



“CMCA ...captures the generous forward-looking spirit of a living institution whose adventurous mission promises to enrich the cultural life of its city and region for decades to come.”

—Henry N. Cobb, founding partner, Pei Cobb Freed & Partners

PRESS INFORMATION

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CMCA 
CENTER FOR MAINE CONTEMPORARY ART



Over the course of its history, the Center for Maine Contemporary Art (CMCA) has introduced the work of hundreds of contemporary artists—both well known and emerging—to audiences in Maine and beyond.

CMCA has begun a new chapter in contemporary art in the state of Maine. Its new home in the heart of Rockland's downtown arts district is destined to be—in the words of artist Alex Katz—"a game-changer for Maine art."

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In summer 2016, CMCA opened a newly constructed 11,500+ square foot building, with 5,500 square feet of exceptional exhibition space, designed by award-winning architect Toshiko Mori, FAIA, (New York and North Haven, Maine). Located in the heart of downtown Rockland, Maine, across from the Farnsworth Art Museum and adjacent to the historic Strand Theatre, the new CMCA has three exhibition galleries (one which doubles as a lecture hall/performance space), a gift shop, ArtLab classroom, and a 2,200 square foot courtyard open to the public.

The new building and location enables CMCA to pursue its core mission of fostering contemporary art on a new and elevated level. The glass-enclosed space, with its corrugated metal exterior and emphasis on Maine's legendary light, is unlike anything else in the state. It's designed to be accessible and inviting, with a central courtyard that offers views inside the galleries and links the space to the community like an open embrace. Providing a dramatic destination for visitors, the new CMCA will build upon and advance Maine's exceptional legacy in American art.





Founded in 1952, CMCA is a contemporary arts institution presenting shows throughout the year featuring the work of emerging and established artists with ties to Maine. Rather than showcasing a permanent collection, CMCA offers a venue for living artists to continue Maine's distinguished arts tradition into the future, providing a balance between ongoing experimentation and an enduring sense of place. In addition, the new CMCA offers a dynamic calendar of events and educational programs for all ages.





CMCA was originally established in Rockport, Maine, as Maine Coast Artists, an artists' cooperative. For its first 15 years, the organization had no permanent space and a rotating slate of volunteer curators. Early exhibitions were held at the Rockport town office, in a barn, in a storage loft, and in a former schoolhouse, among other venues. Nevertheless, those shows included such future luminaries as Louise Nevelson, Robert Indiana, Alex Katz, Fairfield Porter, and Jacob Lawrence, to name just a few.

In 1967, a new director, Mildred Cummings—whose husband, Willard Cummings, was a founder of the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture—oversaw the purchase of a former firehouse and livery stable in Rockport village. Over the next nearly 5 decades in that location, the organization thrived, incorporating itself as a non-profit, and in recognition of its broadening scale, renamed itself the Center for Maine Contemporary Art in 2002. Among the hundreds of artists that have shown at CMCA are Jonathan Borofsky, Lois Dodd, David Driskell, Yvonne Jacquette, Katherine Bradford, Rackstraw Downes, Alan Magee, John Walker, Neil Welliver, Robert Indiana, and Jamie Wyeth, again to name just a few.





CMCA's home on Winter Street in downtown Rockland is directly off of Main Street and within walking distance of the Farnsworth Art Museum and Wyeth Center, the Strand Theatre, and dozens of art galleries, restaurants, and hotels. Its exhibition and educational programs are an anchor for the city's growing reputation as a year-round arts destination. With its focus on the art of current and future generations, CMCA's exhibitions and educational programs are designed to inspire and serve people of all demographics, including local and statewide residents, visitors from throughout New England and beyond, and particularly the young creative people of the region.





In addition to making possible more exciting and ambitious exhibitions, CMCA's new building and location allows for a broader range of mission-based education programs, including a diverse schedule of lectures, gallery talks, screenings and special events, as well as further promoting its popular ArtLab workshops. With the latest technology in the galleries and online, the new CMCA will extend its program offerings to audiences beyond its physical walls.





The local and statewide economic impact of the new CMCA is projected to be nearly **\$35 million** annually. This spending represents the full-time equivalent of over **300 jobs** earning pay of over **\$10 million** and contributing **\$1.9 million** in tax and fee revenues.

PROJECT ARCHITECT: TOSHIKO MORI ARCHITECT

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: COLD MOUNTAIN BUILDERS

TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE: 11,500 SF

TOTAL GALLERY SPACE: 5,500 SF

TOTAL COURTYARD: 2,200 SF

TOTAL PROJECTED ECONOMIC IMPACT: \$35 MILLION ANNUALLY

TOTAL PROJECTED VISITATION: 50,000+ ANNUALLY

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CMCANOW.ORG | [@CMCANOW](https://www.instagram.com/CMCANOW)

