

Contact: Molly Bolick
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The logo for the Museum of Art, featuring the text "Museum of Art" in white on a blue rectangular background.

DURHAM, NH - The Museum of Art at the University of New Hampshire is pleased to present *Grant Drumheller: In the Garden*, on view at the Museum of Art at the University of New Hampshire January 26 – April 1, 2023. The public is invited to a free opening reception on Thursday, January 26, 4:00-6:00pm. All programs are open to the public and free of charge. The Museum will be closed March 13-18 for Spring Break.

Grant Drumheller: In the Garden, is a selection of lush and vibrant paintings of the artist's family completed during the past eight years and on view for the first time publicly. Observation is at the center of Drumheller's work as a figurative painter; he is well-known for large-scale compositions of pedestrians on bustling streets, beaches, and Italian town squares and palazzos where he is often removed from the action. For paintings *In the Garden*, we find the artist at the center of it all, hovering eavesdropping, capturing the vitality and ever-changing dynamic of his family. Far from distant or insular, the viewer is pulled into these warm, intimate moments by the artist's use of brilliant color and bold brush strokes. We are inclined to turn toward the sun; its radiance is irresistible. Drumheller's scenes are of people at ease, relaxing in each other's company; they lounge in living rooms bathed in golden light, float in serene aquamarine waters, and breakfast on the deck amongst the lushness of a summer garden. Children grow up, babies are born, Grant and his wife Karina delight in the growth of their family.

For Drumheller, his family and friends serve as a cast of characters, providing him with endless opportunities to scrutinize interpersonal dynamics, body language, intimacy, aging and birth and whose routine interactions endlessly fascinate him. He said of his painting *Porch on Deer Isle*, "The painting has many people and animals interacting, all with their own center of interest. Under it all, I feel it is a nod to Hogarth and the kind of *Pastorales* one might see by Watteau. It reflects the active life of young adults, in a natural setting, exhibiting romantic and fecund moments and inclinations, only here in a recognizable place."

Grant Drumheller joined the Department of Art and Art History in 1986 and was instrumental in teaching generations of students how to draw and paint. Prior to his retirement in 2019, he was the last studio faculty member at UNH with first-hand knowledge of Boston Expressionism, a regional movement based on a keenly expressed humanistic tradition of figurative narrative painting, an approach that underpinned the Department for decades.

Grant Drumheller: In the Garden continues the tradition of celebrating the careers of esteemed studio art professors who have recently retired from the University of New Hampshire's Department of Art and Art History by highlighting their works of art in a solo exhibition.

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Programs:

Opening Reception: *Grant Drumheller: In the Garden* and *Myths Retold: Paintings by Rosemarie Beck*.
January 26, 2023, 4:00-6:00pm at the Museum of Art

Gallery Talk with Museum of Art Fellows: *Grant Drumheller: In the Garden*. February 1, 2023, 12:10-12:30pm, Museum of Art

Grant Drumheller and Mary Harding in Conversation. March 1, 2023. 12:10-1:00pm, Museum of Art.
Snow date: March 8, 12:10-1:00pm, Museum of Art.

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



Grant Drumheller, *Morning on the Deck*, 2022, acrylic and Flashe on linen, 60 x 72 inches
Courtesy of the Artist.

Additional image below

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Grant Drumheller, *Porch on Deer Isle*, 2020, oil on linen, 24 x 30 inches
Courtesy of the Artist.

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