

# BARBARA ERNST PREY





## BARBARA ERNST PREY

Her attention to windows recalls Vermeer... it's a painter's job to notice, and to draw out the nuance and light in what the rest of us ignore. Prey has that eye and hand...what she makes touches the divine and has staying power.

The Boston Globe





*Pathways, 2020*  
Watercolor on paper, 29½ x 42 inches



































20 *Acadia*, 2017, Watercolor on paper, 29 x 40 inches



*Acadia II*, 2017, Watercolor on paper, 28½ x 40 inches





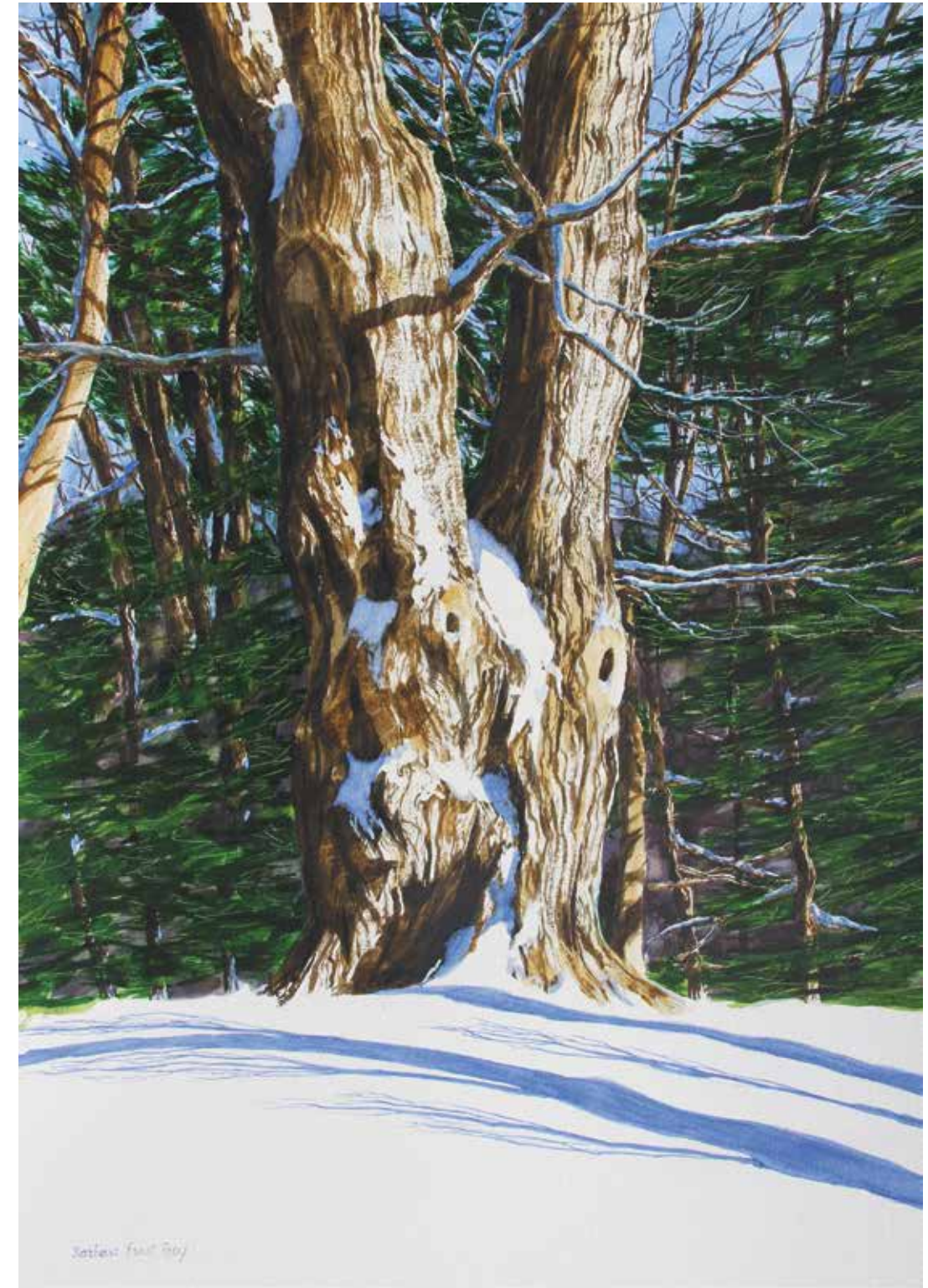






















previous page: *Field of Dreams*, 2010, Watercolor on paper, 28 x 40 inches

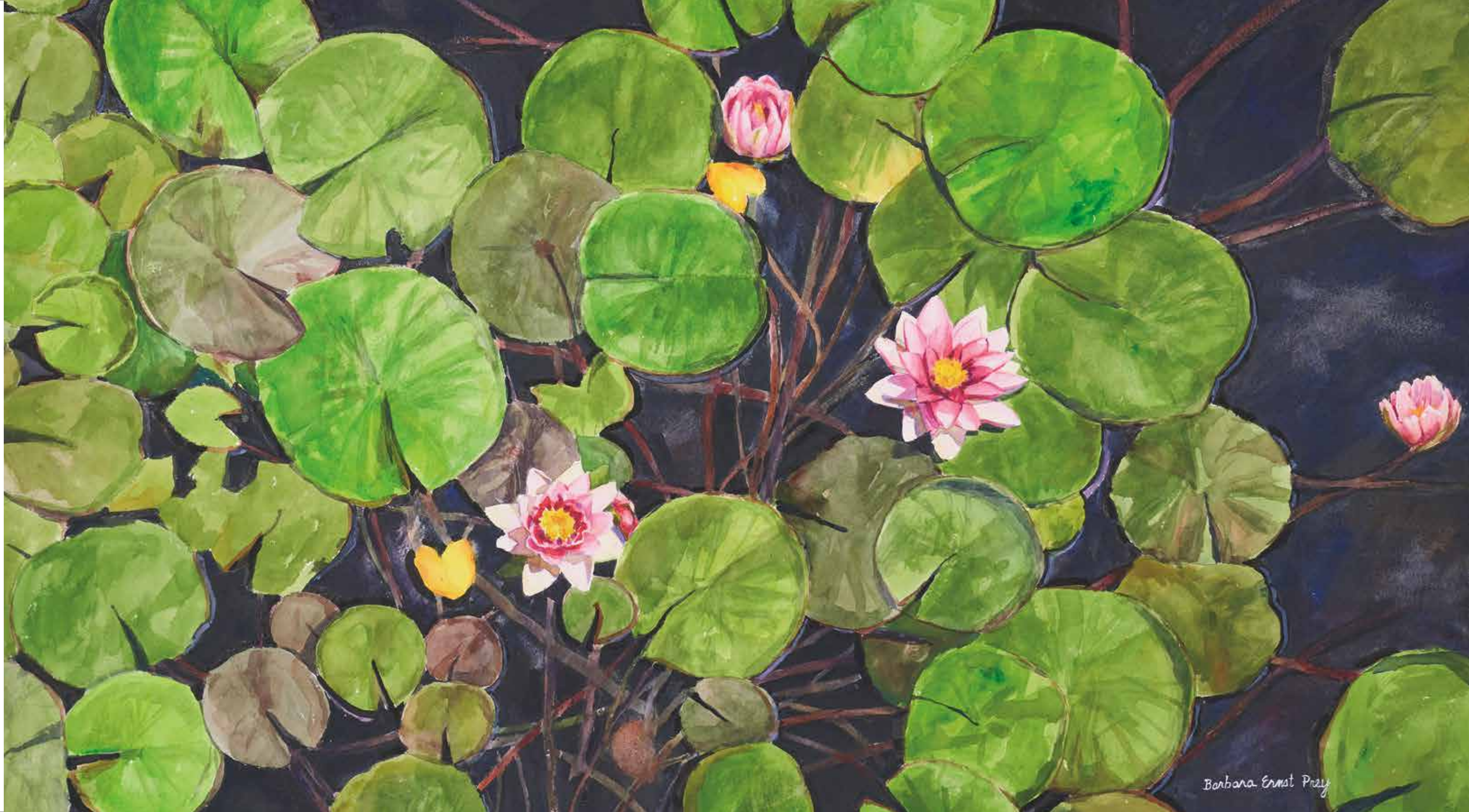
*Channeled Light*, Hancock Shaker Museum, 2019, Watercolor on paper, 38½ x 58½ inches











