

PRESS RELEASE

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BUNNY PEARLMAN: THE LAST LEOPARD - AVOIDING EXTINCTION AT PROVINCETOWN ART ASSOCIATION AND MUSEUM

Provincetown, MA: Provincetown Art Association and Museum (PAAM) is thrilled to present a retrospective of Bunny Pearlman's work in the exhibition *The Last Leopard – Avoiding Extinction*. Curated by Bert Yarborough, the exhibition is on view May 7 - June 27, 2021. PAAM is open to the public Thursday-Sunday with 5 time slots: 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, and 4pm. Reservations are strongly encouraged, and can be made at www.paam.org/tickets. Visitors are encouraged to visit the PAAM website in advance to confirm hours.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

This exhibition features over seventy works by the Provincetown artist Bunny Pearlman. From oil paintings and collage to frescoes and watercolors, Pearlman's range of mediums illustrates more than just her unique eye and skilled hand. Her work radiates a spiritual, almost magical aura and presents an integrated narrative centered on the significance of place, biography, and travel in art making. Pearlman's interest in travel and her tendency of roaming into different mediums and careers (Pearlman has worked as a painter, poet, writer, teacher, and modern dancer) can be attributed to her upbringing; she comes from a family of what she calls "Jewish gypsies." Most notably, this exhibition features her ongoing series *A Time for Counting*. This series provides a glimpse into the artist's mind: the top part of each panel depicts a scene from one of her travels while the lower half appears to be a diary entry, capturing passing thought and a bits of pottery shards or fruit. Pearlman's *Time for Counting* is just one of her many series and this retrospective stands as a testament to her skill in weaving an enchanting and open-ended narrative.



PROVINCETOWN ART ASSOCIATION AND MUSEUM
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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Pearlman was raised in Queens, New York, and first exhibited at the Jewish Museum when she was 10 years old. She studied art and religion at a local yeshiva before attending Queens College for a year. After a year of work and study in Israel, Pearlman moved with her family to Florida, where she enrolled at the University of Florida. During her college years, she studied photography, painting, and print making. Pearlman taught art for several years in Florida and California while raising a family. She came to Provincetown in 1976. In addition to directing the East End Gallery for 17 seasons, Pearlman traveled extensively each winter before becoming a full-time Provincetown resident in 2016.

CURATOR'S STATEMENT

My garden is doing a lot of growing now that the sun is gracing us with its presence. Looking forward to adding a few grown colorful plants before moving my easel out. But I'm excited...My moods have entered Mercury- taking things apart and putting them back together again. I think I am still in the first stage along with the planet- it appears... My mind is close to seething with ideas for paintings!

"As I write, the country is in the midst of the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is impossible to ignore this epidemic as it ravages the population and colors our lives in this "new" world. In spite of this horror, Bunny Pearlman, in her 80's, and in frail health, continues to engage in the life affirming act of creation: to bring into being by making. For over sixty years, through a myriad of artistic practices, research, travels, triumphs and tragedies she has maintained, what for me and many others, can only be defined as an inspiring spirit. The snippet of correspondence quoted above describes this posture, which manifests itself in this exhibition: *The Last Leopard – Avoiding Extinction*...What became apparent to me as I viewed and handled years of work is the range of touch employed: from delicate washes of watercolor and pencil to scratched and carved surfaces of plaster, often with relief elements integrated into the imagery...There is a fearlessness with material that matches her vision as she invites the viewer to join her spiritual travels, often creating surfaces that embody the ancient. *The Last Leopard – Avoiding Extinction* is more than a metaphorical title for the individual artist speaking to and from, life on this planet: hers, ours, the leopards. This humble, vital and dynamic body of work is also a testimony from the heart, hand and intellect: it is a gift to all of us who seek." – Bert Yarborough, Curator (December, 2020)

PROVINCETOWN ART ASSOCIATION AND MUSEUM

Provincetown Art Association and Museum was established in 1914 by a group of artists and townspeople to build a permanent collection of works by artists of outer Cape Cod, and to exhibit art that would allow for unification within the community. Through a comprehensive schedule of exhibitions of local and national significance and educational outreach, PAAM provides the public access to art, artists, and the creative process. The PAAM Membership is a vibrant community of over 1,800 individuals. Whether you're an artist or you simply love the arts, a PAAM Membership opens the door to programs and events that enrich and inspire.

Located at 460 Commercial Street, PAAM is open by reservation. For the month of June, PAAM is open Thursday-Sunday with five time slots: 12pm-1pm; 1-2pm; 2-3pm; 3-4pm; and 4-5pm. The first time slot is reserved for guests who are 60 years and older or in a high-risk group. Due to updated regulations from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and as of June 1, we require unvaccinated people to wear face coverings and encourage it for all our visitors. As on July 1, PAAM is open Wednesday-Monday, 11AM-5PM, with six, hour-long time slots: 11AM (mask required), 12PM, 1PM, 2PM, 3PM, and 4PM. Reservations are highly recommended. Please reserve tickets online (visit www.paam.org/tickets) or by calling 508-487-1750. Visitors without reservations are accommodated when possible.

Image: Bunny Pearlman, The Last Leopard: Avoiding Extinction, 1999, Arad, Israel, Watercolor on gessoed board, 19" x 28"

