



Center for Maine Contemporary Art

For Immediate Release:

Carl Little and Brenda Bettinson Gallery Talk at CMCA Sunday, August 23rd, 2009

Art writer and poet Carl Little will present a Gallery Talk about Brenda Bettinson's exhibition *Arcadia and Archetype* at the Center for Maine Contemporary Art (CMCA), in Rockport on Sunday, August 23rd at 2 pm. Bettinson will also be present and will engage in dialogue with Little about her work as part of the Gallery Talk.

Carl Little is a well known Maine poet and writer. He has published more than a dozen art books, including *Paintings of Maine*, *The Watercolors of John Singer Sargent* and *The Art of Monhegan Island*. He is a regular contributor to *Art in America*, *Maine Boats & Harbors*, *The Island Journal* and *Art New England*. He is director of communications and marketing at the Maine Community Foundation.

Bettinson has had a long and illustrious career as artist and educator, studying in Paris and London, and teaching at Pace University in New York, including serving as Chair of the Department of Art & Design. She lectured extensively outside the university, published numerous articles on art history, and consistently exhibited her paintings in New York City and nationwide. She was a recipient of the Gold Medal of the National Arts Club. Since retiring from teaching to devote herself to working in her studio, the influence of her surroundings on Barter's Island in Maine have resulted in a significant change in her work.

Her exhibition at CMCA, *Arcadia and Archetype*, includes works selected by curator Britta Konau from Brenda's studio production of the past twelve years. *Arcadia and Archetype* is presented in two exhibition spaces; in the Bruce Brown Gallery are works that focus on the artist's island environment (*Arcadia*) and the Tucker Room contains the *Archetypes*, consisting of a series of larger than life portrait heads, clearly related stylistically to the island work, but because of the heads' strong psychological and/or mythological elements, these passionate statements are painted in a freer and more gestural manner.

Join us at CMCA for a gallery talk and conversation which will give added depth to a stunning exhibition!

Admission is free for CMCA members and Rockport residents, \$5 for the general public. Those who attend will have an opportunity to view other current CMCA exhibitions: *Just Look at Yourself*, a large group exhibition of self-portraits, and *Karen Lewis: Wozzeck: My Beautiful Obsession*.

CMCA is a nonprofit organization advancing contemporary art in Maine through exhibitions and educational programs. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday,

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1 – 5 p.m. CMCA is located at 162 Russell Avenue in Rockport and is a wheelchair accessible venue. For more information phone 207-236-2875 x303 or visit www.cmcanow.org.