

The Art Collection at North Hill



Introduction

Our long-standing commitment to visual and performing arts and all of the humanities is consistent with the holistic approach to wellness and life-long learning we foster at North Hill. We provide our residents with opportunities to enrich their lives with cultural experiences, physical fitness, spiritual fulfillment and intellectual curiosity. We promote emotional health through social engagement and with programs that create strong connections to our community and beyond. Thanks to resident Helen Meyrowitz, The Art Gallery at North Hill, which she founded on her arrival here, now boasts four annual curated exhibitions with shows by regional and national artists. We will forever be grateful to Helen for bringing her passion to PurposeFULL Living at North Hill. Together, we are continually committed to cultivating a legacy of creativity and to bringing new perspectives on living through the creative arts.

Joseph Frias
President and CEO
North Hill Communities, Inc.





About

Helen Meyrowitz

Artist, Curator, Gallery Founder

Written by Cate McQuaid

Helen Meyrowitz’s move to North Hill from Long Island in 2002 threw a wrench into her art career. She had studied with Robert Rauschenberg and exhibited with the de Koonings. She had marched with the Guerilla Girls and chaired the National Drawing Association.

Her friends asked, “You’re moving to the boondocks. What are you going to do?”

Now we know: Helen has changed the face of continuing care with an infusion of art.

She came to North Hill with her husband Sidney because their daughter was nearby, and Sidney soon began developing Alzheimer’s symptoms. Helen coped by making mythic drawings dancing with spontaneous gesture and emotional fluidity.

Sidney died in 2009. By 2012 Helen was ready for her next chapter.

She approached Kevin Burke, North Hill’s then CEO, and proposed opening an art gallery. She called on Katherine French, executive director of the Danforth Art Museum, for advice. The first show, organized by the Danforth in 2013, spotlighted painter Ilana Manolson. Helen curated the second, “Boston Painters, Boston

Painted,” which included pieces by David Wells Roth, Richard Raiselis, George Nick, and Sean Flood.

“It was a huge success,” Helen said over lunch at North Hill’s Bistro. “Kevin Burke was thrilled. He said, ‘Okay, we’ll back this.’”

She was off and running.

Helen set out to find purpose in her own life, but she ended up bringing vitality to North Hill that only art can, enriching the environment with vision, sensuality, mythos, and intellectual rigor. Residents and staff turn out for exhibition openings. It’s a deeply engaged, opinionated community and Helen has gracefully – even playfully – navigated disagreements about her curatorial choices.

For instance, an early exhibition featured a nude bronze by Jane Blair. One morning, a bathrobe appeared on the sculpture.

“The next day I came in and there was a scarf draped around it,” Helen said. “One day there was a baseball hat on it. It was great fun! Everybody was thinking what they could do with it.”

Helen went out into the art community, getting to know local artists and discovering a wealth of good art. She instituted regular artist talks, which draw crowds. She brought Danforth art to North Hill when the museum was changing campuses. In appreciation of her work, North Hill created a scholarship in Helen’s name for art students at Needham High School – and has exhibited their artwork.

Her vision has always been to create a living museum. To that end, she began the collection we’re celebrating in this catalog, inviting artists to donate a piece after each show ended. Today, most of the 40 works in that collection are installed, salon style, on North Hill’s third and fifth floors: Paintings, photographs, prints, textiles, and sculpture by a roster of terrific artists – including Nancy Schön, Destiny Palmer, Sidney Hurwitz, and more.

Fine art prints and posters hang in other hallways at North Hill like dim memories of art once savored elsewhere. Helen’s collection bursts off the walls with a joyful jolt: Real art, good art, living art.

Not bad for the boonies.



About

Ellen Wineberg

Curator 2020-2024

When Katherine French from the Danforth Museum recommended me for the role of Gallery Director at The Art Gallery at North Hill, it was an opportunity to assume a position with a notable history. My experience as an MCC award finalist in painting, with solo exhibitions at the Danforth, Randall Beck, and Bromfield Gallery in Boston, along with my role in co-founding and co-curating Room 83 Spring, prepared me for this role.

I took on the position with the aim of continuing the legacy established by Helen Meyrowitz and the Art Committee, who had curated a range of theme-based exhibitions featuring artists from Boston and beyond. Helen's practice of archiving past shows with white-framed posters outside the Café was a tradition I maintained.

During my tenure, we explored various themes. For The Environment, we displayed under-sea topographies by Phyllis Ewen and Michelle Lougee's crocheted plastic bag sea creatures, including a notable octopus. We also featured works by Jennifer Day and Vaughn Sills, and Laura Petrovich Cheney's wood quilts made from disaster site fragments. Humanity and Diversity included portraits of street people by Anne and Alan Strassman, and

a photographic series on cardboard by a North Hill resident. This theme also featured works by Lavaughan Jenkins, Jasmine Chen, Charles Suggs, Leslie Sills, Rachel Jenkins, Gabriel Polonsky, and a demonstration by Chinese artist Mike Mei. Clara Wainwright's quilts and Joe Ferguson's sculptures, alongside works from Gateway Arts' program for artists with disabilities, were also part of this exhibition.

