

Frederick's 'Night Stories' opens in New York

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"50 Percent" is a 2016, oil on linen by Belfast painter Linden Frederick.

NEW YORK — "Night Stories," an exhibit of 15 paintings by Linden Frederick of Belfast, opens Thursday, May 11, at Forum Gallery, 475 Park Ave. The show will travel to the Center for Maine Contemporary Art in Rockland in August.

Fifteen renowned American storytellers were invited to collaborate with Frederick on "Night Stories." Each author was paired with one painting in the "Night Stories" exhibit and has written a work of short fiction inspired by it.

"From concept to initiation, this project was seven years in the making. I noticed a growing number of writers were collecting my work," said Frederick. "They told me they connect strongly to the sense of an untold narrative in my paintings. I never tell a story or include people in a painting and, as a result, viewers have room to bring their own stories to this 'stage set' experience."

Former Midcoast resident Richard Russo, who won the Pulitzer Prize for "Empire Falls," grew up in the same upstate New York area as Frederick. Once Russo and Frederick met a few years ago in Camden, they became friends.

Frederick recruited a half dozen or so of the authors to the "Night Stories" project, then turned to Russo to help bring in the rest. Russo personally contacted an A-list of American writers, all of whom have an international reputation and have won awards from the Pulitzer Prize to the National Book Award and Newbery Medal.

The authors collaborating with Frederick in the "Night Stories" project are Russo, Daniel Woodrell, Tess Gerritsen, Lois Lowry, Anthony Doerr, Luanne Rice, Lawrence Kasdan, Joshua Ferris, Ann Patchett, Ted Tally, Louise Erdrich, Andre Dubus III, Elizabeth Strout, Dennis Lehane and Lily King.

"Night Stories: Fifteen Paintings and the Stories They Inspired" is a book published by Glitterati, Inc. and will be featured in the fall catalog. In the meantime, the book is available now exclusively at Forum Gallery and, in August, at CMCA. On June 22, PRINT - A Bookstore of Portland will host a special event with Frederick and several of the authors.

The Forum show will open with a 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. reception for the artist May 11, to run through June 30.

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