

CASCO BAY ARTISANS | INTERNATIONAL FINE ART GALLERY

Russ Cox: Immersion



May 10th - June 10th, 2024

68 Commerical St., The Maine Wharf, Portland, Me 04101 | 207 · 536 · 1577 | Cascobayartisans.com

CASCO BAY ARTISANS | INTERNATIONAL FINE ART GALLERY

Casco Bay Artisans is thrilled to exhibit the latest work from abstractionist Russ Cox. Through rigorous exploration and experimentation in his studio, Cox brings CBA three distinct bodies of work: Atlantic Paintings, Colorfield, and Asian Pen. Cox, known for large scale nature of his work, has pushed further into the immersive experience of art through layering, movement and color. The Atlantic Paintings feature his love of the ocean and underwater flora while incorporating his use of scrolls to enhance the experience of being weightless in water. The Color Field Paintings, probably Cox's best known technique, show a master of layering colors and textures that leave the viewer fully immersed in the painting. The Asian Pen Paintings show Cox pushing his own sense of line blending in and standing out among a landscape of color. These paintings move to the edge of representation. Cox creates feelings from the recognizable as well as from that which is fully interpretive.

For these latest bodies of work, Cox was inspired by V. S. Gaitonde (1924-2021), an Indian mid-century non-objective artist, to experiment with the layering practice of old masters and combine them with the ideas of the 20th Century abstractionists including Helen Frankenthaler, Mark Rothko, Joan Miro, Wassily Kandinsky, Joan Mitchell, and William de Kooning.

Three of the works in this show have been framed with spalted wood. These frames get their distinct look from a process where fungi change the pigments inside the wood over time, sporadically creating variegated dark lines within the grain. The resulting undulating line was then matched up with each painting to create a sense of integration and continuation of art into nature and nature into art.

For More Information:

Jen Swarts Gallery

Owner

Jen@cascobayartisans.com

Jess Lauren Lipton

Gallery Manager

CBArtMarketing@gmail.com

Nick LaCasse

Gallery Associate

nickcbagallery@gmail.com

CASCO BAY ARTISANS | INTERNATIONAL FINE ART GALLERY

Immersion: Atlantic



Russ Cox 'Casco Bay Rockweed'
Oil on Canvas with Handcrafted Spalted Wood 59" x 98" \$9500

CASCO BAY ARTISANS | INTERNATIONAL FINE ART GALLERY



Russ Cox 'Tendril' Oil on Canvas
with Handcrafted Thomas Moser Cherry Wood 94" x 98" \$18,500

CASCO BAY ARTISANS | INTERNATIONAL FINE ART GALLERY



Russ Cox 'Atlantic Garden' Oil on Canvas with Handcrafted Spalted Wood 69" x 100" \$9500

