painting, Institute of Contemporary Art, ME (Curator: Michelle Grabner, catalog)
The 2016 Grant Recipients, Provincetown Art Assoc. and Museum, Provincetown, MA
Impact, Art Museum, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH
Take Flight, Museums of Old York, George Marshall Store Gallery, York, ME
- 2016 Bounty, Institute of Contemporary Art, Portland, ME (Curator: Sage Lewis)
- 2015 20 Year Anniversary Show, Museums of Old York, George Marshall Store Gallery, York, ME
- 2014 New Acquisitions, University of New England, Portland, ME
- 2011 Momentum, Museums of Old York, George Marshall Store Gallery, York, ME
- 2010 Collected Nature, Miller Block, Boston, MA
- 2009 Winter Salon, Denise Bibro Fine Art, New York, NY
- 2008 Out There: Mediated Landscape, Institute of Contemporary Art, Portland, ME (Curator: Lauren Fensterstock)
New Natural History, Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME
- 2007 Biennial, Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME
Nature/Nurture, Miller Block Gallery, Boston, MA
- 2006 Peaceable Kingdom, Museums of Old York, George Marshall Store Gallery, York, ME
- 2005 Inside/Outside, Miller Block Gallery, Boston, MA
Pretty Sweet: The Sentimental Image in Contemporary Art, DeCordova Museum, Lincoln, MA (Curator: Nick Capasso)
Transcribing Time: Grace DeGennaro, Gail Spaien, Alice Spencer, Maine Center for Contemporary Art, Rockport, ME
- 2001 Domestic Culture, Institute of Contemporary Art, Portland, ME (Curator: Mark Bessire, catalog)
- 1999 Accord III, Museums of Old York, George Marshall Store Gallery York, ME

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS (CONT.)

- 1998 Biennial, Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME
1997 Faculty Exhibition, Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, ME
Picking up the Pieces, Museums of Old York, George Marshall Store Gallery, York, ME
1996 Skowhegan at 50: A Maine Legacy, Baxter Gallery at Portland School of Art, Portland, ME
1995 Contemporary Collage, Frick Gallery, Belfast, ME
1994 Visual Artists Showcase, Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, MA
1993 Solstice Tree Project, Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME
1992 O'Farrell Gallery, Brunswick, ME
Claudia Chaplin Gallery, Stinson Beach, CA
1991 Seascapes, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, ME
1990 Crocker-Kingsley Annual, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA
Individual Artist Grant Finalist Exhibit, Marin Arts Council, Mill Valley, CA
1989 Bay Arts 89, San Mateo Arts Council, San Mateo, CA
Natsoulas Novelozo Gallery, Davis, CA
1988 Exhibition 88, Sun Gallery, Hayward, CA
1987 Exchange, San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, CA
1985 Headlands Center for the Arts, Group Exhibition, Sausalito, CA

RESIDENCES, GRANTS, AWARDS

- 2024 Ucross Foundation, Residency Award, Claremont, WY
Seligmann House at the Tides Institute, mini-residency, curated by Tessa Green O'Brien, Addison, ME
2021 The Hopper Prize, Finalist, hopperprize.org
2020 Varda Artist Residency, Residency Award, Ferryboat Vallejo, Sausalito, CA
2016 Lillian Orlowsky and William Freed Foundation, Grant Award
Maine Arts Commission, Project Grant Award
2010 New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Artist Advancement Grant
Maine Arts Commission, Visibility Grant Award
2006 Maine Arts Commission, GIG Grant Award
2004 Maine Arts Commission, GIG Grant Award

RESIDENCES, GRANTS, AWARDS (CONT.)

