

CASCO BAY ARTISANS

INTERNATIONAL FINE ART GALLERY

Inside and Outside the Frame

Works in Words, Images, and Stone

from Helene Swarts, Richard Swarts, and Elizabeth Budington

A Crossing

*The boat left the dock
even as waves opened
rising over the bow.*

*People mulled in the
cabin waiting.*

*Up on deck
four cars sat like
expectations.*

*Leeward ancient
announcements are
nailed to a flat board.*

Helene A. Swarts



Plate glass negative collected and printed by E. C. Budington

*'A Crossing' Poem by Helene Swarts with Found Negative Print by Elizabeth Budington
Framed Print 17"x21" Limited Edition of 10 \$375 Framed/\$125 Unframed*

For inquiries into the works or any other information, please contact:

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Exhibition Statement

“That cold winter the island women cut and pinned old cloth into neat patterns avowing the limits of love and other calamities”- Helene Swarts excerpt from ‘Quilting Bee: 1883’

The gray days of a hibernating New England lend themselves to more interior time, both in our homes and our thoughts. While we may be within walls and under layers of flannel and wool, our imaginations can run wild between what has been and what could be. It’s a warm nostalgia that wraps around our memories that makes even the most blustery winds harbingers of the deep connection we have to the world around us.

From this connection of land, sea, and memory, we present *Inside and Outside the Frame*, a show dedicated to Helene and Richard Swarts and their friend Elizabeth Budington about how art and language converge on a rocky coast on an island at the edge of the sea.

Created from Helene Swarts poetry and the plate glass negative collection of Elizabeth Budington ‘Playing with Time’ pairs words and images that weave stories both imagined and very real. Presented in limited edition prints Helene and Elizabeth combine their art forms into evocative works both ephemeral as the breeze and tangible as the rocks beneath their feet. This exhibition was first presented at Casco Bay Artisans and then through the New School in NYC, where Helene is an alumnus.

Bringing in the direct connection to land and sea, Richard Swarts's 'Noble Watchers' reimagines cairns as permanent forms crowned with fresh water pearls, both objects familiar to the New England coast that are imbued with their own iconography and histories. These intimately small forms show a quiet reverence for that place where the salt water smooths the most steadfast of rocks and carves the deepest of connections between those who live there.

We are honored to bring this show to you for this season of valentines and the sowing of spring fields.

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Playing with Time

Words by Helene Swarts | Images by Elizabeth Budington

Limited Edition Prints \$375 Framed/\$125 Unframed

Contact Gallery for more information on purchases of sets of two or more.

All prints are 11"x17" on Hahnemuhle Fine Art Paper. Frame specifications available on request.

Quilting Bee: 1883

*"Flying Geese, Nine Patch, Broken
Dishes, Whirlwind"*

*That cold winter
the island women cut and pinned
old cloth into neat patterns
avowing the limits of love
and other calamities.*

Helene A. Swarts



Plate glass negative collected and printed by E. C. Budington

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At The River

*The moon doubles back
into the water
bearing a golden
bowl brimming
with silence.*

Helene A. Swarts



Plate glass negative collected and printed by E. C. Badington

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*And The Fun
Begins*

*Ravines are waiting
for the storm.
Even the trees are
quiet;
each leaf remembers
a drink.*

*A man without a coat
hurries along the shore,
one arm bent like
an old branch.*

*Coots fly low over
the water.
Rain starts slow, then
a gush tosses
the moon into the
trees and the fun
begins.*

Helene A. Swarts



Plate glass negative collected and printed by E. C. Budington

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After Seven Generations

she told the truth:

*astonishing as morning
shiny as ice on oaks
smaller than the sun.*

Helene A. Swarts



Plate glass negative collected and printed by E. C. Budington

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An Ambush of Gulls

*The moon fell in the water,
the noise breaking waves
in my brain stem.*

*An ambush of gulls
turned tail,
smashing my dream
on the cliffs.*

*An old woman in old shoes,
her back bent like a small hill,
gave me a whole new dream
from her sweater pocket
and half a tuna sandwich.*

Helene A. Swarts



Plate glass negative collected and printed by E. C. Budington

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A Crossing

*The boat left the dock
even as waves opened
rising over the bow.*

*People mulled in the
cabin waiting.*

*Up on deck
four cars sat like
expectations.*

*Leeward ancient
announcements are
nailed to a flat board.*

Helene A. Swarts



Plate glass negative collected and printed by E. C. Badington

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At the Window

*The plants in my house
are drinking water.*

*Outside, rain falls
in straight lines;
High tide covers the rocks.*

*A small bird carries
the wind out to sea.*

Helene A. Swarts



Plate glass negative collected and printed by E. C. Budington

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Like Artists

*Often
it is not possible
to distinguish the death
from the dying: odd birds
sit on bones
of the oaks like a painting
I can't remember.*

*When the snow falls,
those puzzling birds sign
the landscape like artists
holding everything
in rectangular certainty -
the way it would be
if we could.*

Helene A. Swarts



Plate glass negative collected and printed by E. C. Budington

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And Now Let Us Go Into The Garden

*Light, like spilled milk, spreads
near our feet making little
circles.*

*Soon the moon
will bring another cast.
Come, let us go
into the garden
where soft light
washes the asters.*

*It is almost evening,
moist leaves, fat as lungs, turn
toward the wane.*

*Nothing
not even the dark
will cover what we have done here.*

Helene A. Swarts



Plate glass negative collected and printed by E. C. Budington

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In A Blue Vase

*Hollyhock spear memories
of children.
When she walks their arms swing.
Their heads reach to her waist,
bending to pick wild flowers
made of light.*

*When children dream,
the animals move in their sleep.
The woman gathers up their
motions and puts them in
a blue vase.*

Helene A. Swarts



Plate glass negative collected and printed by E. C. Budington

Daddy,

*in the old days
when I was new,
you disappeared
like silent movies
on rewind.*

*I looked for you
under hills
in ant holes
in the ice pond.*

you were as silent as god.

