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Raphael Soyer Exhibition Opens Oct. 7

On Sunday, Oct. 5, the William A. Farnsworth Library and Art Museum will open an exhibition of one of the greatest realist artists in America today, Raphael Soyer.

This exhibition will re-establish the artist's ties to Maine with his paintings, drawings, pastels and watercolors on exhibit through Nov. 16. A members and friends preview will be held Sunday, Oct. 5 from 3-5 p.m. in the Main Gallery with the exhibition opening to the general public on Tuesday, Oct. 7.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Mr. Soyer was a frequent visitor to Vinalhaven where he maintained a studio and house. Raphael Soyer arrived from Russia in the U.S. in 1912 and studied art at the Cooper Union, the National Academy of design, and the Art Students League. He was the founder, along with fellow artists Edward Hopper, Ben Shahn, and Yashua Kuniyoshi, of an influential art magazine in the 1950s titled *Reality*. Soyer has been called the unacknowledged father of American realism painting in the tradition of painters he loves — Rembrandt, Vermeer, Degas, and Eakins.

Soyer's interest in printmaking began with a \$25 etching press given to him by his mother. His earliest prints were family portraits while today his mastery of the medium makes him an international figure. Favorite subjects of Soyer include New York street scenes, family and friends and studies of women. Soyer only works from a live model and his models were frequently unemployed actors, actresses, and dancers who were given a bed in Soyer's studio in exchange for their modeling.



Raphael Soyer

The exhibition is being assembled with the personal involvement of Mr. Soyer and his agent, Forum Gallery in New York under the direction of Mrs. Bella Fishko. Works of art have also been borrowed from the Hirshhorn Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution and private collectors.

The museum is delighted to welcome Mr. Soyer back to Maine and the Penobscot Bay Region where the artist spent many fruitful summers on Vinalhaven. The exhibition will be on view in the Main Gallery

through Nov. 16 and the public is urged to come and see the work of this internationally renowned artist. Group and school tours of this exhibition are available by prior arrangement and additional information is available at the museum, 596-6457.