



Dahlov Ipcar's stunning masterpiece "Blue Savannah" is part of the Portland Museum of Art's semipermanent installation Modern Menagerie.

Art

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with that of her mother, the painter Marguerite Thompson Zorach, echoes the artistic lineage they both share. Modern Menagerie opens the first window into the museum's new phase: Your Museum, Reimagined.

"Maine has such a rich history of artists, we are creating a visual art narrative so the public can engage with the collection in new ways," said Kennedy.

To make that happen, the museum's permanent collection of 18,000 works of art are coming out of the closet. Up until this point, only 5 percent have been shown here. By this time next year, every gallery will be reinstalled, reshaped and revived. Modern Menagerie is the first peek. And it will be up for about five years.

Commanding one wall is Ipcar's "Blue Savannah," a colorful patchwork of a multitude of leaping animals across various jungle vignettes. "It's her at the height of her artistic practice," said Kennedy.

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GRAEME KENNEDY,
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING
AND PUBLIC RELATIONS,
PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART

Fans of Langlais will delight in the individual elements of his fountain, commissioned by the Samoset Resort in Rockport in the 1970s.

The ensemble of roughly wrought but humorously effective caricatures of familiar seabirds and the iconic Andre the seal are very approachable. Their presence on multilevel platforms helps define the newly porous space and invites viewer engagement.

Created for a 60-foot vertical fountain that was shelved when the resort changed ownership, the



Artist Bernard Langlais' wall piece "Indian Jungle Scene" is one of several works in the Portland Museum of Art's five-year installation Modern Menagerie.



Bernard Langlais' sculptures, originally commissioned for the Samoset Resort, will be on display at the Portland Museum of Art for five years as part of its semipermanent installation Modern Menagerie.

pieces have been in storage ever since.

"It's a monumental work to Maine and Langlais' career," said Kennedy.

So far, the 135 year institution's refresh is working.

"The museum has experienced a 31 percent increase in attendance this February compared to last year," said Kennedy. "People are expecting more from museums now. As centers for ideas, rather than exalted places."



SHELBY HARTIN | BDN
Mattawamkeag River in Island Falls is seen from the bridge on Old Patten Road in September 2015.

Hartin

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There's a community there for support, and there's always someone who will say "hi."

"The town lays no claim to greatness. It has never 'made the headlines' of the metropolitan dailies ... uneventful as its life has been, Crystal has a story well worth telling — a story with which its sons and daughters should be familiar and of which they should be justly proud," Corliss wrote. "It is a story of sturdy pioneers — real makers of America — struggling to establish homes in the wilderness. It is a story of strong men and courageous women toiling together."

By exploring Bangor — a new place, a new home — and finding different things to do, I hope to find something like this, or at least something that feels like this. A few friendly faces to say "hello" as I pass by, maybe a couple of people who recognize my car and wave as I drive to work, summers of cicada song and a place where I can see the stars — a community of people, fun things to do and adventures.

A home. That's what I'm trying to find. That's what I hope Bangor will become.

Shelby Hartin writes about arts, culture and food. Read more in her blog *Hartin Soul*, which can be found at hartin.bangordailynews.com.



ABIGAIL CURTIS | BDN
Belfast Free Library children's librarian Erica Rubin Irish (left) leads a movement rhyme with her daughter Jane Irish, 9, of Morrill and Judson Thomas, 9, of Montville. Ned Lightner filmed all the action for an upcoming episode of "Once Upon a Time."

Story

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"The program could probably be shown anywhere in the United States and beyond," he said. "Each of the presenters has their own distinct energy. Together they're a nice, magical combination."

Rubin Irish, who started the show in early 2013 when she was the children's librarian at the Carver Memorial Library in Searsport, said she, Lightner and Armstrong have produced 13 shows in the last seven months. The show has been a true community project, as Belfast-based set designers John and Elaine Bielenberg volunteered to build the set and the children who are the special guest stars come from nearby towns.

"Not everybody can come to storytime at the library," Rubin Irish said. "This way we're bringing it to them. I've had some nice feedback from people who say their kids watch every show."

Her favorite part of "Once

Upon a Time" is the guest stars.

"I wanted kids to see kids their own age or a little bit older than them perform and be inspired," she said.

As Judson got ready to play a well-rehearsed piano fanfare on the grand piano in the Belfast Free Library's Gammans Room, his mom, Erika Latty, said he has been looking forward to being on the show.

"He's very excited," Latty said. "He likes performing."

Jane Irish, who practiced a lot before she played and sang "Rockin Robin" on her ukulele for the show, said she thought the experience was great. Her favorite part was watching her friend Judson play the piano.

"I loved it," she said of the taping. "It was really fun."

When asked if other kids who like performing might enjoy being on "Once Upon a Time," Jane did not hesitate.

"Yes, they would," she said. "They would love it, too."

To watch "Once Upon a Time," visit vimeo.com/album/3476245.

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