CASCO BAY ARTISANS | INTERNATIONAL FINE ART GALLERY

Immersion: Color Field



Russ Cox 'Upper Field' Oil on Canvas 96" x 36" \$9500

CASCO BAY ARTISANS | INTERNATIONAL FINE ART GALLERY



Russ Cox 'Lower Field' Oil on Canvas 60" x 36" \$6500

CASCO BAY ARTISANS | INTERNATIONAL FINE ART GALLERY



Russ Cox 'Spring Light' Oil on Canvas 40" x 40" \$4900

CASCO BAY ARTISANS | INTERNATIONAL FINE ART GALLERY



Russ Cox 'Lupin' Oil on Canvas 36" x 48" \$5800

CASCO BAY ARTISANS | INTERNATIONAL FINE ART GALLERY



Russ Cox 'The Bluff' Oil on Canvas 24" x 36" \$3200

CASCO BAY ARTISANS | INTERNATIONAL FINE ART GALLERY



Russ Cox 'Alatus' Oil on Canvas 60" x 36" \$6500

CASCO BAY ARTISANS | INTERNATIONAL FINE ART GALLERY



Russ Cox 'Reid State Park' Oil on Canvas 48" x 30" \$4200

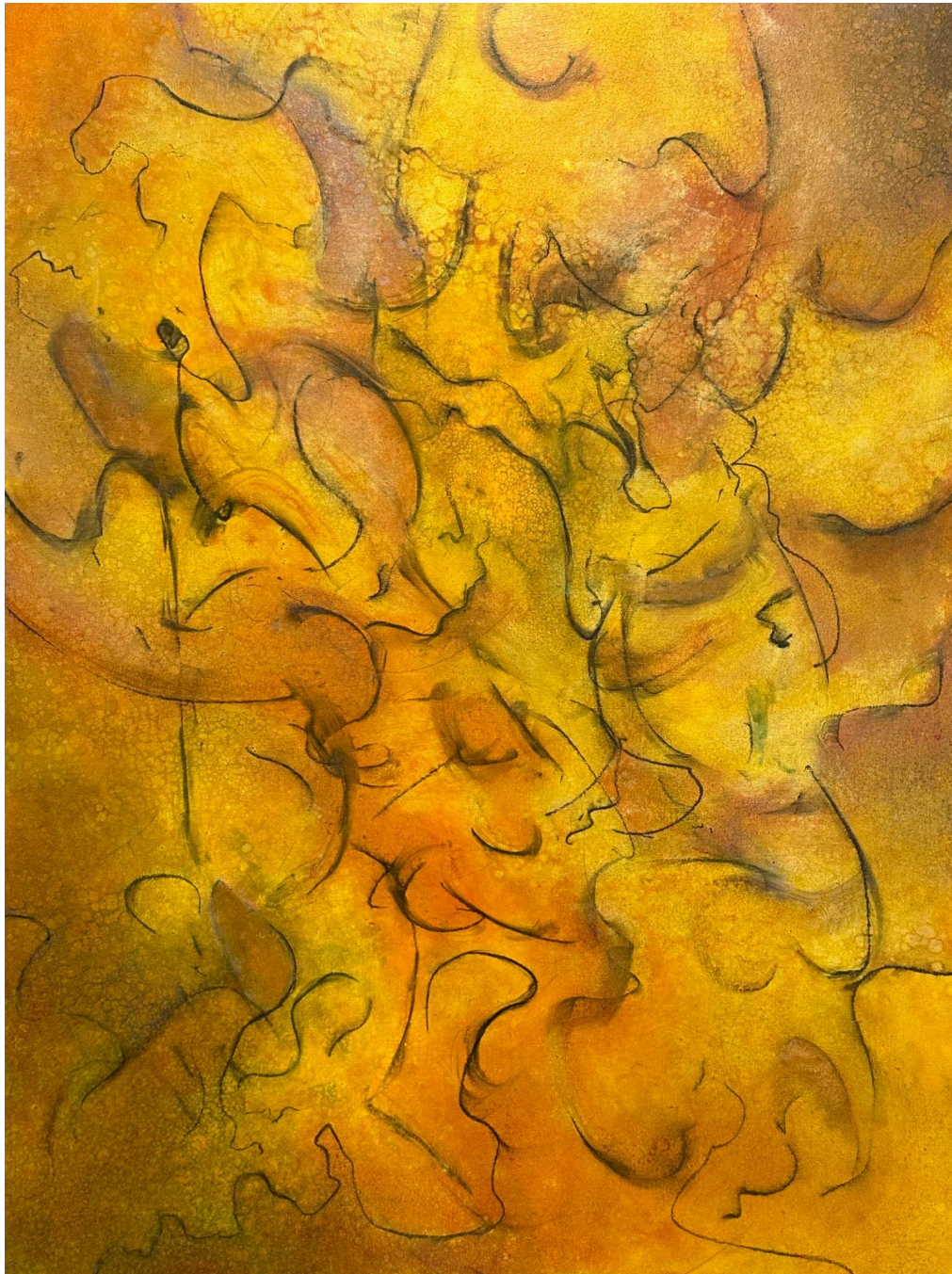
CASCO BAY ARTISANS | INTERNATIONAL FINE ART GALLERY

Immersion: Asian Pen



Russ Cox 'All The Places You'll Go' Oil on Canvas
with Handcrafted Spalted Wood 39" x 51" \$7200

