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SPIRIT OF PLACE

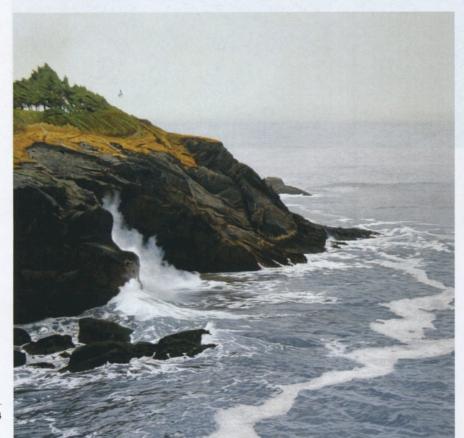
Peter Sculthorpe marks 30 years at Somerville Manning Gallery with fresh landscape scenes from coast to coast.

Peter Sculthorpe took a break from the studio before his 30th anniversary exhibition at Somerville Manning Gallery in Greenville, Delaware, but not a break from painting. The Canadian native went on a kayak trip to Georgian Bay on Lake Huron. He has been to the area of glacier-smoothed granite and windswept pines many times but went this time to "do it in depth."

His tent has a large vestibule, and he points the door to where he wants to paint. "I mostly just go out with very small wood panels, a tiny easel and a compact paint tin," he explains. "I call them my 'little

struggles,' and when I get them home, they mean so much. I take some reference photographs, but they can't even touch the panels. The energy they exude brings back all that energy I felt and what I really saw in the two to three hours it took to do the sketch."

Known for his scenes along the Atlantic Coast, there is an unexpected painting—South of Cascade Head, Oregon—in the exhibition. "A friend of mine and I had ridden our bicycles in that area, and my wife and I bought a piece of property just north of Cascade Head. I have a healthy interest in the Oregon coast. California





South of Cascade Head,
Oregon, oil on linen, 36 x 36"

Above Pulpit Rock, Monhegan Island, oil on linen, 16 x 24"



"For the past two decades my wife and I have been avid collectors of Sculthorpe's paintings and count his works as an invaluable asset to our collection of representational art from the Brandywine Valley. His extraordinary balance, excitement and attention to detail set his work apart in a notable fashion. They've been a continued source of pleasure to ourselves and the visitors to our home. He remains a central and vital part of our collection."—Dr. Richard H. Rothman, M.D., Ph.D., collector



is absolutely beautiful, but the Oregon and Washington coasts are a little wilder. There's a lot of suspended water in the air that changes the light. There is rich color, but it has a softness to it.

"The rocks are basalt. Maine is different with its pink granite that reminds me of Georgian Bay. In the 30,000 islands of Lake Huron, there are mounds of granite that sometimes just come above the surface of the water. The Northwest winds of the Canadian Prairies have influenced the shape of the white pines, blowing them to the Southwest. That area has intrigued me for many years.

"The coast of Newfoundland is different again, so scrubbed clean, with a knife"I am delighted Peter Sculthorpe and Somerville Manning Gallery are celebrating 30 years together, a milestone for an artist-gallery relationship. I have loved watching his paintings develop over the years, from the early days of his giant 40-by-60-inch watercolors, to his later expertise in oil. Contrary to most artists, Peter's watercolors are finely detailed with delicate brushstrokes, and his oils are looser and more free with rich colors."

- Victoria Manning, owner, Somerville Manning Gallery





3 Last Snow on the Buck Run, oil on linen, 16 x 24"

Wind Rows, oil on linen, 20 x 30"

5 Blow Horn, oil on linen, 9 x 16"





edge sharpness. The people there have a hardscrabble life, but they have such a love for the land, they tell people, 'Once you're born here, you can go off, but you always end up coming home.' There is a little seafaring village there named Brigus. I would choose that little town as home. Rockwell Kent lived and painted there, and the people are amazingly gracious and giving."

Sculthorpe and his family used to live on a "farmette" on the King Ranch in Chester County, Pennsylvania. In the center of the area is the 771-acre Laurels Preserve, owned and maintained by the Brandywine Conservancy. "I was very touched by that area," he says. "There is a spirit of place that touches us individually and privately."

He and his wife long ago gave up television and its concentration on "terror, death and hardship. It deadens my response to my surroundings. The world is much more full of good things than bad."

Reflecting on 45 years of painting and the "privilege to do what I did," he recalls Andrew Wyeth, who was "faithful to his beliefs and his simple wants. His paintings are so gifted. I tend to look at those things in minutiae—what kind of brush did he use? Where was his hand placed? He was able to look with such depth, understanding and love. I was

basically in awe. Andy came to all my shows. We would stand and talk about my work. It was an overwhelming gift. I think about it years later."

Peter Sculthorpe: New Works

When: November 21-December 20, 2014; November 21, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Opening Reception
Where: Somerville Manning Gallery, Breck's Mill, 2nd

Floor, 101 Stone Block Row, Greenville, DE 19807 Information: (302) 652-0271,

www.somervillemanning.com