



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Moss Galleries Presents *Light in Every Room* Featuring Paintings by Gail Spaen and Lynne Drexler



Portland, ME – Moss Galleries announces the opening of *Light in Every Room*, an exhibition showcasing the captivating paintings of Maine artists Gail Spaen and the late Lynne Drexler. *Light in Every Room* will be on view from October 25 through January 4, 2025. An opening reception will be held on Friday, October 25, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Moss Galleries, 1 Fore Street, Portland, Maine.

Light in Every Room features paintings of domestic interiors, still lifes, and landscape paintings by Gail Spaien and Lynne Drexler that beautifully illustrate both artists' shared connection with Maine's stunning natural landscape and coastal life. Though separated by a generation, Spaien and Drexler draw upon a lineage of artists inspired by the intricate relationship between the outside world and the intimate spaces of a home.

The connection between interior and exterior environments serves as a threshold, encouraging contemplation of the beauty in our surroundings and the poetic elements of our lives. Elizabeth Moss, owner of Moss Galleries, notes, "A close exploration of these two significant Maine artists reveals an obsessive attention to patterned brushstrokes and dappled colors, shared subject matter, and an unapologetic interest in private domesticity. The pairing of Drexler and Spaien illuminates painting as a place for the poetic."

Light in Every Room is Spaien's largest body of work in almost a decade, following her recent international success in London with Taymour Grahne Projects. Spaien reflects on the importance of this exhibition: "This exhibition is particularly significant for me as it places me in dialogue with a prominent Maine painter, reflecting our shared emotional and aesthetic sensibilities and our relationship to place." Spaien's paintings celebrate the beauty of domestic life, the natural world, and the importance of craft in building a kinder, gentler existence.



The exhibition also pays homage to the legacy of Lynne Drexler, a prominent figure in the second generation of American abstract expressionism. Drexler's time spent on Monhegan Island, where she drew inspiration from her surroundings, continues to resonate in the art world today. Her work, characterized by its emotional depth and vibrant color palette, invites viewers to engage with the

intimate aspects of domesticity.

About Gail Spaien

Gail Spaien (b. 1958) is an American artist and educator based in Maine. Her studio practice centers on the idea that a painting is a site for emotional connection and common ground. She believes that craft and beauty foster a more relational world. Spaien earned her MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute and BFA from the University of Southern Maine. She has exhibited widely, with notable solo shows at Taymour Grahne Projects, London; Ogunquit Museum of American Art, Ogunquit, Maine; and Nancy Margolis Gallery, New York. Her group exhibitions include venues such as the Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockland, Maine; Portland Museum of Art, Portland, Maine; and the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, Massachusetts. Spaien has received numerous residency fellowships, including at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture and the Ucross Foundation, and grants from the Lillian Orlowsky and William Freed Foundation, the Maine Arts Commission and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. After 30 years at the Maine College of Art and Design, she now works full-time in her studio in Maine.

About Lynne Drexler

Lynne Drexler (1928-1999) was a notable figure in the second wave of American abstract expressionist artists who rose to prominence in the late 1950s. After relocating to New York in 1956, she spent her summers on Monhegan Island in Maine with her husband, John Hultberg, an abstract impressionist. Following their separation, Drexler remained on Monhegan, drawing creative inspiration from the natural surroundings and classical music until her death in 1999. Since her passing, interest in her artwork has steadily increased; for example, *Architectural Digest* featured one of her pieces in an article about John Legend and Chrissy Teigen's New York home. Her art is included in the permanent collections of institutions such as the Farnsworth Art Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the Monhegan Museum of Art & History, The Brooklyn Museum, and the Portland Museum of Art, among others.

Image captions:

Gail Spaien, *Ram Island Ledge*, acrylic on linen, 48" x 48"

Lynne Drexler, *Bayhead*, 1981, Oil on canvas, 50" x 67.5"

High-resolution images are available [HERE](#).

About Moss Galleries:

In 2004, with the dream of being at the forefront of recognizing Maine's role in American Art, Elizabeth Moss created Moss Galleries in Falmouth, Maine. Over

the course of 17 years, Elizabeth and her team have established a gallery of national and international repute, recently being named one of the top 500 Galleries in North America by ArtInfo. The gallery represents a plethora of artists who create in a vast range of artistic styles ranging from abstract to traditional seascapes. Moss Galleries strives to highlight Maine artists and their role in the American art scene at large, as well as the importance Maine plays in each of their works. Moss Galleries has locations in Portland and Falmouth, Maine.

For more information, visit Moss Galleries at www.elizabethmossgalleries.com/

Moss Galleries

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