CASCO BAY ARTISANS | INTERNATIONAL FINE ART GALLERY



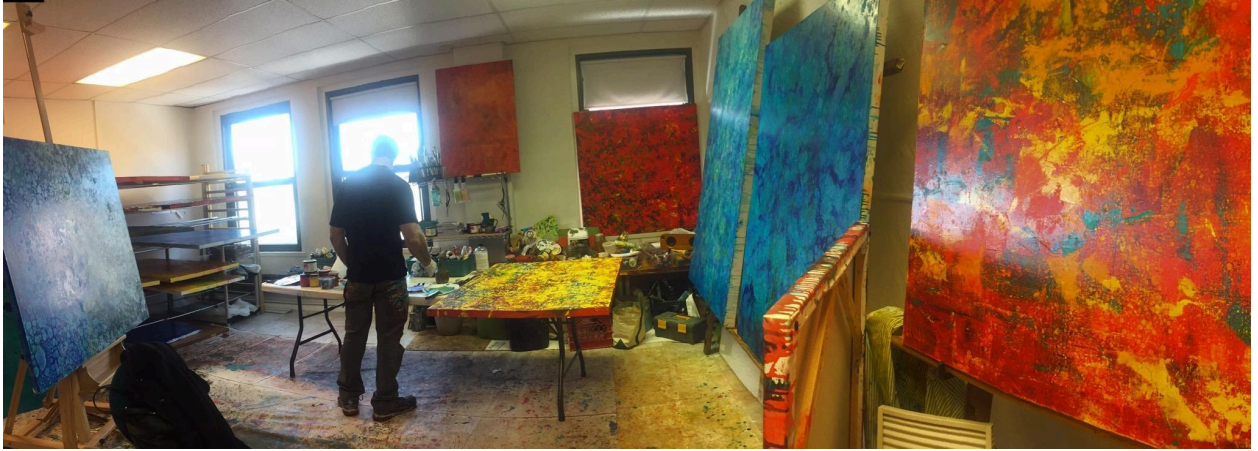
Russ Cox 'Asian Pen Untitled' Oil on Canvas 30"x40" \$3200

CASCO BAY ARTISANS | INTERNATIONAL FINE ART GALLERY



Russ Cox 'Pollen Tracks' Oil on Canvas 36" x 48" \$5200

CASCO BAY ARTISANS | INTERNATIONAL FINE ART GALLERY



Russ Cox was born in Washington, D.C., and grew up both on a saltwater farm on the rural coast of Maine and D.C. Early immersion in nature and art created an inability to separate the two - constantly questioning how to capture nature visually when in Maine, and then spending hours at the National Gallery of Art and Smithsonian Institutions analyzing how artists rendered the connection to experience and place. Over time, this balance of connection became key to what he would strive to achieve in his own work.

After a career in business, he turned fully to art, spending seven years developing technique, freedom of expressive movement, and continued experimentation at The Maine College of Art, Portland. Cox uses a combination of classic and contemporary techniques including glazing and layering while incorporating staining, field, splatter, hard edge, and bold color techniques. Russ has traveled extensively, always with an eye toward art, painting extensively along the Maine coast and in Italy. He is a full-time artist working from his downtown studio in Portland's Arts District. He and his wife live in Portland where they've raised their three children.

He is represented by Casco Bay Artisans in Portland, Maine.

CASCO BAY ARTISANS | INTERNATIONAL FINE ART GALLERY

Selected Solo and Group Exhibitions:

- 2021 – 511 Congress Street, “Portland Artists”, featured artist, Portland, ME
- 2020 – New England Ocean Cluster, “Atlantic”, solo show (Covid delay to May), Portland, ME
- 2020 – Casco Bay Artisans, “New Works”, solo show, Portland, ME
- 2019 – New England Ocean Cluster, “The Bay”, resident artist show, Portland, ME
- 2019 – Ethan Allen, “Water Riot”, solo show, Portland, ME
- 2019 – Casco Bay Artisans, “Summer Show”, group show, Portland, ME
- 2018 – West Gallery, River Arts, “Summer Abstracts”, solo show, Damariscotta, ME
- 2018 – Casco Bay Artisans, “Expressions”, featured artist, Portland, ME
- 2017 – University Gallery, University of New England, “Maine Expressions”, solo show, Biddeford, ME
- 2017 – Maine College of Art, “Create”, group show, Portland, ME
- 2017 – River Arts, “Artist’s Choice”, Damariscotta, ME
- 2016 – Casco Bay Artisans, “Foliage”, solo show, Portland, ME
- 2016 – Maine College of Art, “Create” and “Collect”, concurrent group shows, Portland, ME
- 2016 – River Arts, “Maine Blues” and “Artist’s Choice”, separate group shows, Damariscotta, ME
- 2015 – Maine College of Art, “Create” and “Collect”, group shows, Portland, ME
- 2015 – Casco Bay Artisans, “Summertime”, group show, Portland, ME

Continuing Education:

- Maine College of Art, Continuing Studies Program from 2013 – Present, Portland, ME
- Florence Academy of Art, Studio Program, 2015, Florence, Italy