The Opioid Crisis theme was addressed with Jodi Colella's large panel of hand-stitched poppies made from victims' families' donated clothing, now part of the Fuller Museum's Permanent Collection. Technique was highlighted by Mixit, a Somerville printmaking studio, which presented a multimedia survey of their members. Catherine Kernan and Randy Garber, Mixit's founders, discussed the studio's history and printmaking tools.

During my time at North Hill, I worked with the Art Committee and focused on presenting a variety of regional contemporary artists to the community.

Kimberlee Alemian

Untitled

Acrylic



Sondra Bogdonoff
Last Leaves #2, 2020
Linen
18 x 16 in



Jenny Carpenter

Untitled

Paint on plywood

13 x 13 in

Framed: 18 x 18 in



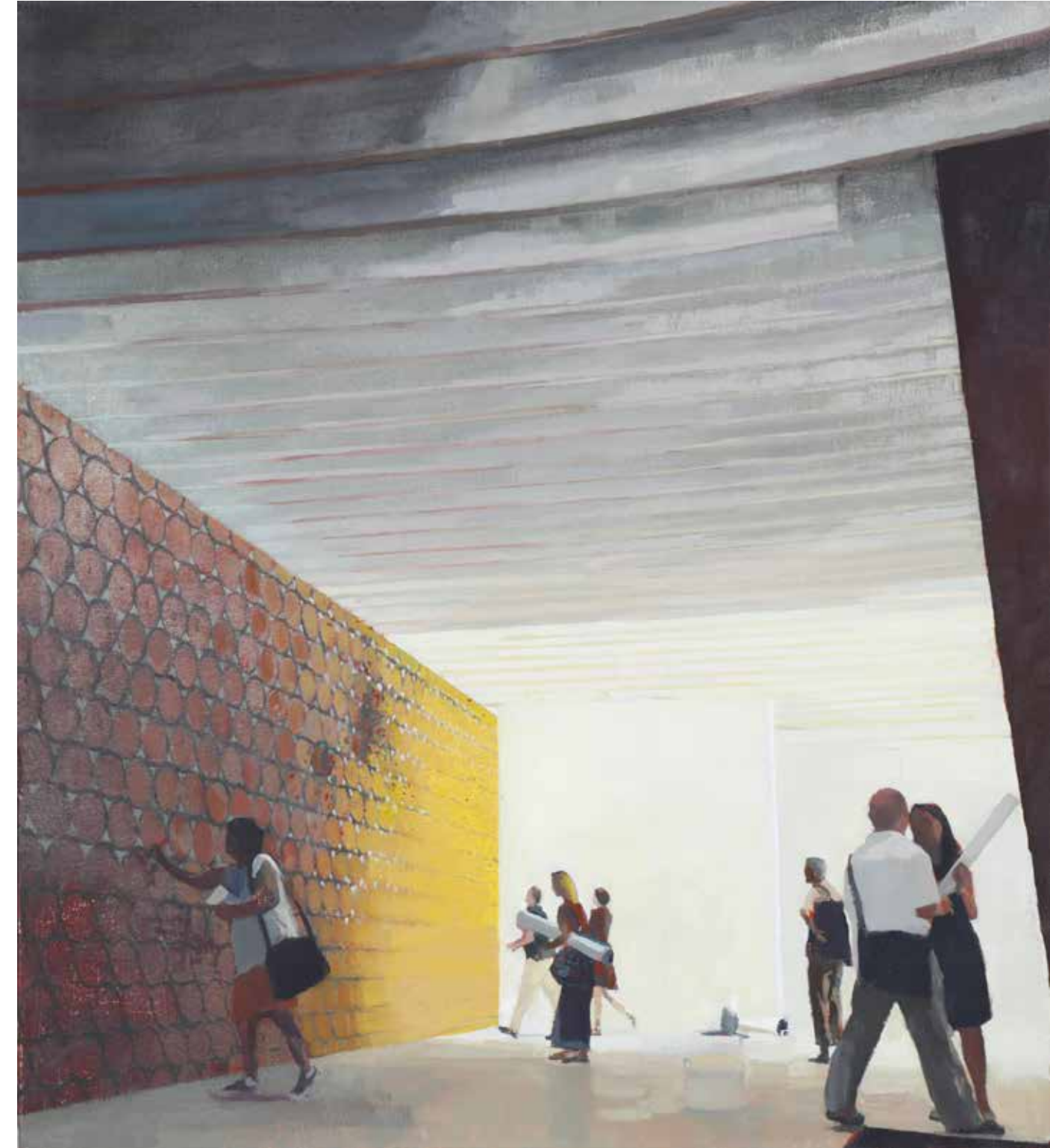
Brenda Cirioni

Apparition, 2016

24 x 24 in



Dana Clancy
Untitled, 2008
Oil On Canvas
20 x 18 in



Merill Comeau

Crab Apple, 2000

Mixed Media

23 x 28 in



Jennifer Day

Enclosure, 2021

Oil on panel

48 x 48 in



Helen Donis-Keller

Covered Woman with iPhone, Istanbul, 2016

Photo on canvas

7.17 x 11.7 in



Helen Donis-Keller

Man's Shoes Outside A Mosque, Istanbul, 2016

Photo on canvas

7.17 x 11.7 in



Joseph Ferguson

Untitled

Glass

13 x 11 x 2 in



Sean Flood

Dartmouth Fire Escapes, 2010

36 x 24 in

Framed: 26 x 38 in



Leslie Graff

It Had So Many Layers, 2016

Acrylic on canvas

30 x 40 x 1.5 in



Haley Hasler

Portrait as Palomino, 2011

Oil On Canvas