1996	Djerassi Foundation Resident Artists Program, Residency Award, Woodside, CA
1990	Crocker Art Museum, Merit Award, Sacramento, CA
1988	Millay Colony for the Arts, Residency Award, Austerlitz, NY
1986	Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Scholarship, SFAI
1985	Headlands Center for the Arts, Seminar-in-residence, Sausalito, CA

SELECTED ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2016 – 2022	Maine College of Art, Professor, Core Faculty, MFA Program, Portland, ME
2012 – 2016	Maine College of Art, Chair, MFA Program, Portland, ME
2009 – 2012	Maine College of Art, Chair, Painting Program, Portland, ME
1991 – 2009	Maine College of Art, Adjunct, Early College and Continuing Studies faculty, Portland, ME
1997 – 2000	Colby College, Visiting Assistant Professor, Art Dept., Waterville, ME

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022	Maharishi International University, Low Residency MFA, Studio Advisor
2019	Stonehill College, Art Department, Visiting Artist, Easton, MA University of North Carolina, Art Department, Visiting Artist, Pembroke, NC
2018	Maharishi International University, Art Department, Visiting Artist, Fairfield, IA
2017	On Genre: A Painting Symposium, Coordinator, American Genre: Contemporary Painting, Portland, ME
2016	Maine Botanical Garden, Lecture, The Flower in Art, Meaning and Metaphor, Boothbay, ME Oberlin College Art Department, Visiting Artist, Oberlin, OH
2010	A Garden Grows in the Museum, public project for the Objects of Wonder Exhibition, Portland Museum, ME Nomination: New England Art Award, New England Journal of Aesthetic Research, Boston, MA Nomination: Spotlight Award, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, NH
2009	Portland Museum of Art, A Garden Grows in the Museum, public collaboration, great hall installation
2006	Maine Masters Series, panel discussant w/ Carl Little, Portland Museum of Art

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE (CONT.)

- 2002 Maine Women in the Arts, museum talk, Colby College Museum Waterville, ME
2001 Teaching and Art Making, panel discussant, First Thursdays, Portland, ME
2000 Drawing on Ritual, panel discussant, Institute of Contemporary Art, Portland
1998 Is Feminism Still Relevant? moderator, panel discussion, Maine College of Art
1996/8 Visiting Artist Lecture Series, Maine College of Art, coordinator
1996 Haystack School of Arts and Crafts, visiting artist, Maine Art Educator program, Deer Isle, ME
1995 Maine Touring Artists Program, Maine Arts Commission
DeCordova Museum School, Visiting faculty, Lincoln, MA
1989 U. of Southern Maine, Visiting Artist, Painting Dept. Gorham, ME
1988 Youth in Arts Program, Marin Arts Council San Rafael, CA
Nightfire Theater, Production Artist for installation of Santa Dog, Hanson Gallery, Sausalito, CA
1980/3 Antenna Theater, Production Artist for theatrical/installation works including Vacuum, moving Sculptures and Artery, Sausalito, CA
Frank Lloyd Wright: In the Realm of Ideas, Exhibition Administrative Assistant, Marin County Civic Center, CA

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2025 Ghali, Maghie. "Taymour Grahne Projects Finds a New Home in Dubai", Architectural Digest Middle East, October 30, 2025
Bedirian, Razmig. "New gallery in Alserkal Avenue is looking to reflect Dubai's cosmopolitan character", The National, October 29, 2025
Dhuga, Amelia. "The Best Art Exhibitions To Visit This October", GQ Middle East, October 6, 2025
Yusuf, Muhammed. "Taymour Grahne Projects opens Dubai space with Gail Spaien's solo exhibition, Gulf Today, September 23, 2025
- 2024 Arango, Jorge S. "Think you know these Maine artists? See how they evolved at shows in Portland and Rockland", Portland Press Herald, November 8, 2024
Shultz, Abby. "Artsy CEO Jeffrey Yin is a 'Patron' Who Gravitates to Emerging Artists", Penta Collect, July, 25, 2024
Nwonukwue, Ada. "Artist Gail Spaien", I Like Your Work, July 24, 2024
The Ekphrastic Review, June 5, 2024
- 2022 Harpers Magazine, December 2022
Arango, Jorge S. "Each of four fall shows worth a visit", Maine Sunday Telegram, November 13, 2022

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY (CONT.)

