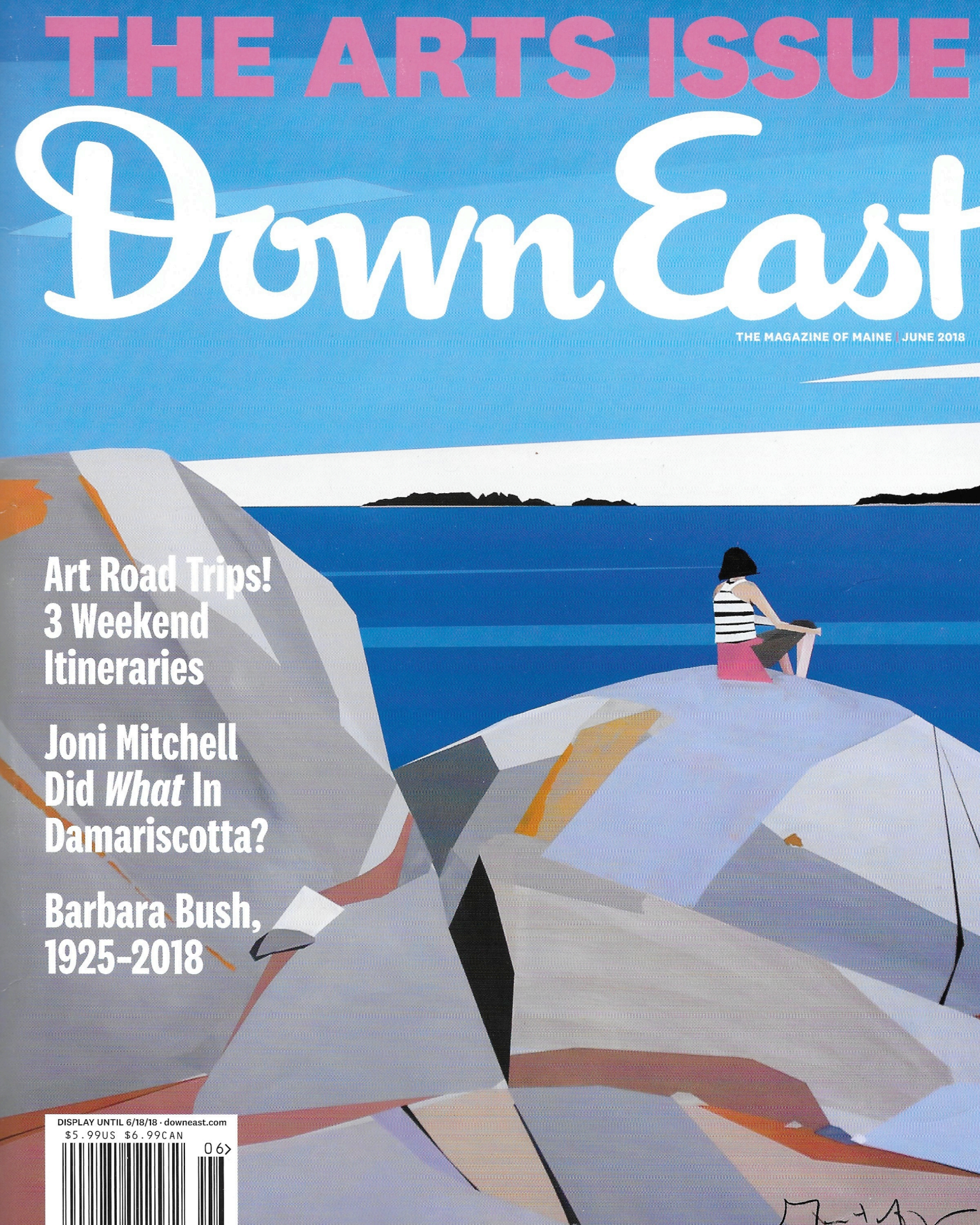
THE ARTS ISSUE

Down East

THE MAGAZINE OF MAINE | JUNE 2018



Art Road Trips! 3 Weekend Itineraries

Joni Mitchell Did *What* In Damariscotta?

Barbara Bush, 1925–2018

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Features

JUNE 2018

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Choose your favorite art trail! We've picked three of coastal Maine's most road-trip-worthy regions for art lovers and laid out stop-by-stop itineraries.
BY TINA FISCHER, BRIAN KEVIN, AND CARL LITTLE

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Maine Music Lore
From big bands to indie bands, eight surprising times that the beat of popular-music history (and trivia) has thrummed through the Pine Tree State.
BY BRIAN KEVIN, MARY POLS, BUZZ POOLE, JOSH ROILAND, ROB SNEDDON, AND ANDREW VIETZE

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On the 25th anniversary of his pioneering restaurant, Cafe Miranda, chef/owner **Kerry Altiero** talks with chef/blogger **Malcolm Bedell** about food trends, fast motorcycles, and Rockland's remarkable rebirth as an arts mecca.

