

DURHAM, NH - The Museum of Art at the University of New Hampshire is pleased to present *IMPACT* on view at the Museum of Art at the University of New Hampshire April 17 – May 13, 2023. The public is invited to a free opening reception on Thursday, April 20, 5:30 – 7:00pm. All programs are open to the public and free of charge.

Impact presents works of art by Rick Fox, the 2023 award recipient, and Shaina Gates and Isabella Rotman, 2023 finalists, of the prestigious Piscataqua Region Artist Advancement Grant from the [New Hampshire Charitable Foundation](#). The grant recognizes the contributions of working artists to the cultural life of the region by providing an annual financial award of \$25,000 to support the artistic growth of artists and craftspeople. It is designed to help in the development of an artist's career, providing unrestricted financial assistance to meet the needs of artists to advance their studio practice. The purpose of the award is not to reward past work, but to recognize the applicant best positioned to continue the improvement of their artistic career. The award is also intended to inspire philanthropy by encouraging others to support artists living and working in our community, as well as the many local arts organizations that present the visual arts to the public.

Award winner Rick Fox is a painter who focused primarily on plein air landscapes until 2020, when he began a simultaneous studio activity of working with the human head. The turn in subject matter remains true to Fox's style of bold strokes and urgent lines composed with a thick slash of paint. For Fox, the mirror in his studio and the experience outside in the open air continue to inform each other. He lives in southern Maine, which provides the source for visual material for his primary love and practice of landscape painting.

Rick Fox is represented by Gallery NAGA, Boston where he will have a solo exhibition in 2023. Recent fellowships and residencies have included: Ballinglen Arts Foundation (Co Mayo, IE), Mark Rothko Center (Semenova, Latvia) Playa Artist Residency (Summerlake, Oregon), and the Heliker-Lahontan Foundation (Cranberry Island, ME). To learn more about Fox and his process, join the Q + A from 5:45 – 6:00pm on April 20, 2023, at the Museum of Art. Viewers can also see recent interviews with Rick Fox from the [New Hampshire Charitable Foundation](#) and the podcast [Creative Guts](#).

Shaina Gates is an artist working in experimental photography. Using various alternative and experimental photographic processes, she combines geometric folding theorems with the alchemical nature of photosensitive materials to produce two and three dimensional photograms of film and paper. Gates earned an MFA from the University of Pennsylvania in 2016, an MAT in Art Education in 2008, and a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2005. Gates's work has been exhibited throughout New England, as well as New York, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia. She has been selected as a finalist for the Piscataqua Region



Rick Fox, *A Good Night's Sleep*, 2022, 14 x 11 inches, oil on canvas

Artist Advancement Grant in 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022. Shaina Gates is currently based in Kittery, Maine, and teaches at the University of New Hampshire.

Isabella Rotman is a cartoonist and illustrator from Maine. Her art is usually about the ocean, women, crushing loneliness, people in the woods, or sex. Rotman creates self-published comics that range from introspective exploration to sex education. Rotman was nominated for the Promising New Talent Ignatz award in 2017, and her comic *Like the Tide* was nominated for Outstanding Online Comic in 2020. She is the creator of *This Might Hurt Tarot*, a modern and queer 78-card tarot deck based on the historic Rider-Waite-Smith tarot card deck.

Programs to accompany the exhibition include:

- Opening Reception: Thursday, April 20, 2023, 5:30 – 7:00pm at the Museum of Art, University of New Hampshire
- Question and Answer with Award Winner Rick Fox, 5:45 – 6:00pm at the Opening Reception on April 20, 2023, Museum of Art, University of New Hampshire
- A Gallery Talk with Finalists Shaina Gates and Isabella Rotman: May 3, 2023, 12:10-1:00, at the Museum of Art, University of New Hampshire

The [New Hampshire Charitable Foundation](#) is New Hampshire's statewide community foundation, founded in 1962 by and for the people of New Hampshire. The Foundation manages a growing collection of more than 2,000 funds created by generous individuals, families, and businesses, and award nearly \$47 million in grants and scholarships every year. Working with generous and visionary citizens to maximize the power of their giving, support great work happening in our communities, and lead and collaborate on high-impact initiatives.

All programs are free and open to the public. *Impact* and accompanying programs are supported by [Friends of the Museum of Art](#) and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

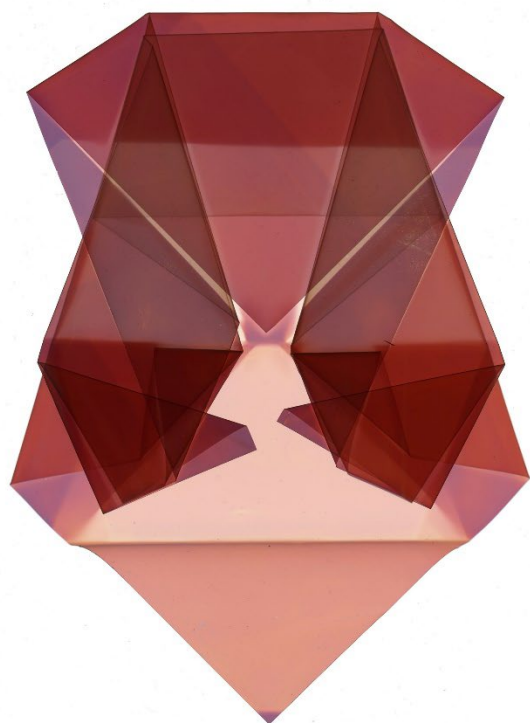
Follow the Museum of Art on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).

Parking information for UNH may found at <https://www.unh.edu/transportation/>
Museum hours may be found at <https://cola.unh.edu/museum-art>

Images below

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Shaina Gates, *Figure 15*, 2022-2023, 12 x 12 inches, photogram on black and white photographic film

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Isabella Rotman, *Like the Tide, Page 3*, 2020, 16 1/16 x 22 1/16 inches, digital print


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