

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Biddeford Artist, Sean Hasey, Exhibits Latest Work at Community Hub, Elements

BIDDEFORD, MAINE – A new solo exhibition by Biddeford artist, Sean Hasey, opens August 5 at Elements, in Biddeford, ME. The exhibition features 12 acrylic on panel paintings and will be on display until September 8. 265 Main Street, Biddeford, ME



Sean Hasey, #07, Acrylic on Panel, 32x48. Photo by Jay York.



Sean Hasey at Hark House (180 Main Street, Biddeford) with his paintings. Photo by Julie K. Gray.

“The image of the light bulb has many possibilities for symbolic content, and I’ll leave it to the viewer to determine where to place meaning. Within each painting is an element of landscape sometimes urban, sometimes rural, and I feel that there are a number of influences that appear in the color choices and the handling of the paint.” **Sean Hasey, Biddeford Artist**

Sean is a Maine-born artist whose roots coincidentally go back to Biddeford, where his paternal grandmother was born in 1917. While he was born in Bangor, he spent much of his youth in the Portland area, including majoring in Drawing and Sculpture at University of Southern Maine. He then spent a few years in New York City, where he worked as a cabinetmaker and attended massage therapy school at the Swedish Institute.

Upon his return to Maine in 2002, Sean bought a house and made his home in Biddeford – an affordable town close enough to Portland to keep in touch with both the larger massage client base and the more thriving art scene. Fed up with the stench of the garbage incinerator in 2007, Sean rented his home to UNE students and moved to Portland, but remained connected to the Biddeford community. In 2008, he made his first solo exhibition in Biddeford.

“Sean’s involvement in the Biddeford arts community spans over a decade, beginning when he had a solo show at Franklin Street Art Space, a small art space I ran personally in downtown Biddeford. At Engine, Sean has participated in group shows and storefront window installations, as well as events like our PechaKucha nights, open mic nights, and art critiques. He’s a talented and engaged artist in this community,” says **Tammy Ackerman, executive director of downtown arts organization, Engine.**

Sean frequently returned to Biddeford to check on the house and to see massage clients at a local business. On one of these visits, he discovered Elements, and made it his regular stop between clients or on his way into or out of town. Around the same time, he noticed the air felt cleaner and the cars weren’t coated in incinerator dust because the incinerator was shut down and being dismantled. In 2014, he decided to move back.

“Elements has been a really important place to find community in Biddeford, and Main Street has been enlivened as a result of its presence there. A quality bookstore, like Elements, provides an opportunity to be exposed to something unexpected that may even change your mind. Widening of personal experience is something I aspire to express in my paintings, and I’m grateful that they’re hanging at Elements.” **Sean Hasey, Biddeford Artist**

Since moving back, he has been renovating his home, building a vegetable and flower garden with pears to feed the neighborhood, and generally trying to stay connected to the community. But he was still keeping a massage office in Portland, and the drive was starting to get old.

In November 2018, Sean and his partner, Chrystina Gastelum, created a new massage business called Hark House at 180 Main Street, across from city hall. They have enjoyed a growing business, whose client list increased by 50% in just 6 months.

Yet, in all this time, Sean had never before shown his work at Elements. Elements, in addition to serving locally-roasted coffee, locally-brewed beer, and new and used books carefully curated to the town's changing and diverse demographics, is also home to a monthly rotating gallery curated by Keiren Valentine.

“It’s truly a pleasure showing the work of an artist who is both a longtime customer and an active member of the downtown small business community. I respect how Sean uses his art to make observations about current social and cultural issues.” **Katie Pinard, co-owner, Elements: Books Coffee Beer**

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