

WOLF KAHN FOUNDATION



East Penobscot Bay, 1961-63 oil on canvas by Wolf Kahn

Wolf Kahn Foundation Gifts Legacy Painting to Portland Museum of Art

April 20, 2022

NY/VT: The newly launched Wolf Kahn Foundation honors its founder by presenting a gift from the private Legacy Collection of the artist to the Portland Museum of Art (PMA) of *East Penobscot Bay*, 1961-63, oil on canvas by Wolf Kahn. The 50" x 50" painting of deep blue hues was previously exhibited at the Museum in its 2019 retrospective: "*In the Vanguard: Haystack Mountain School of Crafts 1950-1969.*" The new acquisition will be on view at the PMA following this Memorial Day.

Wolf Kahn and artist wife Emily Mason had a long history with Maine, visiting various locations on Deer Isle and at the Mason family cottage in Friendship, ME. Emily Mason attended Haystack early in her career on a scholarship and Wolf Kahn taught painting there in the 1960s, which led to a strong relationship with the regional arts community. Wolf sketched or painted in *plein air* and created many paintings and pastels while in Maine, capturing the seasonal

atmosphere of colors and forms, inspired by the changing weather and sea, and by the shapes of boats and barns.

"The Wolf Kahn Foundation is thrilled to make this gift to the permanent collection of the Portland Museum of Art in honor of Wolf and to mark the new mission of the Wolf Kahn Foundation. Wolf's time in Maine inspired many of his best, early-1960s paintings. E. Penobscot Bay was so important to him, he bought it back in 2017 from auction for his own collection."
—Mara Williams, Wolf Kahn Foundation, Chair

"East Penobscot Bay is a stunning addition to the PMA's growing and diversifying collection of more than 18,000 artworks," says Mark H.C. Bessire, Judy and Leonard Lauder Director of the Portland Museum of Art. "Through this gift, a broader, more representative narrative of Maine's remarkable artistic legacy can be told to audiences from around the world, and we are grateful to the Wolf Kahn Foundation for recognizing the impact this work will have on our museum, our state, and our communities"

The Wolf Kahn Foundation enters a new chapter, upholding the legacy of the artist and reintroducing and recontextualizing his enduring work for audiences, scholars, other artists, and collectors. The Foundation will focus on exhibiting from the many works of art the artist left when he died, as well as promoting his contributions to American art.

The Foundation offers a grant program as an extension of Wolf Kahn's values and his legacy of generosity. The Wolf Kahn Foundation will support arts education, art in the environment, art for social justice, and arts organizations that help advance visual artists' careers through residencies, exhibitions, and publications.

The Wolf Kahn Foundation, previously known as the Wolf Kahn | Emily Mason Foundation, gained a new mission after the artist's death in March 2020. The artistic legacy of the artist's wife of 62 years, Emily Mason, who died in December 2019, is now the charge of the Emily Mason | Alice Trumbull Mason Foundation, which Emily created to bring recognition to her mother, an important, early practitioner of American Abstraction. Together, these two foundations will preserve the vision of the three artists – in one family – through exhibitions, publications, research, archives, and philanthropy.

More information about the Foundation and its grant guidelines may be found on the new website wolfkahnfoundation.org

[The Portland Museum of Art](http://portlandmuseumofart.org) (PMA), through its *Art for All* mission, seeks to create an inclusive space that champions open expression and makes art accessible to all. With an extensive collection and nationally renowned exhibitions, unexpected programs, and unforgettable events, the PMA is the cultural heart of Maine. The PMA boasts significant holdings of American, European, and contemporary art, as well as iconic works from Maine—highlighting the diverse and unparalleled artistic legacy of the state and its artists.

The Wolf Kahn Foundation is represented exclusively by [Miles McEnery Gallery](#), New York, NY, for his paintings and pastels.

Notes to Editors

Learn more about:

[Wolf Kahn Foundation](#)

[Emily Mason | Alice Trumbull Mason Foundation](#)

[Wolf Kahn](#)

[Emily Mason](#)

[Ellen McCulloch-Lovell](#)

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