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Think you've got a handle on the Kennebunks? You might be surprised. Get ready to see the Bunks in a brand-new light.
BY CAITLIN GILMET

ON OUR COVER
Molly, Birch Island, acrylic on panel, 34x24, by Greta Van Campen.

Dark Matter #3: Wedding Flowers, by photographer Jocelyn Lee, at the Center for Maine Contemporary Art. See page 76.

ART SPOTS

By BRIAN KEVIN

Rockland and the St. George River

FROM ROCKLAND'S GALLERY-STREWN MAIN STREET TO UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES ON THE NEIGHBORING PENINSULAS, THERE'S A LOT TO EXPLORE OUT HERE IN WYETH COUNTRY (AND WYETH'S JUST THE BEGINNING).

Rockland Galleries

1 You can't swing an easel in downtown Rockland — where the lamppost banners read "arts capital of Maine" — without hitting a gallery. (There are some 25 stops in 10 blocks on the First Friday art walks.) Among the best are **Dowling Walsh Gallery** (365 Main St.; 207-596-0084; dowlingwalsh.com), which reps contemporary, sometimes provactive painters, photographers, and sculptors (including this month's cover artist, Greta Van Campen), and **Harbor Square Gallery** (374 Main St.; 207-594-8700; harborsquaregallery.com), where painting and sculpture share space with mod jewelry and pottery, worth a visit for its rooftop sculpture garden alone. *artsinrockland.org*

Center for Maine Contemporary Art

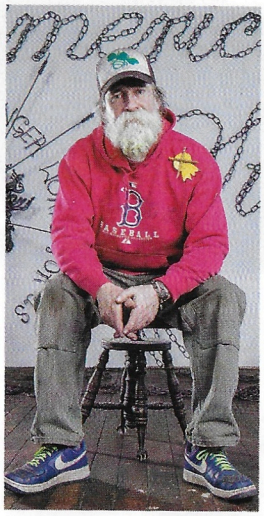
2 This summer's highlight, opening June 30, is *American Steel* by Brunswick's John Bisbee, who hasn't had a solo show in Maine in a decade. The sculptor uses forged and welded nails — and that's all — to create minutely rendered objects that are at times instantly recognizable (a tree, a bathtub), at times writhing and abstract. Also this summer, installation artist Tom Burckhardt's life-size cardboard rendering of an artist's studio literally turned upside down (you can walk right in) and the environmental portraits and still-life photography of Jocelyn Lee. *21 Winter St. 207-701-5005. cmcanow.org*

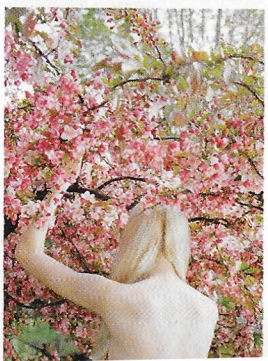
Farnsworth Art Museum and Olson House

3 Anchoring the Rockland scene, the Farnsworth celebrates its 70th anniversary this summer by trotting out highlights from its permanent collection, including work by American masters like George Inness and Winslow Homer. Another exhibit, *N.C. Wyeth: Poems of American Patriotism*, shows off 16 paintings by the eldest Wyeth artist, imagining scenes from early American history. On the Cushing peninsula, the museum administers the Olson House (384 Hathorne Point Rd.), the lonely and evocative farmhouse made famous by Andrew Wyeth's *Christina's World* (and a couple hundred other Wyeth works). It's open to the public, with docent-led tours. *16 Museum St. 207-596-6457. farnsworthmuseum.org*

River Road Galleries

4 At the north end of St. George, it's worth pulling over for a trio of charming home galleries. First Light Gallery (1174 River Rd.; 207-





WOODEN WONDERLAND

"I think the ❼ Langlais Sculpture Preserve (576 River Rd., Cushing; 207-594-5166; georgesriver.org/langlais-sculpture-preserve) is exciting. Bernard Langlais's wooden sculptures are somewhere between fine art and folk art. He was absolutely a trained artist, had a sophisticated art education, went to New York, and then came back to Maine and started doing these more whimsical figures. There's a wonderful huge elephant you can go up inside, a giant Nixon waving the peace signs. He did a sculpture of Christina from *Christina's World*, kind of a tongue-in-cheek nod to the Olson House nearby. And there's art and nature together, since you can walk the lovely trails down to the water." — *Suzette McAvoy, chief curator and executive director*