Barbara Ernst Prey

















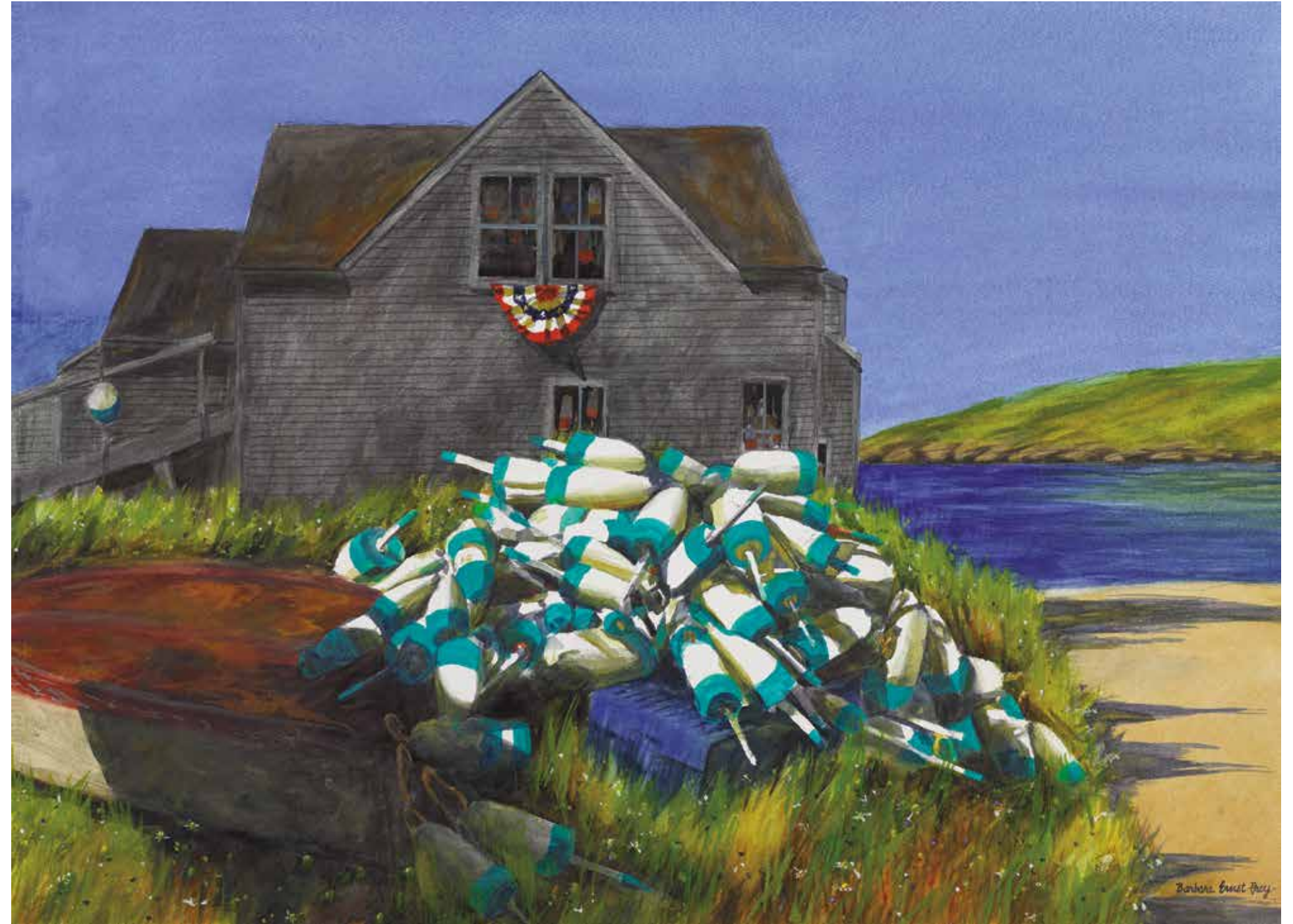


























previous page: *October*, 2014, Watercolor on paper, 30 x 40 inches

*Bonfire*, 2010, Watercolor on paper, 28 $\frac{1}{4}$  x 40 inches





















MASS MoCA just unveiled Building 6, a massive addition of 130,000 square feet of exhibition space, and to inaugurate the new wing, more than a dozen exhibitions by a powerful array of blue chip artists are on display, one of which is something of a meta-show. Barbara Ernst Prey's Building 6 Portrait: Interior consists of a singular work—a giant, framed, 8 x 15 feet watercolor painting depicting the pre-renovation version of the same space the piece is housed in.

