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# ROBERT MOTHERWELL BESIDE THE SEA



*curated by Lise Motherwell and Daniel Ranalli*

*July 20 through September 30, 2012*

## ROBERT MOTHERWELL BESIDE THE SEA

This exhibition, organized by the Provincetown Art Association and Museum (PAAM), with loans from 10 private and 6 museum collections (High Museum, Newark Museum, Weisman Foundation, Yale University Art Gallery, Smith College, Mount Holyoke College) will occupy two of the museum's five galleries from July 20 – September 30, 2012. It features 20 paintings and 3 collages by Robert Motherwell that were created in Provincetown. Starting in the early 1950s, the artist spent summers painting in Provincetown—a place of abundant inspiration, whether in isolated contemplation of the environment or in interaction with the town's vibrant arts colony. His daughter Jeannie wrote (in Provincetown Arts, 2008), "Dad was most prolific in his Provincetown studio. Spending only 4 months of the year there, he produced more work than he did in any other of his studios or at any other time of year." According to the artist, "The first time I saw Provincetown, I knew it was for me."

2012 is an important year for Motherwell as it marks his 70th anniversary of arriving in Provincetown and the 50th anniversary of the Beside the Sea series which will be featured in the exhibition. Additionally, this will be the first painting show of Robert Motherwell's work to be mounted in Provincetown, the oldest continuous arts colony in the United States.

This unique perspective on the series will shed light on the unexpectedly resonant relationship between landscape and abstraction as explored by the artist. Both the exhibition and accompanying scholarly catalogue with essays by art historian John Yau and the artist's daughter, will offer new insights into the work of Motherwell, who played a major role in the intellectual and artistic development of Abstract Expressionism in America.

*Open No. 86: In Blue with Charcoal Line*  
1969/ ca. 1972  
oil on canvas, 72 X 42 inches  
Private Collection, USA and Germany

*Old Man of the Sea*, 1980  
oil and acrylic on Masonite  
20 X 16 inches  
Collection of Barbara and Samuel Wells

*Beside the Sea No. 26*, 1962  
oil on paper  
29 X 23 inches  
Collection of Renate Ponsold Motherwell

*Beside the Sea No. 5*, 1962  
oil on wove paper, 29 X 23 inches  
Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, Massachusetts, Purchased with the gift of Bonnie Johnson Sacerdote, class of 1964, and Louisa Stude Sarofim, class of 1958 and the Dedalus Foundation.

SC 1995:7-3

*Collage*, 1967  
gouache and collage on paper  
30.25 X 22 inches

Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, Massachusetts, Gift of Robert Motherwell  
SC 1967:74

*The Green Beside the Sea*, 1966  
oil on paper  
30.5 X 22.25 inches  
Collection of Dedalus Foundation, Inc.

*Beside the Sea No. 18*, 1962  
oil on paper  
29 X 23 inches  
Private Collection

*Beside the Sea No. 33*, ca. 1962  
oil on paper  
29 x 23 inches  
Private Collection

*Beside the Sea No. 36*, 1962  
oil on paper  
29 X 23 inches  
Private Collection

*Summer Seaside Night*, 1974 ca. 1976  
oil on canvas  
72 X 84 inches  
Private Collection

*The August Sun and Shadow*, August 10-28, 1972  
acrylic on canvas  
71.75 X 47.75 inches  
Yale University Art Gallery, Gift of Sylvia Slifka

*Summer Seaside Doorway*, 1971  
oil, acrylic and charcoal on canvas  
60.25 X 40 inches  
Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation, Los Angeles

*The Sign of the Mermaid*, 1980-1982/1985  
gouache, collage on paper  
24 X 20 inches  
Private Collection

*Beside the Sea with Fish and Chips*, 1977  
collage and acrylic on canvas board  
36 X 24 inches

Mount Holyoke College of Art Museum, South Hadley, Massachusetts, Gift of Jeffrey H. Loria in honor of Julie Lavin (Class of 1986)  
2005.23.2

*The Wild Duck*, 1974  
acrylic on upson board, 36 X 24 inches  
Courtesy of Ameringer/McEnergy/Yohe

*Provincetown Bay*, 1990  
oil on Upson Board, 16 x 20 inches  
Provincetown Art Association and Museum  
Gift of the Dedalus Foundation, Inc. in honor of Lise and Jeannie Motherwell

*Blue Guitar*, 1990  
collage, acrylic paint, and crayon on canvas panel  
39 x 51 inches  
Courtesy of Jeannie Motherwell

*Beside the Sea No. 45*, 1967  
acrylic on paper  
30.125 x 21.625 inches  
Courtesy of Bernard Jacobson Gallery

*Beside the Sea No. 27*, 1962  
acrylic on paper  
28.875 x 22.875 inches  
Courtesy of Bernard Jacobson Gallery

*U.S. Art, New York, NY*, 1962  
oil and collage on paper  
23 x 29 inches  
Courtesy of Bernard Jacobson Gallery

*Provincetown Bay*, 1963  
oil on canvas  
88 x 139 inches  
High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia;  
Purchase with funds from Alfred Austell Thornton in memory of Leila Austell Thornton and Albert Edward Thornton, Sr., and Sarah Miller Venable and William Hoyt Venable and gift of the Dedalus Foundation  
2000.173

*Beside the Sea No. 22*, 1962  
oil on Strathmore paper  
29 x 23 inches  
Courtesy of Bernard Jacobson Gallery

*Beside the Sea with Bulkhead*, 1962  
oil and acrylic on canvas  
68.75 X 109.875 inches  
Collection of the Newark Museum,  
Purchase 1997 The Alberto Burri Memorial Fund, established by Stanley J. Seeger