

## **Rocky Neck Art Colony**

### **For Immediate Release**

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## **Rocky Neck is the place to be this summer**

***The 2009 season is gearing up to be the best season in many years for art and entertainment on Cape Ann***

May 11, 2009, GLOUCESTER, MA -- The Rocky Neck Art Colony ([rockyneckartcolony.org](http://rockyneckartcolony.org)), an eclectic community of authentic artist-run galleries, restaurants, and shops is gearing up for a fun and exciting season of art and special events. Kicking off the season are:

- Tuesday, June 2: *Artist in Residence* gallery talk -- a “must-see” event for artists and aspiring artists -- the artists in residence reveal the thought processes and techniques behind the exceptional body of work that convinced the jurors to select them for this prestigious award, 7 pm at the Rocky Neck Gallery
- Thursday, June 4: *Nights on the Neck*, an evening of open studios and entertainment along Rocky Neck Ave. from 5 to 9 pm (first Thursdays of the month from June to October)
- Sunday, June 7: *Historic Art Trail* walk and reception, a celebration of the launch of [www.rockyneckarttrail.org](http://www.rockyneckarttrail.org), a walking tour of Rocky Neck sites where many well-known artists (such as Edward Hopper, Fitz Henry Lane and Marsden Hartley) found inspirations, worked, and lived

Two new galleries, *White Bird Gallery* (contemporary photography and painting by Kathleen Gerdon Archer [www.kathleengerdonarcher.com](http://www.kathleengerdonarcher.com)) and *ISLA Beach House* (a new shop by Sigrid Olsen mixing her signature artwork and cards with island-inspired clothing, accessories and home decor from designers and artisans around the world [www.isla-beachhouse.com](http://www.isla-beachhouse.com)), join the sixteen art galleries that are open to the public along Rocky Neck Ave. The *Rocky Neck Gallery* (formerly Bryan Gallery), an artist co-operative, is delighted to welcome several new excellent artists this year. Public receptions for these galleries are scheduled for:

- Saturday, May 23, 5-8 pm, *White Bird Gallery*, 75 Rocky Neck Ave
- Saturday, May 23, 5-8 pm, *ISLA Beach House*, 77 Rocky Neck Ave /Madfish Alley
- Saturday, May 30, 5-8 pm, *Rocky Neck Gallery*, 53 Rocky Neck Ave

The renovated Rudder Restaurant has re-opened for the season. Stop by and see the beautiful new bar and deck.

For more details about the events, art galleries, studios, restaurants and accommodations on Rocky Neck, see [www.rockyneckartcolony.org](http://www.rockyneckartcolony.org).

## **About the Rocky Neck Art Colony**

Rocky Neck is a granite promontory with tide flats and wharf buildings separating the harbor proper from Smith's Cove in Gloucester, Massachusetts. With its scenic views and rustic waterfront buildings, this spit of land measuring less than one square mile has, since the early 19th century, beckoned a steady stream of painters, sculptors and writers to its picturesque shores. Regarded by many to be “America’s Oldest Working Art Colony,” the artists’ enclave at Rocky Neck during the period from 1850 to 1950 attracted a number of the most important realist painters in the annals of American art.

Almost every American artist of note has painted on Rocky Neck at some point in his or her career including Milton Avery, Cecilia Beaux, Theresa Bernstein, Nell Blaine, Stuart Davis, Frank Duveneck, Adolph Gottlieb, Childe Hassam, Hans Hofmann, Winslow Homer, Edward Hopper, Fitz Henry Lane, William Meyerowitz, Frederick Mulhaupt, Maurice Prendergast, Mark Rothko, John Sloan, and many others.

That same vitality is alive today. Dozens of working artists display their work in Rocky Neck galleries and studios, exhibiting a wide range of styles and media. In addition to the galleries, area restaurants provide gourmet cuisine, waterfront views, and eclectic atmosphere.

The *Rocky Neck Art Colony* is a non-profit arts organization comprised of artists, businesses, and community members whose mission is to create, support, and celebrate excellence and free expression in the arts on Rocky Neck and beyond.

See [www.rockyneckartcolony.org](http://www.rockyneckartcolony.org) for more information.

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Images available on request.