—Andrew Nunes via VICE Creators



MASS MoCA Building 6, 2017, Watercolor, gouache, pencil and Building 6 materials on paper, 8 x 15 feet



## CHRONOLOGY

1957  
Born, New York City. Mother Peggy Ernst artist and head of Design Department at Pratt Art Institute.

1974  
Awarded a summer scholarship to the San Francisco Art Institute, CA  
Begins to paint watercolors

1975  
Lives and paints in Böttersen, Germany  
Attends Williams College, Williamstown, MA  
Governor Hugh Carey of New York purchases oil painting

1977  
Junior Year abroad, University of Munich, Germany

1975-1979  
Graduates from Williams College with honors in Art History, mentored by Lane Faison. Graduate courses Clark Art Institute



1979  
Metropolitan Museum of Art Summer Internship, New York, NY  
Fulbright Scholarship University of Würzburg, Germany Baroque Art and Architecture nominated by Williams College  
Travels and paints in Europe

1980  
Travels and paints in Africa  
Personal Assistant Prince Albrecht Castell-Castell, Germany (until 1981)

1981  
Castell Bank Exhibition, Germany  
Begins illustrations for the New Yorker, New York Times, Gourmet and Good Housekeeping Magazines among others  
Works in the Modern Painting Department at Sotheby's in New York, NY

1986  
Masters Degree, Harvard University  
Teaching Assistant, Harvard University  
Marries Jeff Prey

1986-1987  
Henry Luce Foundation Grant, Luce Scholar, Visiting Lecturer Western Christian Art, Tainan, Taiwan. Awarded annually to 18 future leaders  
Travels and paints in Asia

Exhibitions in Taipei, Taiwan  
Starts to paint large-scale on site watercolors  
Studies Chinese painting with Master Chinese painter

1987  
Returns to U.S. lives and works in Greenwich, CT  
First sold out New York City exhibition

1988  
Moves to Prosperity, PA (until 1996)

1996  
Moves to Oyster Bay, NY

2001  
9/11 series

2002  
First of four NASA commissioned paintings, *The International Space Station*. NASA commissions contemporary American artists to document space history



2003  
Second NASA commissioned painting, *The Columbia Tribute* unveiled at the Columbia Anniversary Dinner, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, Washington DC



Commissioned by United States President and Mrs. George Bush to paint the official White House Christmas Card

2004  
Awarded the New York State Senate's "Women of Distinction Award" joining awardees Eleanor Roosevelt and Susan B. Anthony



Third NASA commissioned painting, *Shuttle Discovery Return to Flight*  
Painting *The Diplomatic Reception Room, The White House* (2003) enters The White House permanent collection. One of two living female artists in the White House permanent collection

2006  
Travels and paints in England

2007  
Fourth NASA commissioned painting, the x-43. Travels to Edwards Airforce Base to paint the fastest aircraft in the world.  
Travels and paints in Greece, Italy and Croatia

2008  
An American View: Barbara Ernst Prey Exhibition, The Mona Bismarck Foundation Paris, France  
Painting *Family Portrait* (2004) enters the permanent collection of The Brooklyn Museum  
Painting *Wayfarers* (2002) enters the permanent collection of the Smithsonian American Art Museum

2008-present  
Appointed by the President and approved by the Senate to the National Council on the Arts, the advisory board to the National Endowment for the Arts. Members are appointed for their distinguished service or achievement in the arts.

2009  
Travels and paints in France

2010  
Honoree, The Raynham Hall Museum Gala

2011  
Honoree, The Heckscher Museum of Art Gala  
Travels and paints in Switzerland and Italy

2012  
Travels and paints in the Czech Republic and Germany

2013-present  
Adjunct Faculty, Williams College, Williamstown, MA

2013  
Painting *Hydrangeas* enters Bush Presidential Library, College Station, TX  
Travels and paints in Turks & Caicos and Switzerland

2014  
Travels and paints in Switzerland, Peru and Israel  
Returns to oil painting, continues watercolors and drawing

2015  
Travels and paints in France and Germany  
Appointed to first ever Colonial Williamsburg Art Museums Board

2016  
Commissioned by MASS MoCA to paint the world's largest watercolor for the opening of their new Building 6  
Travels and paints in England, Ireland and Switzerland

2017  
Unveiling of *MASS MoCA Building 6*, 8 feet by 15 feet, commissioned by the museum  
Travels and paints in Scotland and France