HOURS

June thru October

Mon - Sat, 10am to 5pm

Sun, 12pm to 5pm

Free First Fridays 5-8pm

November thru May

Wed - Sat, 10am to 5pm

Sun, 12pm to 5pm

Closed Federal Holidays

ADMISSION

General admission: \$8

Members: free

Children under 18: free

Seniors and students with ID: \$6

LOCATION

21 Winter Street, Rockland, Maine



From the exhibition *Erin Johnson | Unnamed for Decades*

Temporality | The Process of Time

November 2, 2019 – February 29, 2020

Erin Dorney | Question the Body

March 7 – September 20, 2020

**Skirting the Line | Painting Between
Abstraction and Representation**

March 14 – September 20, 2020

Erin Johnson | Unnamed for Decades

March 21 – September 20, 2020

CMCA Biennial | 2020

October 3 - May 2, 2021

For Freedoms | 2020 Awakening Billboard Project

October 12 - November 3, 2020

Dates and titles subject to change | cmcanow.org

Rockland, Maine is described as an authentic Maine city that still has an active and productive waterfront: one of the largest and busiest on the Maine coast. Home to a number of historic schooners, marinas, shipyards, the Maine State Ferry, and the U.S. Coast Guard, the waterfront is within easy walking distance of the historic downtown.

Anchored by the new Center for Maine Contemporary Art, the Farnsworth Art Museum and Wyeth Center, and the restored historic Strand Theatre, Rockland's city center boasts more than two-dozen art galleries, an array of unique boutiques, shops, and restaurants. Primo, the twice James Beard Award-winning farm-to-table restaurant is a five-minute drive south of town.

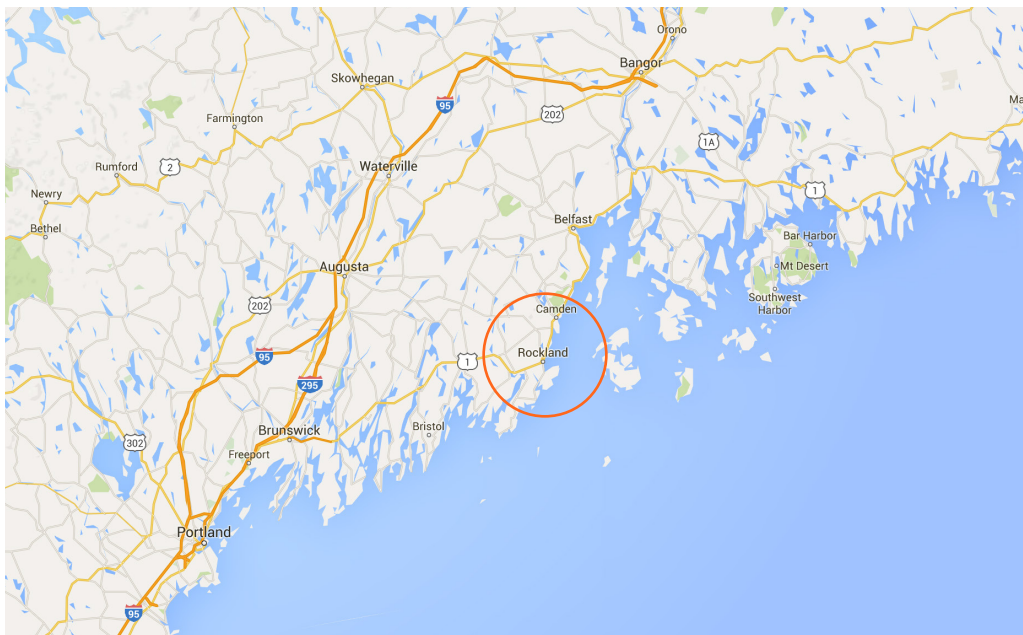
From this hardworking, blue-collar, seacoast town have come artist Louise Nevelson, musician Walter Piston, actress Maxine Elliot, Life magazine photographer Kosti Ruohomaa, and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Edna St. Vincent Millay. Edward Hopper and Andrew Wyeth painted numerous Rockland subjects. Today, the area is home to many contemporary artists including Alex Katz, Lois Dodd, Ann Craven, Peter Halley, Paul Caponigro, Joyce Tenneson, Robert Indiana, and Jamie Wyeth to name but a few.

Visiting Midcoast Maine

[Penobscot Bay Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Rockland Main Street](#)

[Visit Maine](#)





Toshiko Mori, FAIA, is the Robert P. Hubbard Professor in the Practice of Architecture at Harvard University Graduate School of Design and was chair of the Department of Architecture from 2002 to 2008. She is principal of Toshiko Mori Architect, which she established in 1981 in New York City. Mori taught at the Cooper Union School of Architecture from 1983, until joining the Harvard GSD faculty with tenure in 1995. She has been a visiting faculty member at Columbia University and Yale University, where she was the Eero Saarinen Visiting Professor in 1992.

Mori's strong research-based approach to design has been commended in invitations to lectures and conferences around the world. As a member and former-chair of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Design, Mori has participated in sessions on scarcity-driven design, the future of cities and urban information systems, design related to olfactory sensation and experience, and the role of the arts in improving communities.

Mori has received numerous national and international awards and her work has been widely exhibited and published. She was named to Architectural Digest's Top 100 List for the past 4 years and is the 2019 recipient of the AIA/ACSA Topaz Medallion for Excellence in Architectural Education.

