

# Gail Spaien

[www.gailspaien.com](http://www.gailspaien.com)

## RESIDENCIES, GRANTS, AWARDS

- 2024 **Ucross Foundation**, Residency Award, Claremont, WY  
**Seligmann House at the Tides Insitute**, 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 Orlovsky 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
- 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

## ONE AND TWO PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Upcoming: Taymour Grahne Projects*, London, UK/Dubai, UAE  
*Observed and Imagined, MRS.*, organized by Hilary Schaffner, Queens, NY
- 2024 NADA Miami, **Hilary Schaffner**, Independent Curator, Portland, ME  
*Light In Every Room: Lynne Drexler and Gail Spaien*, **Moss Gallery**, Portland, ME  
*Gail Spaien: New Paintings*, **Nancy Margolis Gallery**, New York, Online Viewing Room
- 2023 *Gail Spaien and Heather Wilcoxon*, **studio e gallery**, Seattle, WA  
*A Painting is a Place*, **Taymour Grahne Projects**, London, England
- 2022 *Before the taking of a toast and tea*, **Nancy Margolis Gallery**, New York, Online Viewing Room
- 2021 *Still Life with Water*, **Nancy Margolis Gallery**, New York, Online Viewing Room
- 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
- 2013 *New Paintings*, **Ellen Miller Gallery**, Boston, MA
- 2012 *The World Over*, **Institute of Contemporary Art**, Portland, Maine, (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**, SF, CA
- 1991 *Introductions,91*, **Gump's Gallery**, SF, CA
- 1989 *Visiting Artist Exhibition*, **Center Gallery**, University of Maine, Gorham, ME
- 1985 *Gail Spaien and Heather Wilcoxon*, **Diego Rivera Gallery**, San Francisco Art Institute, SF, CA

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Upcoming: Staying In*, **1969 Gallery**, Tribeca, NY  
*Upcoming: Wingspan*, **Moss Gallery**, Falmouth, ME
- 2024 *Artsy Foundations, Art Fair*, **Taymour Grahne Projects**, online  
*Interior World/Domestic Space*, **Taymour Grahne Projects**, online, London, UK  
*Contemporary Domesticities*, **Taymour Grahne Projects**, Cromwell Place, 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

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS, *CONTINUED*

- 2021 *In Here*, **studio e gallery**, Seattle, WA  
*Mixing it Up*, **Maine Jewish Museum**, Portland, ME  
*Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture*, *Skowhegan School Artists*, **Maine Jewish Museum**, Portland,
- 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
- 2019 *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)
- 2005 *Transcribing Time: Grace DeGennaro, Gail Spaien, Alice Spencer*, **Maine Center for Contemporary Art**
- 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
- 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

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Penta, Collect July, 25 2024**, *Artsy CEO Jeffrey Yin Is a 'Patron' Who Gravitates to Emerging Artists*, Abby Shultz
- The Ekphrastic Review, June 5, 2024**, <https://www.ekphrastic.net/the-ekphrastic-review/instead-of-war-by-amy-ralston-seife>
- Harpers Magazine, December 2022**, <https://harpers.org/archive/2022/12/new-books-december-2022/>
- Maine Sunday Telegram, November 13, 2022**, **Review: Each of four fall shows worth a visit...**, Jorge S. Arango
- Portland Press Herald, August 28, 2022**, **Review: Painters go to different depths in Portland**, Rockland shows, Jorge S. Arango
- Crosscut, The Seattle Deconstructed Art Fair returns for a second year**, Margo Vansynghel, August 2, 2021
- Art New England, May/June 2021**, **Review: Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture**, *Skowhegan School Artists*, Carl Little
- Portland Press Herald, May 23, 2021**, **Art Review: Skowhegan School's Influence, Adventurousness on Display**, Jorge S. Arango
- Portland Phoenix, May 19, 2021**, **Review: Art Seen: Skowhegan School at the Maine Jewish Museum**, Edgar Allen Beem
- Maine Arts Journal: The UMVA Quarterly, Spring 2021** *Gail Spaien: Anchoring and Suspension and Gravity and Light*, Carl Little
- Portland Press Herald, February 2021**, **Review: Maine Jewish Museum reopens with exemplars of art and craft**, Jorge S. Arango
- Fosters Daily Democrat, Sept. 17, 2020**, *A Trio of exhibits at George Marshall Store Gallery*

