

Dodd selected for Maine in America Award

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Photo by: Krisanne Baker

Lois Dodd, pictured in her Cushing studio, will receive this year's Maine in America Award.

ROCKLAND — The Farnsworth Art Museum has announced that artist Lois Dodd is the recipient of the 2015 Maine in America Award. The award is presented by the Farnsworth's Presidents Council to honor an individual or group who has made an outstanding contribution to Maine's role in American art.

This year's presentation will occur during the Farnsworth Art Museum's Summer Gala, set for Friday, July 10, at the Strand Theatre. Previous winners of the Maine in America Award are John Wilmerding (2006), Andrew Wyeth (2007), Will Barnet (2008), Robert Indiana (2009), Alex Katz (2010), Paul Caponigro (2011), Dahlov Ipcar (2012), Matthew Simmons (2013) and The Shakers of Sabbathday Lake (2014).

Dodd is a nationally acclaimed painter and longtime resident of Cushing. Born in Montclair, N.J., she studied at Cooper-Union in New York from 1945 to 1948. She was the only female founder of Tanager Gallery, an artist co-op integral to the Tenth Street art scene in New York in the 1950s and where she showed from 1952 to 1962. From 1971 to 1992, Dodd taught at Brooklyn College; and since 1980 has served on the board of the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture.

An elected member of the American Academy of the Institute of Arts and Letters and the National Academy of Design, Dodd was one of the members of the New York avant garde who came to Maine and explored its coast through their work, among them Alex Katz, Fairfield Porter, Rackstraw Downes and Neil Welliver. Her work has been shown and is in the collection of major art museums throughout the United States.

The July 10 Farnsworth Art Museum Gala — Art on a Midsummer Night — will begin at 5 p.m. at the Strand, 354 Main Street in Rockland, for the presentation of the Maine in America Award to Dodd and continue in the museum's galleries and sculpture garden. The event's creative team has been diligently at work and the evening is shaping up to be spectacular, featuring fun and fabulous décor and a delightful dinner. Tickets to the 10th annual gala are available online at farnsworthmuseum.org.

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