2018  
Painting *Fibonacci's Workshop* enters the National Gallery of Art  
Travels and paints in Switzerland and France

2019  
Travels and paints in Italy, Martinique, Greece

2020  
*Gallantly Streaming* on exhibit at the United States Mission to the United Nations





## BARBARA ERNST PREY

Born 1957, New York City, NY

Lives and works in Oyster Bay, NY, Williamstown, MA, and Tenants Harbor, ME

### Education

1979 B.A., Williams College, Williamstown, MA

1986 M.Div., Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

### Affiliations, Awards & Fellowships

2020 Presidential Appointed Member, National Council on the Arts (since 2008)

2020 Adjunct Faculty, Williams College, Williamstown, MA (since 2013)

2011 Honoree, Heckscher Museum Gala

2010 Honoree, Raynham Hall Museum Gala

2004 New York State Senate Women of Distinction Award

1986 Henry Luce Foundation Grant, Asia

1979 Fulbright Scholarship, Germany

1974 Grant Recipient, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA

### Selected Exhibitions:

2020 MASS MoCA, Building 6, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams, MA (since 2017)

*Blue*, Nassau County Museum of Art, Roslyn Harbor, NY

The White House, Washington, D.C. (since 2003)

Kennedy Space Center, NASA Commission, Titusville, FL (since 2003)

Bush Presidential Library, College Station, TX (since 2013)

Bush Presidential Library, Office of the First Lady, College Station, TX (since 2013)

National Endowment for the Arts, Office of the Chairman, Washington, D.C. (since 2011)

U.S. Mission to the United Nations, New York, NY (since 2017)

United States Art in Embassies Program, Bridgetown, Barbados (2016-present)

2019 *Borrowed Light: Barbara Ernst Prey*, Hancock Shaker Village, Pittsfield, MA

*Energy: The Power of Art*, Nassau County Museum of Art, Roslyn Harbor, NY

2018 *NASA 60<sup>th</sup> Art Exhibit*, Space Center, Houston, TX

*True Colors*, Nassau County Museum of Art, Roslyn Harbor, NY

*Earth, Sea, Sky*, Wendell Gilley Museum, Southwest Harbor, ME

United States Art in Embassies Program, Baku, Azerbaijan (2015-2018)

2017 United Nations, New York, NY (2015-2017)

*Out Painting*, Old Westbury Gardens, Old Westbury, NY

2016 *OUT OF THIS WORLD. The Art and Artists of NASA*, Vero Beach Museum, Vero Beach, FL

*ON SITE: Barbara Ernst Prey's Travelogues*, Barbara Prey Projects, Port Clyde, ME

*In Search of America*, Barbara Prey Projects, Port Clyde, ME

United States Art in Embassies Program, Hong Kong (2014-2016)

2015 *Re/Viewing the American Landscape*, Blue Water Fine Arts, Port Clyde, ME

2014 *Barbara Prey: American Contemporary*, Blue Water Fine Arts, Port Clyde, ME

2013 *East Meets West*, Blue Water Fine Arts, Port Clyde, ME

United States Art in Embassies Program, Bamako, Mali

(2010-2013)

2012 *NASA|Art: 50 Years of Exploration*, Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition (travels to twelve museums) (2008-2012)

*Nocturne IV*, Heckscher Museum of Art, Huntington, NY

*America's Artist: Forty Years of Painting*, Blue Water Fine Arts, Port Clyde, ME

2011 *Open Spaces*, Blue Water Fine Arts, Port Clyde, ME

2010 *Soliloquy: Meditations on the Environment*, Blue Water Fine Arts, Port Clyde, ME

2009 United States Art in Embassies Program, U.S. Embassy Paris, France (2005-2009)

United States Art in Embassies Program, U.S. Embassy Madrid, Spain (2005-2009)

*25 Years Exhibiting in Maine*, Blue Water Fine Arts, Port Clyde, ME

2008 *An American View: Barbara Ernst Prey*, Mona Bismarck Foundation, Paris, France

*Meditations on the Environment*, Blue Water Fine Arts,

Port Clyde, ME

2007 *Picturing Long Island*, The Heckscher Museum, Huntington, NY

*Works on Water*, Water Street Gallery, Seamen's Church

Institute, New York, NY (2006-2007)