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS, *CONTINUED*

**Radar Poetry**, editions 26 +27, radarpoetry.com

**Maine Arts Journal: The UMVA Quarterly, Summer 2019** *Maine in the Abstract*, Edgar Allen Beem

**Flaunt Magazine, June 14, 2019**, *Apply Liberally*, Tyler Mazaheri <https://archive.flaunt.com/content/spf-32>

**Portland Press Herald, Feb. 18, 2019**, Art Review: *Skillfully curated, Able Baker exhibition explores 'Perfection'*, Dan Kany

**American Genre: Contemporary Painting**, catalog for the exhibition, curated by Michelle Grabner, ICA, Portland, ME 2018

**Maine Arts Journal: The UMVA Quarterly, The Wave of Creativity**, Dietlind Vander Schaaf, Features and Essays, Summer 2018

**MaineToday.com**, Aug 28, 2017, *With Two Weeks Until it Closes, American Genre ....Fans of Contemporary Painting*, Bob Keyes

**Portland Press Herald, Sept 18, 2016**, *At the Institute of Contemporary Art, and exploration of 'Bounty' in all it's forms*, Dan Kany

**Maine Arts Journal: The UMVA Quarterly, In Defense of Painting**, Spring 2015

**New American Painting, Northeast issue 116**, Juror, Michelle Grabner

**Two Coats of Paint, Snap: A Visit to Maine College of Art**, November 2014

**Boston Globe**, March 20, 2013, *Gail Spaien, New Paintings*, Cate McQuaid

**Boston Globe**, March 13, 2013, *Critics Pick*

**Portland Phoenix**, Nov. 7, 2012, *Serious Thoughts in a Frivolous Season*, Nicholas Schroeder

**Art New England**, Nov/Dec 2010, Reviews, *Gail Spaien and Ahmed Alsoudani at Aucocisco Galleries*, Carl Little

**Portsmouth Press Herald**, Oct. 2, 2010, *Artist Wins \$25,000 Grant to Build Studio*, Jeanne McCartin

**Boston Globe**, February 17, 2010, *Winter's Weight and What Lies Below*, Cate McQuaid

**Yankee Magazine.com/blogs**, Nov. 2008, *Out There*, Edgar Allen Beam

**Accent Magazine**, March/April 2008, *Modern Art Meets Natural History*, Jamie Thompson

**Wicked Local**, Aug. 12, 2008, *Flora and facades make up art exhibit*, <https://www.wickedlocal.com/story/archive/2008/08/12/flora-facades-make-up-art/39632001007/>

**Art New England**, June/July 2005, *Sentimental Journey: Time and Memory in Pink and Gray*, Susan Boulanger

**Arts Editor**, March 4, 2005, *Plastic Refuge reviewing the exhibit Pretty Sweet*, <https://artseditor.com/site/plastic-refuge/>

**Big Red and Shiny, February 14, 2005**, *Guilty Pleasures*, Charles Giuliano, <https://bigredandshiny.org/7215/guilty-pleasures/>

**Art New England**, October - November 2003, *Review, Maine Charm: Paintings by Gail Spaien*, Mary Behrens

**Portsmouth Herald**, July 1, 2003, *Profile: Charm, Waterworks*, Jeanne McCartin

**New American Painting**, Volume 20, February 1999

**Maine Times**, Nov. 19, 1998, *Metaphysics Made Manifest, A Surprising Turn in Portland's Ambitious Biennial*, Edgar Allen Beem