52 x 42 in



Nan Hass Feldman

Into the Pond II, 2015

Oil On Canvas

30 x 40 in



Sidney Hurwitz

Black Friar Bridge, 1973

Etching, 9 x 11 in

Framed: 17 x 19 in



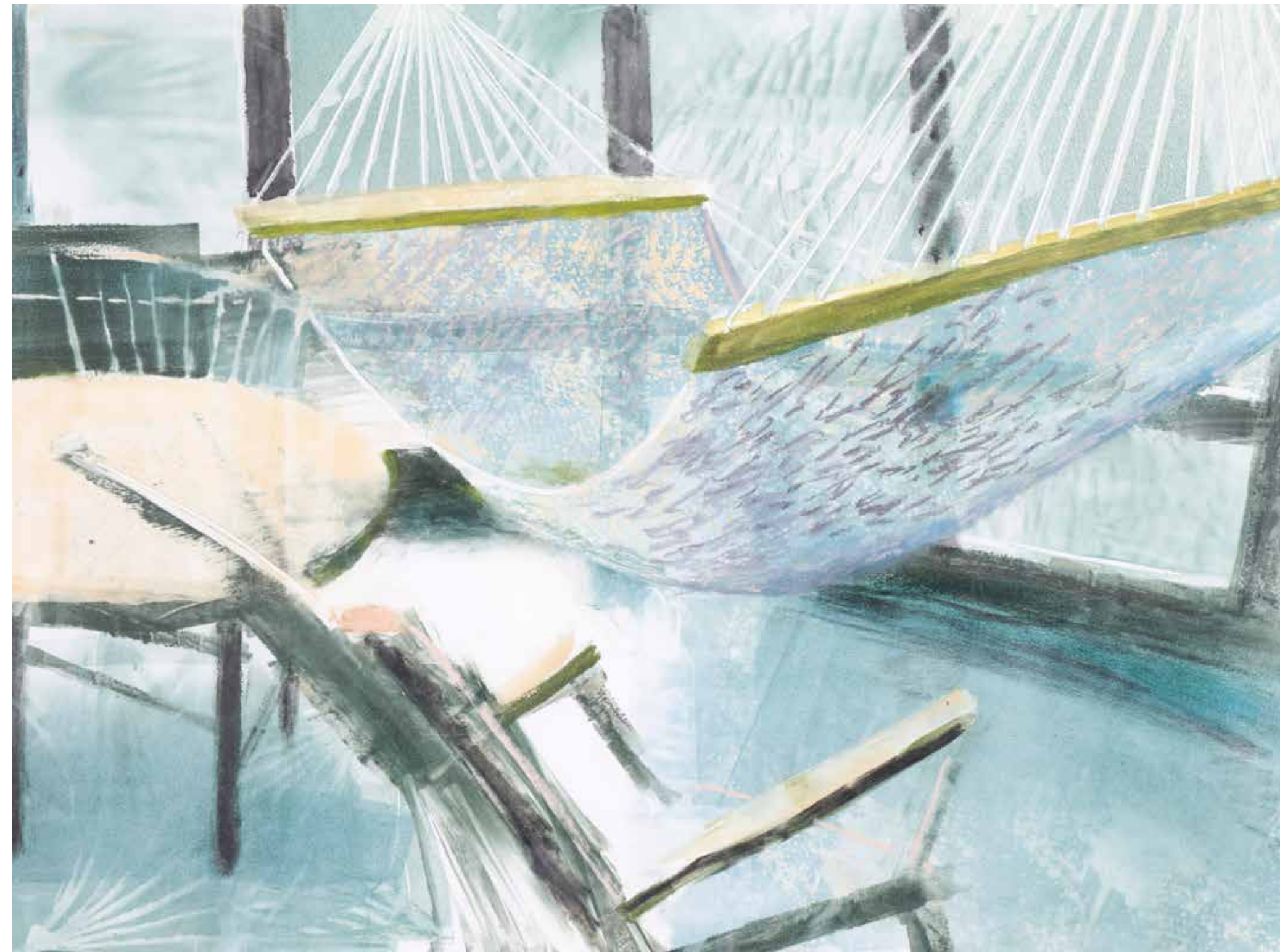
Joel Janowitz

Island Hammock VI, 2012

Monotype with pastel

22 x 30.5 in

Framed: 26.25 x 33.75 in



Chris Jeffery

Untitled, 2019

Mixed Media

24 x 18 in

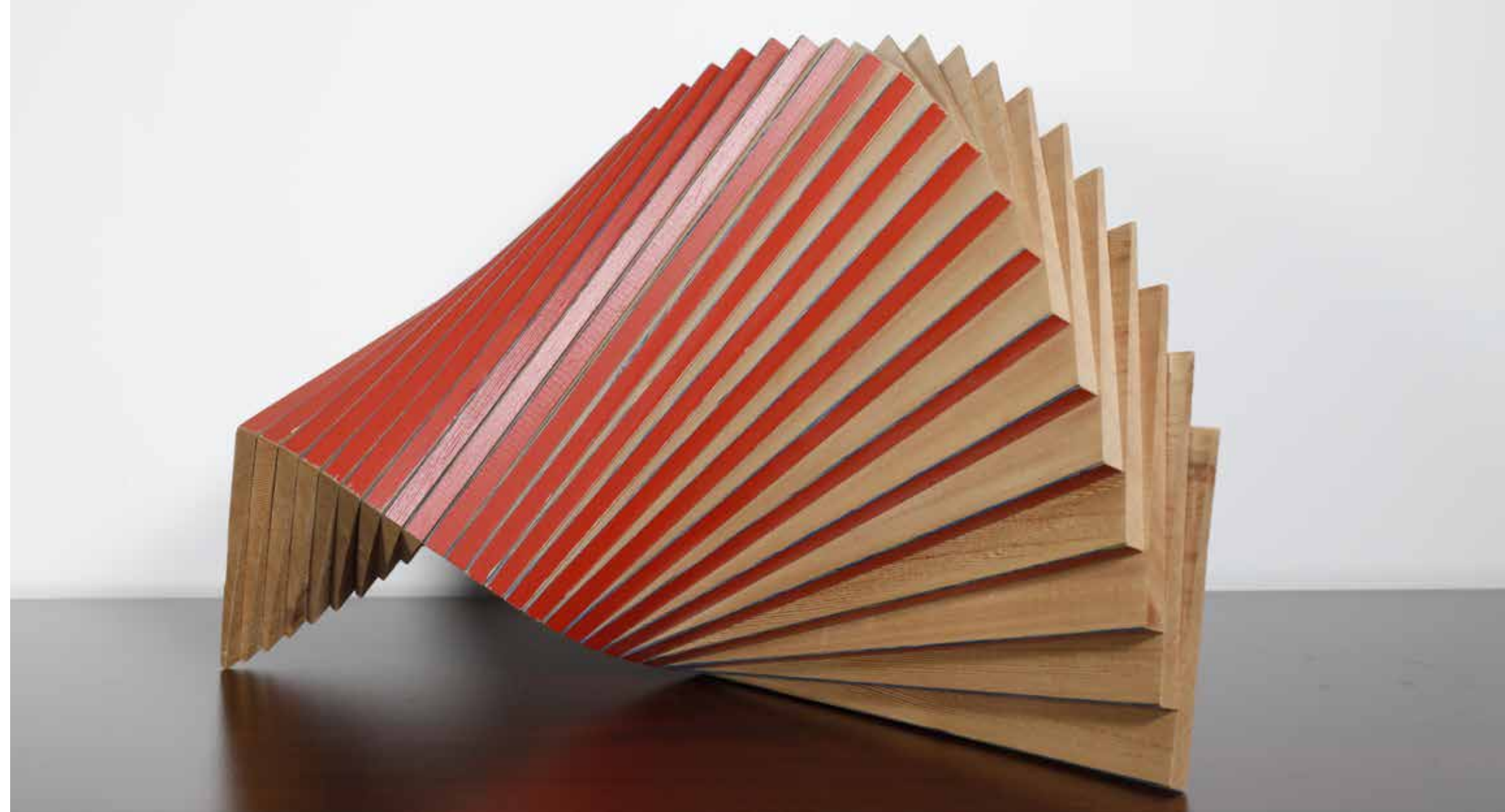


Jamie Johnston

Robin, 2020

Wood and Paint

12 x 20 x 12 in



J.B. Jones

10d, 2005

Oil On Canvas

15.5 x 22 in



Laurie Kaplowitz

Watcher of the World, 2023

Acrylic, Charcoal, Collage on Wood

24 x 18 x 2 in

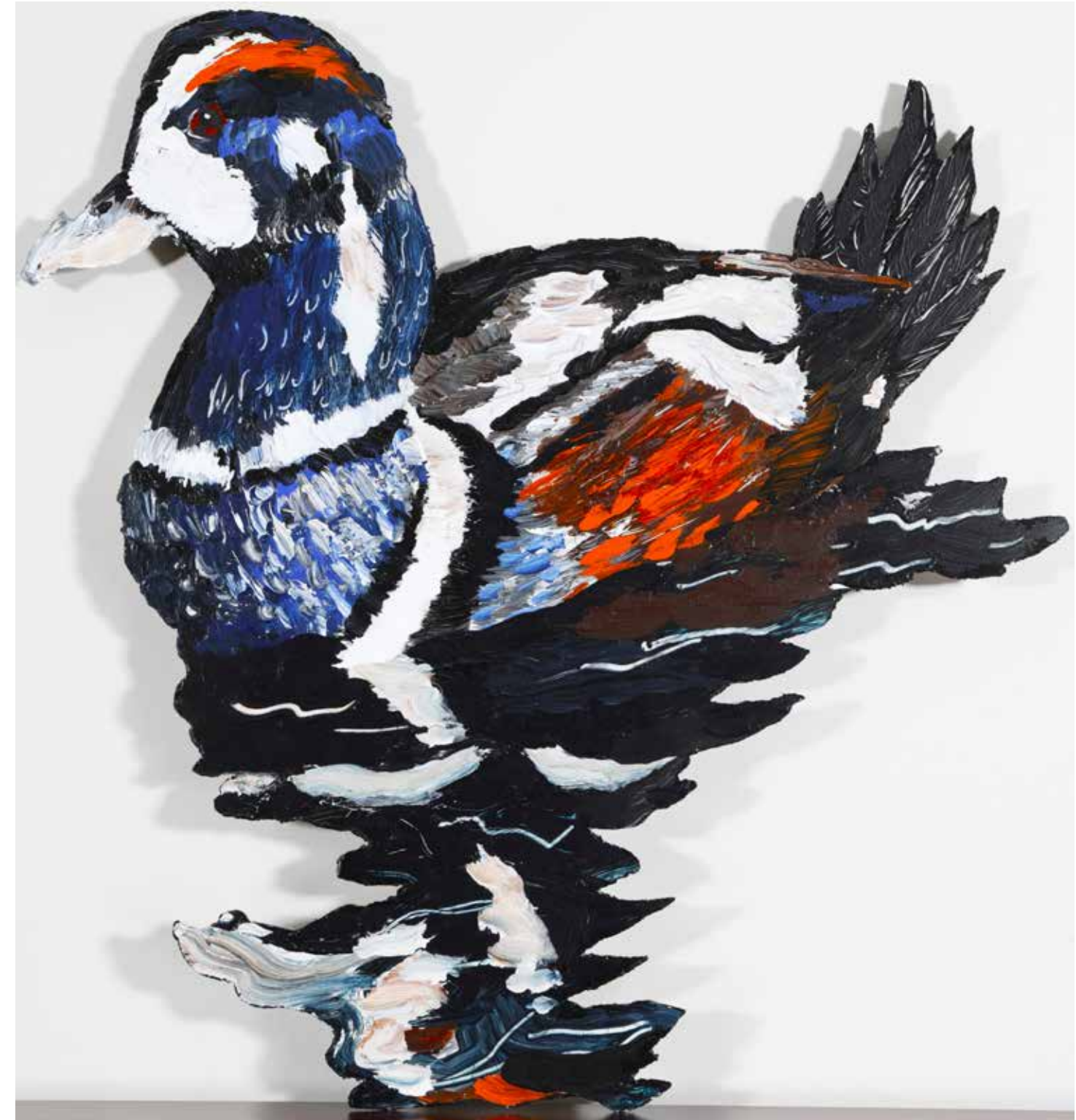


Roger Kizik

Harlequin, 2020

Acrylic on Gatorboard

24 x 23 in



