

Frederick's 'Night Stories' at CMCA

Aug 11, 2017



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Linden Frederick's "Save-A-Lot," a 2016 oil on linen, inspired a short story by Pulitzer Prize-winner Anthony Doerr.

Courtesy of: Forum Gallery

ROCKLAND — The Center for Maine Contemporary Art, 21 Winter St., will present the groundbreaking exhibition, "Linden Frederick: Night Stories," Saturday, Aug. 19, through Nov. 5. The much-anticipated exhibition pairs 15 newly created paintings by Belfast's noted realist painter with 15 new works of fiction by some of America's most acclaimed writers.

The exhibition, and the accompanying book, "Night Stories: Fifteen Paintings and the Stories They Inspired," have been eight years in the making. When artist Linden Frederick realized a growing number of his collectors were

novelists and screenwriters, he wondered what would happen if the writer-illustrator relationship were reversed: the painting first, then the writing. The result is “Night Stories.”

Fifteen celebrated American fiction writers each agreed to select one painting especially created by Frederick as inspiration and then, over the following months, write a story inspired by it.

The collaborating writers are Pulitzer Prize-winner Anthony Doerr, National Book Award-finalist Andre Dubus III, National Book Award-winner Louise Erdrich, National Book Award-finalist Joshua Ferris, internationally bestselling author Tess Gerritsen, Academy Award-nominee Lawrence Kasdan, Kirkus Prize-winner Lily King, Edgar Award-winner Dennis Lehane, Newberry Medal-winner Lois Lowry, PEN/Faulkner Award-winner Ann Patchett, New York Times bestselling author Luanne Rice, Pulitzer Prize-winner Richard Russo, Pulitzer Prize-winner Elizabeth Strout, Academy Award-winner Ted Tally and PEN USA Award-winner Daniel Woodrell.

Linden Frederick, a native of Amsterdam, N.Y., has been celebrated for paintings of evocative light and atmosphere. Compared favorably to Edward Hopper’s American scene paintings, Frederick’s contemporary works suggest the human presence without depicting it, allowing the viewer to complete the narrative. Frederick has lived and worked in Belfast since 1989. He has had more than 20 solo exhibitions of his work throughout the United States including 2010’s “You Are Here” at CMCA in Rockport. He is represented by New York City’s Forum Gallery.

CMCA’s Summer Gala, inspired by the Frederick show, is set for the evening before the show opens to the public and will be capped by a public Night Stories After Party Friday, Aug. 18, from 9 to 11 p.m. in CMCA’s courtyard. There will be DJ-ed music, cash bar, ice cream truck, fire pit, sparklers and more. After Party tickets are \$12, \$10 for members, online at cmcanow.org or at the party.

An artist’s reception is set for Friday, Aug. 25, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Through October, CMCA’s hours are Mondays through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. (closed federal holidays). Admission is \$8; \$6 older than 65 and students with ID; free younger than 18, members; and free for all 5 to 8 p.m. First Fridays through October. For more information, call 701-5005 or visit the website.

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