*From Port Clyde to Paris*, Blue Water Fine Arts, Port Clyde, ME

United States Art in Embassies Program, U.S. Embassy Vilnius, Lithuania (2007 - 2009)

2006 *From Seacoast to Outer Space*, The Williams Club, New York, NY

United States Art in Embassies Program, U.S. Embassy,

Monrovia, Liberia (2003-2006)

United States Art in Embassies Program, U.S. Embassy,

Minsk, Belarus (2003-2006)

United States Art in Embassies Program, U.S. Embassy Oslo,

Norway (2002-2006)

Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, NY (1999-2006)

*30 Years of Painting Maine*, Blue Water Fine Arts, Port Clyde, ME

National Arts Club, New York, NY (2003-2006)

2005 *Works on Water*, Blue Water Fine Arts, Port Clyde, ME

2004 *Observations*, Harrison Gallery, Williamstown, MA

*Conversations*, Blue Water Fine Arts, Port Clyde, ME

2003 *An American Portrait*, Arts Club of Washington D.C.

United States Art in Embassy Program, U.S. Embassy Prague (2002-2003)

*The Valley Viewed: 150 Years of Artists Exploring*

*Williamstown*, Harrison Gallery, Williamstown, MA

*Painting Reviewed*, Blue Water Fine Arts, Port Clyde, ME

2002 *Obsession*, Heckscher Museum of Art, Huntington, NY

*American Art in Miniature*, Gilcrease Museum, OK (1998-2002)

*Patriot*, Blue Water Fine Arts, Port Clyde, ME

*A Trace in the Mind: An Artists Response to 9/11*, Hutchins

Gallery, C.W. Post College, Brookville, NY

2001 *Lightscares*, Jensen Fine Arts, New York, NY

*Recent Watercolors*, Blue Water Fine Arts, Port Clyde, ME

1999 *Recent Watercolors*, Jensen Fine Arts, New York, NY

Heckscher Museum, Huntington, NY

1998 *Express Yourself*, Portland Museum of Art, ME

1997 Museum of the Southwest, Midland, TX

*Recent Acquisitions*, Farnsworth Museum of Art, Rockland, ME

1996 *Best in Show*, The Westmoreland Museum of American Art,

Greensburg, PA

1995 The Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA

1993 Blair Art Museum, Hollidaysburg, PA

Johnstown Art Museum, Johnstown, PA

1989 *Women's Art*, Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA

1988 Nassau County Museum of Art, Roslyn Harbor, NY

1986 Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

### Selected Public Collections

National Gallery of Art

The White House

The Brooklyn Museum

The Smithsonian American Art Museum

The Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA)

The Hall Art Foundation

Mellon Hall, Harvard Business School

The Henry Luce Foundation

The Hood Museum, Dartmouth College

The Farnsworth Art Museum

Kennedy Space Center

NASA Headquarters

The National Endowment for the Arts

The Taiwan Museum of Art

The New-York Historical Society Museum

Williams College

The Williams College Museum of Art



#### Selected Private Collections

Mr. Herbert Allen  
Orlando Bloom  
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Byers, Jr  
Mr. Sam Bronfman  
President and Mrs. George W. Bush  
Princess Albrecht Castell  
Ambassador and Dr. Struan Coleman  
Mr. Chris Davis  
Mr. and Mrs. Boomer Esiason  
Mr. and Mrs. Allan Fulkerson  
Senator and Mrs. Judd Gregg  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hanks  
Dr. Franklin Kelly  
Prince and Princess Johannes Lobkowitz  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard P. Mellon  
Mr. Peter O'Neill  
Ambassador and Mrs. John Ong  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Phipps, Jr.  
Ambassador and Mrs. Mitchell Reiss  
Prince and Princess Michael Salm  
Ambassador and Mrs. Craig Stapleton  
Dr. and Mrs. James Watson  
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Webb

#### Selected Commissions

MASS MoCA Commission – 2017  
NASA Commission – 2004 Discovery Shuttle Return to Flight  
NASA Commission – 2007 The x-43  
NASA Commission – 2004 Columbia Tribute  
White House Christmas Card, 2003  
NASA Commission – 2003 International Space Station

