

ALEXANDRE

Neil Welliver



A Maine Pop-Up

July 3–August 10, 2025

162 Russell Avenue, Rockport, Maine

**Former home of the Center for Maine
Contemporary Art (CMCA)**

Rockport, ME . . . Alexandre Gallery is thrilled to present an exhibition of works by the celebrated chronicler of the Maine wilderness, Neil Welliver. This presentation marks the first significant showing of the artist's major landscape paintings since a 2001 exhibition organized by the Ogunquit Museum of Art and is the gallery's first seasonal pop-up in Maine.

Best known for his vivid landscape paintings and woodcuts of the Maine wilderness, Neil Welliver lived in Maine for over three decades, settling MidCoast amidst a community of observational and representational artists including Rudy Burckhardt, Lois Dodd, and Alex Katz, among many others. During this prolific period of artistic dialogue, Welliver commuted to teach painting, first at Yale University—where he studied under Josef Albers—and later at University of Pennsylvania, where he chaired the Graduate Program in Fine Art until 1989.

Drawing inspiration from the innate abstraction of natural landscapes, he often carried his painting supplies into remote areas, painting plein air for hours at a time. In the last decade of his life, Welliver shifted his painterly focus to subjects beyond the scope of his 1,600-acre Lincolnville property, often retreating to Allagash during the summers. Welliver translated the resulting oil studies he created in the field, by streams and within forests, into large studio paintings measuring up to eight feet square. As Poet Laureate Mark Strand wrote of Neil Welliver's practice in 1997:

"Welliver's marks—those sweeps and touches of paint that describe trunks, branches, clouds, water, foam, everything, with disarming rightness, are his signature, one that bears the burden of dual representation, revealing a self in nature, and the nature of a self. It embodies as it describes, generates as it concludes. It is Welliver; it is also Welliver's woods."

The exhibition unites a group of the Welliver's large scale landscape paintings, woodcut prints, and aquatints spanning four decades. In addition, the presentation will also feature a selection of paintings and works on paper by gallery artists with Maine connections. Alexandre Gallery began representing Neil Welliver during his lifetime in 1998 and continues to represent his estate and widow to this day.

Image: Neil Welliver, *Big Flowage*, 1979, oil on canvas, 96 x 96 inches, courtesy Alexandre Gallery, New York.

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