



DAVID DEWEY

Rockland

June 29 - July 28, 2024

**Opening Reception First Friday
July 5, 5-7PM**

Catalogue Available.

CALDBECK GALLERY

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image: Wrapped Eagle at North End 2024 watercolor 26 3/4 x 38 1/2 inches

When astute observation and powerful imagination combine, a work of art achieves both authenticity and grandeur. The watercolors of David Dewey are grounded in the long tradition of American watercolor painting. Recognized worldwide as a special achievement, American watercolors reveal our practical yet also visionary national culture. In the 19th century, especially before photography, the artist traveler played an important role in defining our national identity and myth-making.

In our own time, watercolor has taken on a more individual and personal role revealing the artist's fondness for special places, the play of light and shadow and the exploration of personal visions. One of the reasons we love watercolors so much is their closeness to the touch of the human hand.

David Dewey has been celebrated for his technical mastery of the medium. It has led him to do scholarly inquiry and to unique and important discoveries as an artist. The characteristic sweep and amplitude of his major work establishes a breathless quietude and an emotional resonance to those who have stood, calmly and reverently, watching the movement of light and shadow in a familiar landscape. Edward Hopper once said, "All I ever wanted to do was to paint sunlight on the side of a house." This aspect of Hopper's work is especially resonant with Dewey's views of Rockland and environs. Like Hopper, he has chosen elements in the landscape that endure and define the town and the work of its citizens. Dewey's images are solid and familiar. They do not project loneliness or alienation but instead, warmth, familiarity and sometimes wonderment at the beauty of light itself.

Lovingly observed, Dewey's Rockland is gritty, time-worn, shaped by work and dependent upon the mighty Atlantic Ocean. Tall and lanky, he is a familiar figure in town who has walked its streets and wharves for decades, sketchbook in hand. Dewey's Rockland is not an empty place or one of pure nostalgia, but a sturdy, durable American city full of life and ever-evolving potential. People are ever-present if unseen. Awash with sheets of light and the fresh air of the Atlantic, Rockland is a place of vitality and renewal.

David Dewey's deep reverence for a cherished medium and tradition has led him to extend its reach. He has added new dimensions to its technical vocabulary and created a body of work whose evanescent beauty stirs the soul and leaves us breathless before the wonders of a place we know and love.

Susan C. Larsen, Ph.D.
May 2024



DIVIDED SUNRISE 2024
watercolor 20 1/2 x 28 inches



SEA STREET PLACE 2024
watercolor 10 x 38 1/4 inches



SEA STREET PLACE GARAGE 2024
watercolor 27 x 39 inches



BUOY PARK 2024
watercolor 11 1/8 x 39 1/8 inches



FOUR ON THE DOCK 2024
watercolor 27 x 39 1/4 inches



CLOUDS APPROACHING 2023
watercolor 9 1/4 x 12 1/2 inches



NORTH END SHIPYARD REPAIRS 2023
watercolor 6 3/4 x 27 3/4 inches



ROBIN'S REEF AND DORY ON WHARF STREET 2023
watercolor 5 3/4 x 22 1/2 inches



DOCKED AT THE NORTH END 2023
watercolor 9 x 13 1/4 inches