**Sun Journal**, November 20, 1998, *The Art Biennial*, Pat Davidson Reef

**Maine Sunday Telegram**, January 25, 1998, *At Maine College of Art, Faculty Boldly Shows its Stuff*, Philip Isaacson

**Maine Sunday Telegram**, August 13, 1995, *Frick Exhibit's an Elegant Mix of Collages, Assemblages*, Philip Isaacson

**Maine Sunday Telegram**, June 13, 1993, *Maine Coast's 15th Annual Juried Show Strongest in Years*, Philip Isaacson

**The Sacramento Bee**, April 22, 1990, *Works of Content*, Victoria Dalkey

**San Jose Mercury News**, Sept. 4, 1987, *San Francisco Art Institute/San Jose University Exchange: Part two*, Dorothy Burkhart

**The Pacific Sun**, May 3-9 1985, *The Arts Review*, Jack Van der Meulen

INTERVIEWS, VIDEOS, VIRTUAL ARTIST TALKS

2024 **I Like Your Work, Studio Visit**, Artist Talk, October

**I Like Your Work Studio Visit**, Interview, July

**Yale University Radio**, Museum of Non-visible Art, July, Brainard Carey

**Taymour Grahne Projects**, April 8, <https://www.tiktok.com/@taymourgrahneprojects/video/7355598904324410656>

2023 **Full Circle: Gail Spaien and Heather Wilcoxon at studio e**, <https://studioegallery.net/Gail-Spaaien-Heather-Wilcoxon>

2022 **Nancy Margolis Gallery**, December 3, <https://www.nancymargolisgallery.com/news/spaien-zoom-talk-2022>

2021 **Nancy Margolis Gallery**, June 21, <https://www.nancymargolisgallery.com/news/zoom-talk-meet-the-artists>

2021 **Nancy Margolis Gallery**, February 16, <https://www.nancymargolisgallery.com/news/zoom-artist-talk-gail-spaien>

**Hopper Prize**: Interview <https://hopperprize.org/gail-spaien-interview/>

2004 **The Wire**, May 2004, *Profile*, Rebecca Cox

1998 **Channel 13 TV**, One of 5 featured artists, Nov. 15, 1998, Portland Museum of Art Biennial Exhibition, WGME-TV video

1982 **Internet Archive, SF**, [https://archive.org/details/csfpal\\_000239](https://archive.org/details/csfpal_000239), Artery, Nov. 2, 1982, **Antenna Theater**; minute 1:05

SELECTED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

OZ Art NWA, Bentonville, AK

Kellie and Jeff Hepper Collection, Houston, TX

Elie Khouri Collection, Dubai, UAE

Memorial Sloane Kettering Cancer Center, NY

Fidelity Investments, MA

Portland Museum of Art, ME

University of New England, ME

Intuit Corporation, CA

Michael Baumann Collection, ME/MA

University of Southern Maine, ME

**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  
2011 – 2012 **Maine College of Art**, Curriculum Coordinator  
1997 – 2000 **Colby College**, Visiting Assistant Professor, Art Dept., Waterville, ME  
1996 – 2008 **Maine College of Art**, Adjunct Faculty / Assistant Professor, Painting and Foundation Program, Portland, ME  
1991 - 1996 **Maine College of Art**, Continuing Studies, Early College and Adjunct Faculty, Portland, ME  
1986 – 1987 **San Francisco Art Institute**, Student Representative to the Board of Directors, SF, CA  
1986 – 1987 **San Francisco Art Institute**, Alumni Organization, SF, CA

**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  
**Bowdoin College**, Guest Critic, Speed Crit, Brunswick, 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  
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  
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 - 98 **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  
1980-83 **Antenna Theater**, Production Artist for theatrical/installation works by Chris Hardman including *Vacuum*,  
*Moving Sculptures* and *Artery*, Sausalito, CA  
**Frank Lloyd Wright: In the Realm of Ideas**, Exhibition Admin. Assist to Susan Davis Frank, Marin County Civic Center, CA  
**The Well, A project of the Whole Earth Catalog**, Admin. Assist to Susan Davis Frank, Sausalito, CA  
**Masque-Arrayed**, Studio assistant for artist Annie Hallatt, Sausalito, CA  
**Galilee Harbor Community Association**, Internal Coordinator, Sausalito, CA  
1978 **Shoestring Theater**, production artist for parades, puppet shows, and workshops including  
mask-making and murals, Portland, ME

**Education**

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

B. 1958 Hartford, CT