

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alan Bray: Presence and Absence
May 13—June 6, 2021

@Foley Gallery, 59 Orchard Street, New York, NY 10002
Indoor/outdoor opening reception: Friday, May 14, 6-8pm



Alan Bray, *Shallows*, 2020, casein on panel, 20 x 16 in.

(New York: Lower East Side) Garvey | Simon is pleased to present *Alan Bray: Presence and Absence* on view May 13—June 6, 2021 at Foley Gallery, 59 Orchard Street, New York, NY 10002. **Hours are Wednesday through Saturday 11am-6pm, and Sunday 12-5pm. An indoor/outdoor opening reception for the artist will take place on Friday, May 14 from 6-8pm. Masks required.** The full exhibition will also be available on Artsy.

Alan Bray's landscape paintings of his native, central Maine explore the ever-ebbing dynamic between nature and humanity. His paintings capture an asymmetrical pas de deux. Painted with uncompromising precision by his quick-drying casein tempera paint, Bray's trailheads, shorelines, and vast horizons show evidence of previous human presence as it succumbs to natural growth.

Bray's stylized scenes center on these afterimages of human interference as well as other natural phenomena. Inundated with detail, nature reclaims swaths of scarred land, fallen trees, and dilapidated structures, returning them to their wild form. Natural phenomena such as wild overgrowth, animal tracks, mysterious forms, bogs, and mist are resplendently captured as homage to the rugged and uninhabited corners of secluded Maine.

Alan Bray builds his landscapes with numerous layers of quick-drying casein tempera. Often used in Italian Renaissance painting, his milk-based mixture produces an extremely thin, low-viscosity paint, and needs to be applied rapidly and with precision. Bray produces his vibrant details with short, almost pencil-like hash marks made with a very fine brush.

As a naturalist and painter alike, Bray is interested in what ordinarily goes unobserved. "I paint what is right around me," he says. "Occasionally it's a big subject, but more often it's a bird's nest or a farm pond." His work is infused with a poetic spirituality, creating transformation rather than mere description.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Alan Bray was born in Waterville, Maine, on January 12, 1946, and grew up in Monson, a small slate-quarrying town set in the northern reaches of the Appalachians. In these rugged foothills, ever alive with the turning of the seasons and imprints of ancient geologic upheaval, Bray found his bearings in a world of enigmatic signs and divergent trails.

After three years studying at Art Institute of Boston, Bray enrolled at the University of Southern Maine, from which he graduated in 1971. Following graduation, Bray continued his arts education at Villa Schifanoia, Florence. It was here where he was introduced to a new medium and a new physical structure for his paintings – casein on panel. His dedicated use of it draws a deep sense of time into the grain of Bray's work.

For further information and to see more images, please visit Garvey Simon or contact Liz Garvey at liz@garveysimon.com or 917-796-2146. Foley Gallery is open Wednesday through Saturday 11am-6pm, and Sunday 12pm-5pm.