Kai Lowenstein
Midnight Picnic, 2017
Photo on canvas
10 x 15 in



Ilana Manolson

A Rock in the River, 2005

Oil on Board

24 x 24 in



Mapoto

Marriage Apron, Beaded Textile

19 x 15.25 in

Framed: 24 x 19.5 in



Carol McMahon

Power Outage, 2020

12.5 x 9.375 in



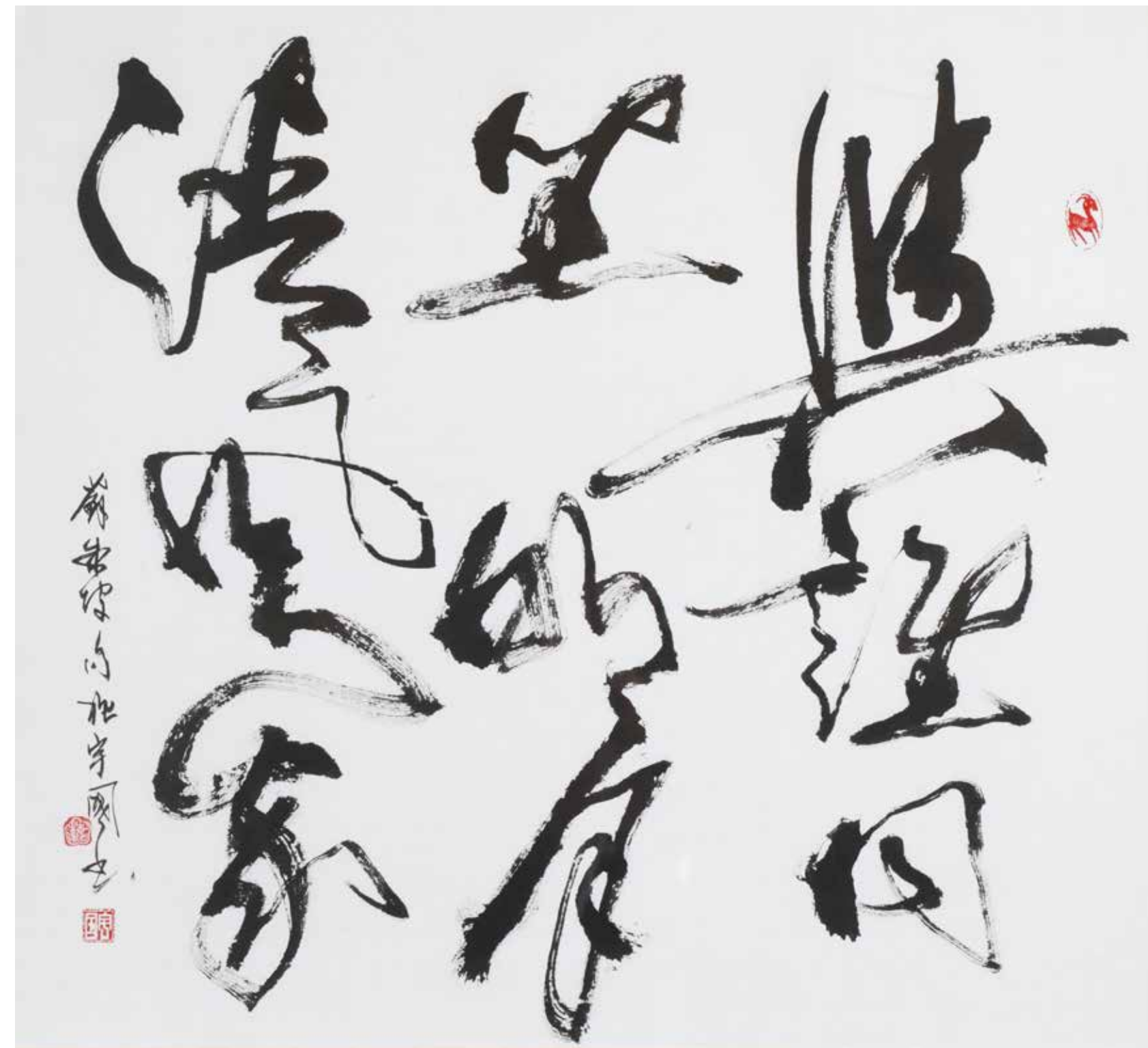
Mike Mei

Su Shi's Word, 2018

Cursive Script of Chinese Calligraphy

17 x 19 in

Framed: 23 x 28 in

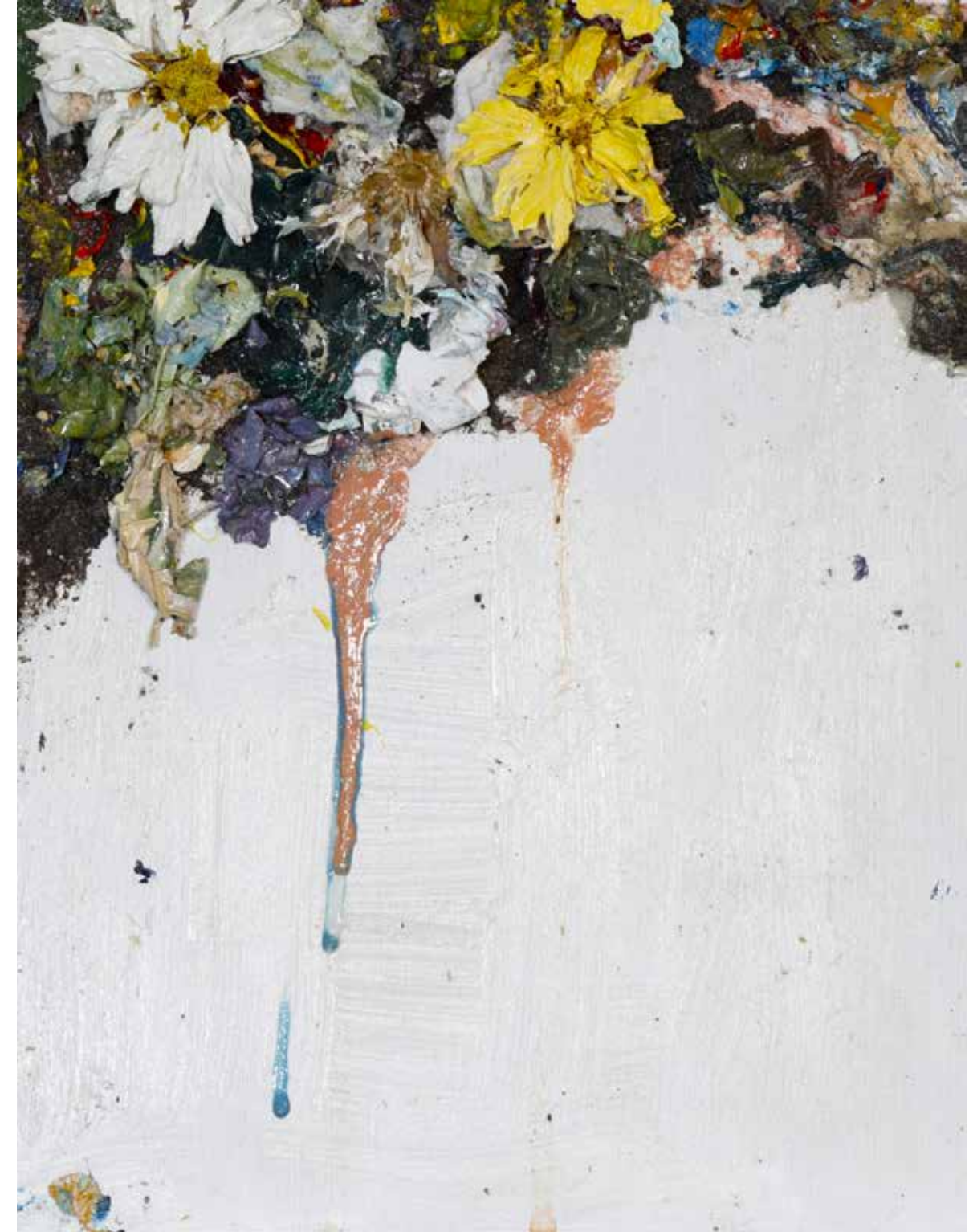


Sarah Meyers Brent

Untitled

Oil On Canvas

8 x 10 in



Helen Meyrowitz

Up-Rooted #4, 2004

Mixed Media

33 x 24 in



Destiny Palmer

Glance, 2018

Acrylic On Canvas

16.5 x 16.5 in

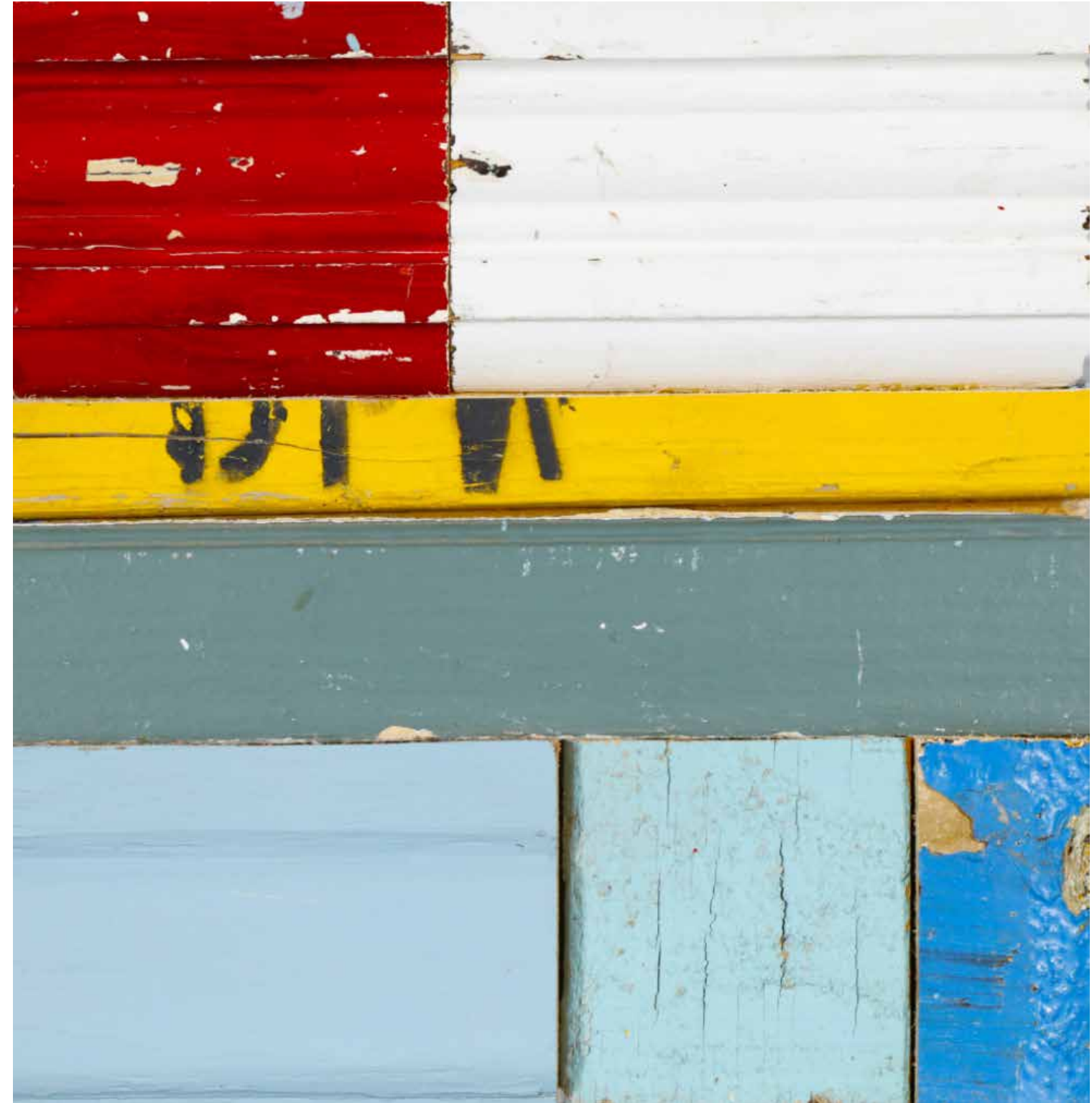


Laura Petrovich-Cheney

#70, 2018

Wood

