



# PORTLAND MONTHLY

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FROM TOP: CLOCKWISE: STAFF PHOTO; NICK LAMBERT; COURTESY OF NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL; ICE DESIGNS BY JEFF DAY; COVER PHOTO: ADOBE STOCK



# ALEXANDRE



## Lois Dodd: *Up Close & Personal*

At the top of her game with a Manhattan exhibit, Lois Dodd lets us in.

INTERVIEW BY CLIF TRAVERS

**A**t the age of 96, **Lois Dodd**, an artist known for her unconventional and often playful landscapes, will be exhibiting her newest collection, *Outside In: Recent Small Panels*, at the **Alexandre Gallery** in New York City through March 2. Dodd is taking her *plein air* perspective inside and examining the natural world through windows and doors. For most of her career, she has divided her time between her homes in Cushing; Manhattan; and Blairstown, New Jersey.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALEXANDRE GALLERY.

**Congratulations on the exhibit, Lois. How**

**many solo exhibits does this make now?**  
I've been told it's over 70, with eighteen at the Alexandre Gallery.

**There are 28 new panels in this show. All done from inside, but still *plein air*?**  
Yes, still *plein air*. I spend much time



in my barn looking out, or I paint from my second-floor window in Blairstown. Painting outdoors has changed for me, especially in the winter. And now there are so many ticks in the summer. I'd rather be painting in my barn in Cushing.

It seems as though your recent work is taking a magnifying glass to nature, such as *Seed Cone*, *Oak Leaf*, and *Birch Bark*. They still display your fascination with the geometry of nature, but you're zooming in on its tiniest wonders.

I'm not intentionally magnifying nature. I'm still just painting what I see. I think of these paintings as my still lifes. Instead of bottles and fruit, I'm painting small bits of nature that



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# ALEXANDRE

## THE ARTS

**Lois Dodd** *(continued from page 52)*

done, I packed up and started driving down the road. All of a sudden, a truck was behind me, beeping his horn frantically, so I pulled over. It was a scary situation. I had no idea what he wanted. After I'd stopped, he came up to my car, really angry, and asked what I was doing near his fence. I told him I was just painting. He didn't expect that answer, and I think it confused him a little. He'd assumed I was trying to steal his turkeys.

**Did he give you a turkey, at least?**

[Laughing] No, he did not!

**Do you consider yourself to be a Maine artist, since you spend about half the year here?**

I prefer to call myself an American artist, since I regularly paint in a few places. But you're right—Maine has been a big part of my painting life.

**Do you have a favorite restaurant that you frequent when you're in the Portland area?**

I rarely get into Portland. My house in Cushing is closer to Rockland. I like to go there for sushi at Suzuki's. It's really very good, and I love good sushi.

**Will there be an opening reception for your show at the Alexandre?**

Yes. It'll be on **Saturday, January 20, 2-4 p.m.** I'm looking forward to being back in Manhattan for a brief visit. I still have my loft there on East Second. ■

