

ALEXANDRE

50 MAINERS

Creating a brighter future for the state

by Blair Best, Paul Koenig, and Emma Simard
Photography by Christina Wnek

One of Maine's greatest assets is its people—the industrious, creative, and entrepreneurial individuals who are proud to call Maine home. But sometimes, no amount of dedication or talent is enough for someone to reach their goal. That's where these 50 individuals come in. The best leaders help those around them to succeed, and the following pages are filled with people supporting their fellow Mainers to reach their greatest potential. They're teaching immigrants and young people skills needed to succeed in the workforce. They're supporting our farmers and loggers as they adapt to a changing economy. They're guiding our entrepreneurs and connecting them with resources to grow their businesses. Maine's future is brighter because of the people each of these Mainers has helped along the way.

Opposite: Briana Warner, CEO of Atlantic Sea Farms.

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LOIS DODD

Painter

For more than 70 years Lois Dodd has sat at a canvas and taken in the world around her, translating fragments of nature into painted works of art. Dodd has long been admired for her paintings, which often depict close-ups of flowers, trunks and branches of trees, and the perspective seen through many different windows. Her works demonstrate her sharpened ability to capture complexity in simple subjects. Although she wasn't born in Maine, Dodd has been coming here since 1951. She spends most of her summers in Cushing, splitting her time between Maine, the Delaware Water Gap, and New York. What continues to draw her back is the inspiration she finds in the immediate environment, she says. "Maine has a landscape light that is more dramatic and graphically clear than that of more southerly locations," Dodd says. "The strong light- and dark-value contrast provides a visual simplification of shape and forms and denies disruptive detail." Dodd, who is now 92, has since 1998 been an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, an honor society comprising 250 renowned artists, architects, writers, and composers throughout the United States. In addition, Dodd has taught at a number of schools, including Brooklyn College, Queens College, Wagner College, and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, before retiring in 2011 from her nearly 50-year teaching career. She now focuses her time on continuing to capture the moment on canvas. "I do it for myself, and if other people see something in it, great. But, first and foremost, I must challenge and please myself," she says. "The more personal an expression can be is also the most universal it can become."

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