

# SEARS·PEYTON·GALLERY NEW YORK·LOS ANGELES

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## **UNIVERSITY OF MAINE MUSEUM OF ART ACQUIRES PAINTING BY NEW YORK ARTIST MARYBETH THIELHELM**

The University of Maine Museum of Art, Bangor, ME, has acquired a painting by New York artist MaryBeth Thielhelm, *Grey Indigo Sea*, 2014. This is the first of Thielhelm's works to enter the UMMA collection. The Museum's Director and Curator George Kinghorn initiated the acquisition.

*Grey Indigo Sea* is an oil on panel painting, 10 x 10 inches. Using simply paint and wood and rendering only water and light, Thielhelm's reductive paintings are meditations on the interaction of basic elements. They bring to mind notions of the Romantic sublime, of hovering over a nameless sea where light dancing on the water's surface communicates both nothing and everything. Each of Thielhelm's paintings originates on a thick, bare birch panel. She works the panel over with viscous gesso, which she blends and smoothes until the surface becomes like a velvety chalkboard. The waves begin to appear with slow, lapping strokes of oil paint. Gradually, these shallow pools of placid waves dissolve into deep oceans.



*Grey Indigo Sea*, 2014, oil on panel, 10 x 10 in.

*Grey Indigo Sea* by MaryBeth Thielhelm will be featured in the University of Maine Museum of Art's upcoming exhibition titled Looking Back Six Years- Part Two, Selected New Acquisitions, from June 20- September 20, 2014. Looking Back Six Years- Part Two features paintings, sculpture, and original prints acquired since 2008, and highlights new emerging areas of the collection. Also of note is an assortment of contemporary artists whose work reflects an obsessive approach to artmaking. Viewers will likely be amazed by the meticulous detail and craftsmanship demonstrated in these works.