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PRESS RELEASE
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University of Maine Museum of Art Acquires Suzy Spence painting on paper

Bangor, Me. – The University of Maine Museum of Art has acquired a painting by artist Suzy Spence. Suzy Spence's 2017 flashe painting on paper, *Death (Rider)*, was acquired by the Museum for its permanent collection, which encompasses some four thousand artworks created after 1945.



Suzy Spence, *Death (Rider)*, 2017, flashe on paper,
14 x 12 inches / 18 x 14 inches framed

The University of Maine Museum of Art's extensive permanent collection includes notable works by famed artists including Andy Warhol, Pablo Picasso, Robert Motherwell, Susan Rothenberg, and David Hockney, among others. The Museum presents between nine and eleven exhibitions per year, and is located in downtown Bangor, Maine. The newly acquired work by Spence marks one of the Museum's earliest acquisitions of 2018, and will be exhibited as part of the permanent collection in the coming months.

Spence, a Brooklyn based artist, grew up in Maine and New York. Her current body of work "Side Saddle Society" examines the traditional notion of the foxhunt through the critical lenses of a woman in today's society.

In her own words, Spence describes this piece and how it relates to her current show: "*Death Rider* was painted in Maine on a dark snowy night over New Year's 2017. In that she has a post mortem quality, maybe this Rider is less the victim of a terrible accident than a beautiful angel of death. She is one of a series of "Widows" who I dress in side saddle costume, and create from imagination. The prospect of death underlies equestrian activities, which insists on a connection to the earth, to the animal's power, and to one's own need to be emotionally present. Traditional side saddle dress requires that the equestrienne wear a black veil, but in this particular piece, I stopped short because references to death seemed already to have seeped into her countenance just by accident of paint. There is a knowing expression in my subject's eyes, and the tone of her skin almost recalls a daguerreotype; the angle of her face has a strange dimension I didn't exactly intend."

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Suzy Spence is represented by Sears-Peyton Gallery, a contemporary art gallery located in New York's Chelsea gallery district at 210 Eleventh Avenue, and in Los Angeles. Sears-Peyton Gallery's New York location is open 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information or to request further press images, please contact the gallery at info@searspeyton.com.