12 x 12 in



Gerri Rachins

POP ROCK 4291, 2016

Oil Paint on Paper on Panel

11 x 12 x 1 in



Nancy Schön

Happy Go Lucky Smiling Whale A/P

Bronze sculpture - mounted on Crema Marfil
marble, mounted a Lazy Susan bearing

4 x 12 x 5 in

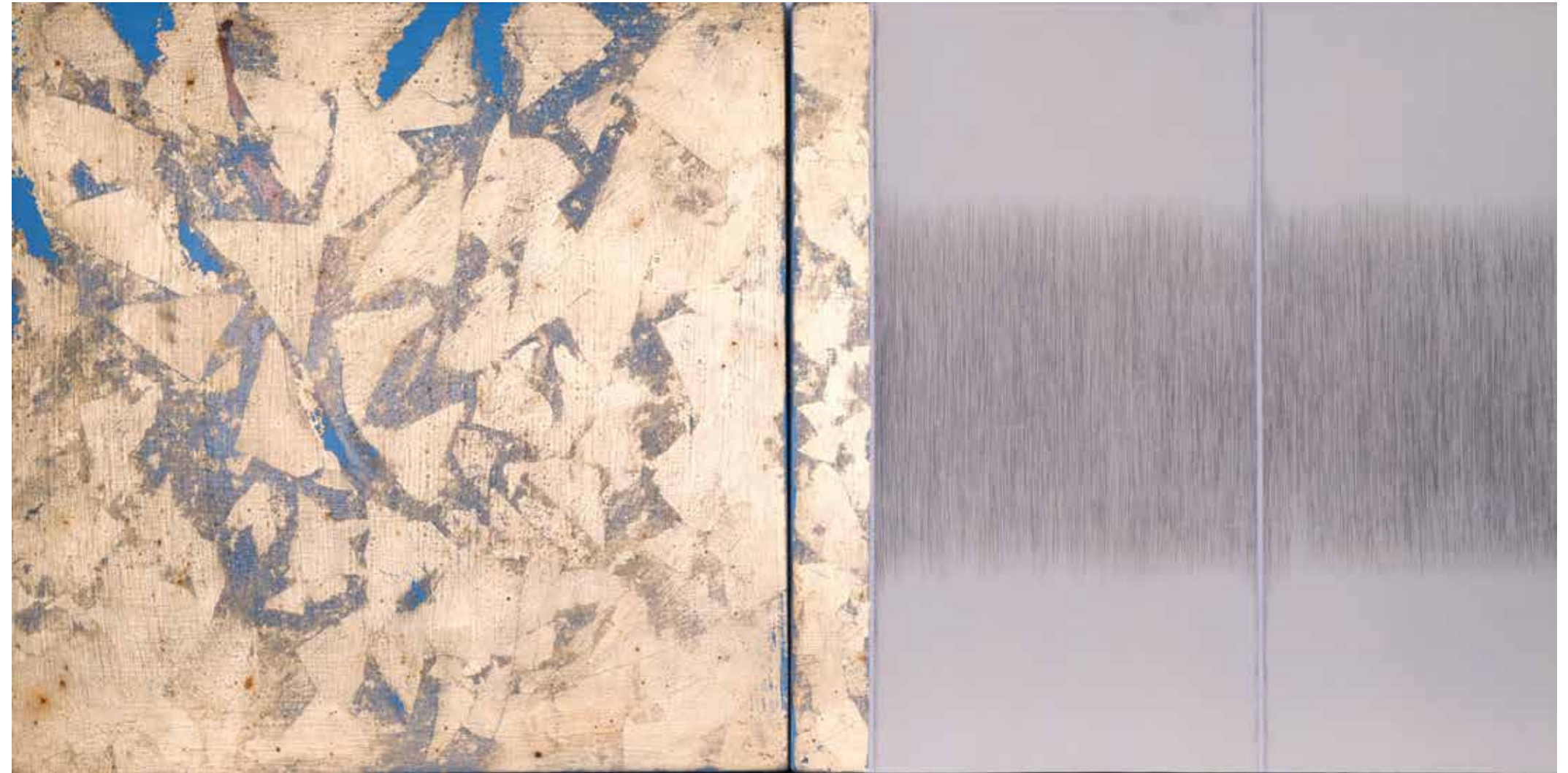


Susan Schwalb

Untitled Diptych

Mixed Media

10 x 20 in



Vaughn Sills

Dogwood, Northumberland Strait, 2020

Archival Pigment Print

14 x 21 in

Framed: 24 x 28 in



Ruby Silvius

Monoprint Collage, 2015

Mixed Media

4 x 6 in

Framed: 7 x 9 in



Netty Vanderpol

Intersection, 2021

Textile



David Weinberg

On Closer Examination, 2014

Archival Inkjet Print on Canson Baryta Paper

11 x 17 in

Framed: 21.5 x 25.75 in

Edition. 3/15



Debra Weisberg