Helene A. Swarts



Plate glass negative collected and printed by E. C. Budington

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Crooked Moon

*Like orphans dreaming
mothers out of their soup*

*Like the pauper's mouth
moving when the rich
man swallows*

We expect the moon.

Helene A. Swarts



Plate glass negative collected and printed by E. C. Budington

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Transitions Move The Wind

*Clouds the shape of our faces
move in and out of memory.*

*A large oak falls on the diagonal
snapping a small maple,
dry leaves splaying out,
a thousand hands.*

Snow drifts reinvent the land.

Helene A. Swarts



Plate glass negative collected and printed by E. C. Budington

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The Flood

*The ocean is coming into my house,
through the brush and trees, over
the rock garden, stone walk, sill.*

My husky opened the door.

*Chairs, tables, books and cups
are driftwood.*

*A braided rug floats
like a raft in the fog.*

Helene A. Swarts



Plate glass negative collected and printed by E. C. Budington

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On Loan

*Everything is borrowed.
Even the rocks
working toward sand.
Windows on the 7:15 ferry,
framed in fog, picture the
comings and goings.*

Helene A. Swarts



Plate glass negative collected and printed by E. C. Budington

Taproot

*The chair remembers
the tree.*

*Three spokes against
my back
bring moss, sun and
water to the
book in my hand.*

Helene A. Swarts



Plate glass negative collected and printed by E. C. Budington

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Logic

*White birds fill swamp trees
because flowers have wings.*

*Storks angle through cattails
because waves ring like sound.*

*Because storms contain light
swimmers raise their arms.*

Helene A. Swarts



Plate glass negative collected and printed by E. C. Budington

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Plate glass negative collected and printed by E. C. Buington

*In The Great Tradition
My heart makes the birch white.
Fish swim, mouthing my words in the stream.
And when my body breaks,
fish, water and trees make soup
from my bones.*

Helene A. Swarts

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Once Upon A Time

*there was an old woman
who tried to cheat God. She hid
her years under the sink,
or in the box where
she kept her beads.*

*To cheat God is a serious thing:
Mary Ann kept the tv on all day,
all night.*

*She shut her door against
the wind.
Even the oak trees were strangers.*

*This night an angel lay in her bed:
"Bad dreams make good enemies"
"Does God know how old I am?"
They laughed 'till they cried.*

Helene A. Swarts



Plate glass negative collected and printed by E. C. Budington

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Looking For You

*I step everywhere and
nowhere,
my breath and feet
falling, rising.
Stones hold a wondrous
patience,
milkweed sheaths light.
Birds, the colors of moon,
attend the stars.
Tonight you are quiet as seed,
and the wind is a naked lover
waiting in the moss.*

Helene A. Swarts



Plate glass negative collected and printed by E. C. Budington

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Noble Watchers

Sculptures by Richard Swarts

Found Stone, Freshwater Pearls, Wire Armature

All approximately 3"x2"x2" \$125 Each



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Biographies

Helene Swarts is a 90 year-old internationally recognized poet, playwright, and short story author. Ms Swarts, an alumna of NYU and The New School, has had well over 200 works published over the past 70 years. She is still actively writing and expects her lifetime collection of poems to be out this year. Stay tuned to Casco Bay Artisans for information and release dates.

Richard (Dick) Swarts is a 92 year old retired space engineer. After designing guidance, navigation, and light control equipment and inertial components for space, aircrafts, and missile systems, Swarts translated his technological designs into medical equipment technology where he was able to optically investigate human blood flow through the skin by using his invention of the life saving Pulse Oximeter.

Combining his scientific hands-on skills with his artistic sensibility, Swarts has designed these one-of-a-kind "Noble Watcher" rock and pearl art sculptures. In 2010, Swarts designed a new one-of-a-kind method of setting precious stones into sea stones maximising the refractive index of the precious stone.

Both Helene and Dick live together and create on the back shore of Peaks Island, Maine where they met as children some 77 years ago.

Elizabeth Budington has been collecting turn of the century glass plate negatives for over 25 years and has spent a great deal of time becoming acquainted with each of the 5000 or so negatives in her collection. She gathered this collection at estate sales, flea markets, auctions and special photography shows.

She was a student of photography at the Boston Museum School when she discovered her first box of 1890's glass plate negatives at an estate sale. Ms. Budington works in both a traditional darkroom setting and with a desktop digital darkroom and prints on a high end commercial photo printer. She has gained a reputation over the years as the go to person for private collections that need digital archiving.