

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Fine art abounds in Brunswick, Maine*

**Three local artists featured in an open celebration and art exhibit: *En plein air* - Landscapes of a Land Trust**

Open to the public: A June 12<sup>th</sup> art exhibit and celebration highlights prized conserved lands in Brunswick as a joint venture between the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust and Thornton Oaks Art Gallery.

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Media kit with images available for use at: [www.btlr.org/news](http://www.btlr.org/news)

Celebration: En plein air – Landscapes of a Land Trust, June 12 from 4:00pm to 5:30pm with light refreshments and music. Location: Thornton Oaks Art Gallery, 25 Thornton Way in Brunswick. The public at large is welcome.  
RSVP at [www.btlr.org/plein-air/](http://www.btlr.org/plein-air/)

*Brunswick, Maine – June 5, 2014* - Over the past month three local artists, Ed McCartan, Prentiss Weiss, and Robin Brooks, have set their easels on prized, conserved lands of the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust, and transferred the inspiration they found into works of art. That art will be featured at a celebration of place open to the public, complete with expanded galleries from each artist, refreshments and music on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

The celebration highlights a community that is growing in many ways. Over the past 30 years Brunswick, Maine has seen the loss of a military base, a large recession, a local economy that is ever more focused on local food, even a foodie culture that defies some national trends, and a landscape that has changed too.

*En plein air – A French expression that traditionally describes painting in the open landscape.*

But part of that landscape remains untouched; part of it retains ‘*plein air*.’ A recent federal grant citing dramatic losses in wetlands conveyed \$16.5 million in funds to support conservation in Middle Bay. This comes as the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust turns 30 years old, and enters the final stages in securing the remaining \$1.3 million in a three-year, \$7 million dollar campaign to protect these lands forever.

*“These conserved lands are prized by our community as places of recreation, learning for our children, as habitat for the wildlife we cherish, and as economic mainstays for those that work in the fisheries industry” – Angela Twitchell, Executive Director of the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust*

Thornton Oaks Retirement Living Community is one of the local businesses that cherishes the forever-nature of these lands. The organization sits adjacent to the trails of the Land Trust's landmark property, Crystal Spring Farm, where members of the retirement community retreat to view lady slippers in bloom, exercise, and enjoy views of the Land Trust's Tom Settlemire Community Garden.

*“The benefit to our community in terms of wellness and quality of living are imperative. We cherish these lands, and the art that the lands inspire.”*  
– Whitney Campbell, Director of Marketing at Thornton Oaks Retirement Living Community

Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> is a milestone celebration of the 30 years that Brunswick has invested into building community. The Art Gallery at Thornton Oaks will host three local artists as they display work completed throughout these special places, in an exhibit that is open to the public and complete with food, drink, and art.

The exhibit, *En plein air – Landscapes of a Land Trust* will feature the many works of Ed McCartan, Prentiss Weiss, and Robin Brooks from 4:00 – 5:30pm during a celebration that is open to the public. The artists are generously donating 15% of sales from their art at the exhibit to the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust to support the protection of these inspiring places forever.

Artist bio: Ed McCartan – In an ongoing endeavor, Ed McCartan represents his exploration of botanical and gestural imagery through his interpretation of place. His use of double images highlights a living “dialogue” between the different areas of his work. Small natural forms, twigs, ferns, and flowers, leave room for experimentation with sumi-like strokes and lines and the layering of glazes throughout the composition. *“I go to nature and the possibilities inherent in the materials for inspiration.”*

Artist bio: Prentiss Weiss – A *plein air* painter of Maine landscapes in oil, Prentiss Weiss focuses on still life paintings that are as rich in colors as they are in textures. Using a limited palette with brush and painting knife, she conveys to the viewer the influence of the light that draws her to a particular scene.

Artist bio: Robin Brooks – An educator and artist, Robin Brooks works in a variety of media including collage, oils and acrylics, and monotype printmaking. Her interests include the Maine landscape and our relationship to the natural world. Receiving her B.F.A. in art education from Boston University, she studied painting with Leland Bell, Paul Resika, and John Heliker at the Parsons School of Design in New York City. Her works in oils and mixed media collage are in public and private collections around the country.

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## **Image Captions**

1. Artwork by McCartan, Weiss, and Brooks as part of the exhibition for the general public on June 12<sup>th</sup> at Thornton Oaks Art Gallery
2. Thornton Oaks Retirement Living Community maintains rolling collections of fine art for their communities to enjoy.
3. The Thornton Oaks Art Gallery will keep artwork by McCartan, Weiss, and Brooks on display after the celebration.
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5. The Thornton Oaks Art Gallery will keep artwork by McCartan, Weiss, and Brooks on display after the celebration.
6. Thornton Oaks Retirement Living Community sits adjacent to the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust landmark property, Crystal Spring Farm, and enjoys trail systems that leave directly from the community's properties.
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8. Gardens outside from Thornton Oaks Art Gallery are in bloom and will be available for the event.
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11. Executive Director Angela Twitchell, Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust, formerly served on the board of directors of the same organization, and is a strong advocate for building community in Brunswick, Topsham, and Bowdoin Maine