

REVIEWS: *New Hampshire*

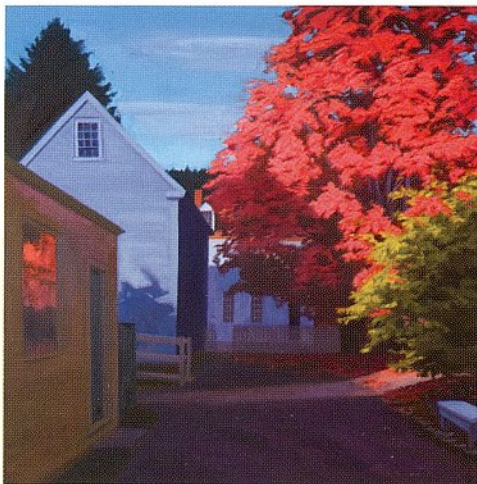
CAROL ARONSON-SHORE: THE SHAPE OF COLOR

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In her exhibition *The Shape of Color*, Carol Aronson-Shore welcomes viewers to a world of sun-struck houses, brilliant colors, and “magic-time” lighting. A longtime faculty member at the University of New Hampshire, Aronson-Shore assembles a group of paintings that offer artistic depth as well as mature ideas about art-making.

Oils from Maine’s Monhegan Island and New Hampshire’s Strawberry Banke emphasize simple architectural shapes and intimate spaces among the buildings. Aronson-Shore uses geometric compositions and dramatic angles, approaching the buildings as if they were still lifes. The lighting is inspired by “magic time,” early morning or late evening, when the sunlight streams in exaggerated slants, and the shadows are pronounced. Her Hopperesque use of light and shadow overlay the building forms, transforming the scene into a thoughtfully constructed composition of color shapes.

Gouache studies, like those accompanying *Fall Shadows and Filtered Light at Strawberry*



Carol Aronson-Shore, *Blues and Reds Behind the Chase House*, 2010, oil on canvas, 30 x 30”.

Banke, show how the artist edits until the scene is serenely uninhabited and still. Her fearless use of full-strength color brings the picture to life. Tangerine, lemon, chicory blue, and sugar maple red energize the simple compositions and clean-edged shapes. A brilliant cadmium yellow house front or a pale lavender-indigo blue tree attracts the viewer immediately. Secondary colors are woven through the image as points and counterpoints. The red of a fall tree in *Blues and Reds Behind the Chase House* is echoed in the scattering of leaves along the roadway and blazes sharply in a glass window’s reflection. The sophisticated use of neutrals catapults this work to the next level of artistry as Aronson-Shore brackets a mauve roof with bright green and pumpkin orange, causing the gray to dance.

This mature work by an accomplished painter delights the eye and offers plenty of artistic depth for artists and art appreciators alike.

—Dustan Knight