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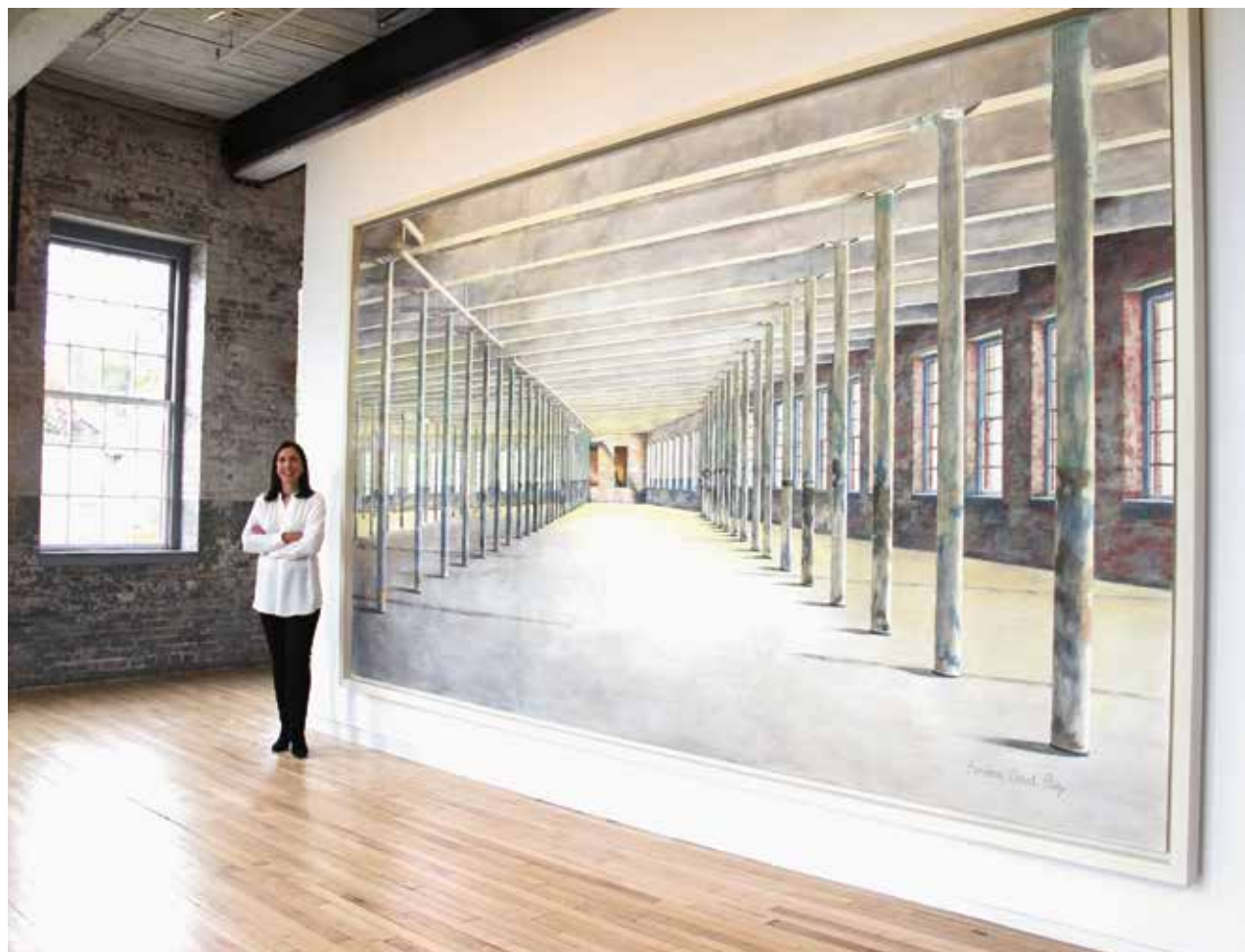
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Barbara's painting will be monumental by any standard, but for a watercolor on paper – perhaps the most unforgiving combination of any painterly media – the undertaking is truly breathtaking.

MASS MoCA on Barbara Prey's commission  
for the Museum

Artworks by Barbara Ernst Prey © Barbara Ernst Prey  
BarbaraPrey.com

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cover: *Early Light*, 2020, Watercolor on paper  
29½ x 41¾ inches





Barbara Prey's paintings are in the collections of The National Gallery of Art, The Brooklyn Museum, The Smithsonian American Art Museum and The White House, where she is one of two living female American artists represented. Commissioned by NASA four times, she was recently commissioned by MASS MoCA to paint the largest watercolor in the world. She is a Presidential appointee to the National Council on the Arts, advisory board to the National Endowment for the Arts.