Untitled Collage

Mixed Media

24 x 18 in

Framed: 26 x 20 in



Jeanne Williamson Ostroff
Technicolor Fence Patterns #4, 2014
Mixed Media
35 x 48 in





Jennifer Y. Collins is an emerging artist and holds a BFA in photography from Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Her work tells stories about the natural world through light, landscapes, and abstracted forms. She interned for Barbara Bosworth and the art department at North Hill. During her time at North Hill Jennifer documented all the original art at North Hill and took the portraits featured in this book. She’s been published in Humana Obscura and Simmon’s University Magazine. Her work has been exhibited at Arts Worcester, Boomer Gallery in London, UK, Float Magazine, Lenscratch, and numerous exhibitions at Massart.



Jennifer Collins
Photographer
Boylston, MA
(Born in Changsha, China)

Cate McQuaid writes about art and artists for the Boston Globe. Her Substack, “Ocean in a Drop,” celebrates curiosity, craft, and creative process.



Cate McQuaid
Writer

Thank you

Thank you to all the creatives who have shown their support by participating in our ongoing exhibition program and donating to our art collection. Thank you to the maintenance staff who make the walls art ready and assist in exhibition installations.

Jessie May Rodrique, PhD
Director of Purposful Living

Cheryl Clinton, BFA, MFA
Artist in Residence, Purposful Living

Cate McQuaid
Writer

Mirage Design
Graphic Design