- 2022 Arango, Jorge S. "Painters go to different depths in Portland, Rockland shows", Portland Press Herald, August 28, 2022
- 2021 Vansynghel, Margo. "The Seattle Deconstructed Art Fair returns for a second year", Crosscut, August 2, 2021
Little, Carl. "Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan School Artists", Art New England, May/June 2021
Arango, Jorge S. "Skowhegan School's Influence, Adventurousness on Display", Portland Press Herald, May 23, 2021
Allen Beam, Edgar. "Art Seen: Skowhegan School at the Maine Jewish Museum", Portland Phoenix, May 19 2021
Little, Carl. "Gail Spaien: Anchoring and Suspension and Gravity and Light", Maine Arts Journal: The UMVA Quarterly, Spring 2021
Arango, Jorge S. "Maine Jewish Museum reopens with exemplars of art and craft", Portland Press Herald, February 2021
- 2020 "A Trio of exhibits at George Marshall Store Gallery", Fosters Daily Democrat, September 17, 2020
Radar Poetry, editions 26 +27, radarpoetry.com
- 2019 Allen Beam, Edgar. "Maine in the Abstract", Maine Arts Journal: The UMVA Quarterly, Summer 2019
Mazheri, Tyler. "Apply Liberally", Flaunt Magazine, June 14, 2019
- 2016 Kany, Dan. "At the Institute of Contemporary Art, and exploration of 'Bounty' in all it's forms", Portland Press Herald, Sept 18, 2016
New American Painting, Northeast issue 116, 2016
- 2015 "In Defense of Painting", Maine Arts Journal: The UMVA Quarterly, Spring 2015
- 2014 "A Visit to Maine College of Art", Two Coats of Paint, November 2014
- 2013 McQuaid, Cate. "Gail Spaien, New Paintings", Boston Globe, March 20, 2013
"Critics Pick", Boston Globe, March 13, 2013
- 2012 Shroeder, Nicholas. "Serious Thoughts in a Frivolous Season", Portland Phoenix, November 7, 2012
- 2010 Little, Carl. "Gail Spaien and Ahmed Alsoudani at Aucocisco Galleries", Art New England, Nov/Dec 2010
Mccartin, Jeanne. "Artist Wins \$25,000 Grant to Build Studio", Portsmouth Press Herald, October 2, 2010
McQuaid, Cate. "Winter's Weight and What Lies Below", Boston Globe, February 17, 2010
Allen Beam, Edgar. "Out There", Yankee Magazine, November 2008
Thompson, Jamie. "Modern Art Meets Natural History", Accent Magazine, March/April 2008
- 2005 Boulanger, Susan. "Sentimental Journey: Time and Memory in Pink and Gray", Art New England, June/July 2005

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY (CONT.)

- 2005 Giuliano, Charles, "Plastic Refuge reviewing the exhibit Pretty Sweet, Big Red and Shiny, February 14, 2005", Arts Editor, March 4, 2005
- 2004 Cox, Rebecca. "Profile", The Wire, May 2004
- 2003 Behrens, Mary. "Maine Charm: Paintings by Gail Spaien", Art New England, October - November 2003
McCartin, Jeanne. "Charm, Waterworks", Portsmouth Herald, July 1, 2003
- 1999 New American Painting, Volume 20, February 1999
- 1998 Channel 13 TV, One of 5 featured artists, Portland Museum of Art, Biennial Exhibition, WGME-TV video, production, November 15, 1998
Allen Beam, Edgar. "Metaphysics Made Mainfest, A Surprising Turn in Portland's Ambitious Biennial", Maine Times, November 19, 1998
Davidson Reef, Pat. "The Art Biennial", Sun Journal, November 20, 1998
Isaacson, Philip. "At Maine College of Art, Faculty Boldly Shows its Stuff", Maine Sunday Telegram, January 25, 1998
- 1995 Isaacson, Philip. "Frick Exhibit's an Elegant Mix of Collages, Assemblages", Maine Sunday Telegram, August 13, 1995
- 1993 Isaacson, Philip. "Maine Coast's 15th Annual Juried Show Strongest in Years", Maine Sunday Telegram, June 13, 1993
- 1990 Dalkey, Victoria. "Works of Content", The Sacramento Bee, April 22, 1990
- 1987 Burkhart, Dorothy. "San Francisco Art Institute/San Jose University Exchange: Part two", San Jose Mercury News, September 4, 1987
- 1985 Van der Meulen, Jack. "The Arts Review", The Pacific Sun, May 3-9 1985