A16 Monday, November 27, 2023 THE EAGLE-TRIBUNE

## WEATHER

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TOMORROW

11:30 a/5:34 a

12:28 a/6:53 a

12:42 p/7:32 p

11:48 a/5:51 a

11:40 a/5:28 a

11:27 a/5:10 a

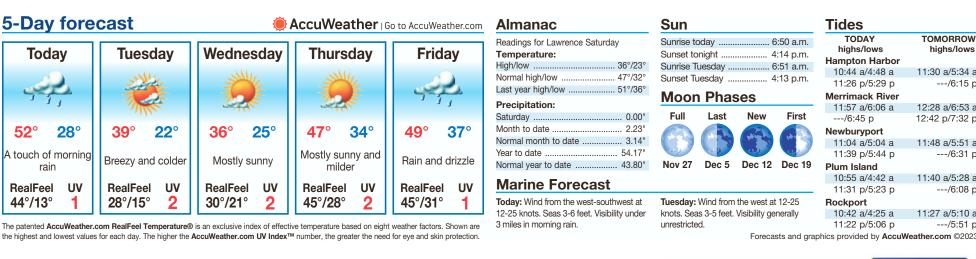
---/6:31 p

---/6:08 p

---/5:51 p

highs/lows

---/6:15 p



## entertainment **EXTRA!** TV listings now appear in the "Entertainment EXTRA!," published every Sunday



Patty Chang, "Losing Ground" 2000.

## Addison juxtaposes new and old in 'Free Association'

Winslow Homer, "The West Wind" 1891.

COURTESY

BY WILL BROADDUS wbroaddus@eagletribune.com

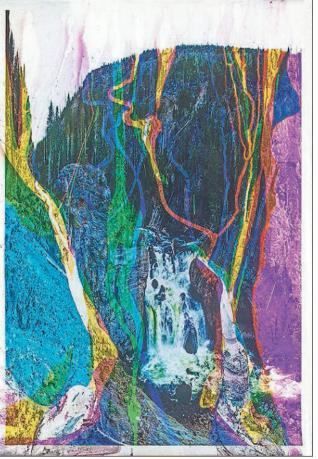
ANDOVER — "Losing Ground" is a six-minute video in which a woman tries and ultimately fails to cross a piece of ground that buckles beneath her feet.

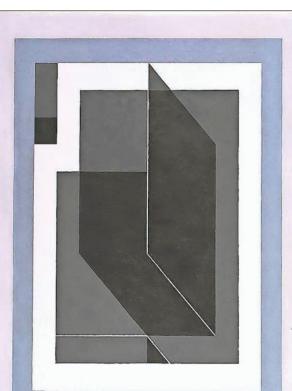
"She's walking here toward the viewer and then all hell breaks loose, and she's unable to maintain her stance," said Gordon Wilkins, Robert M. Walker Curator of American Art at the Addison Gallery of American Art. "You can see almost it's a comment on the earth fighting back against her body."

The video was created by American artist Patty Chang, whose work is "often built around very subversive or transgressive acts," Wilkins said. Chang produced the illusion of moving earth by placing sod on top of a water



Gordon Wilkins and Rachel Vogel, curators at the Addison Gallery of American Art in Andover, will give a virtual gallery talk on Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. on the exhibition, "Free Association: New Acquisitions in Context."





quality of the perception."

COURTESY

These ideas are at work in a painting at the Addison called "Bent Black (A)" from 1940, which features equal amounts of black and white, although black seems to dominate, giving the composition a dynamic quality.

In a similar fashion, a series of squares made from the same yellow hue appear differently depending on which colors surround them in Albers' paintings.

"Our perceptual apparatus as a viewer is part of what makes the work," Vogel said. "We complete the work. It doesn't stand static, it doesn't stand away from our experience of it."

These lessons of Albers get a powerful update in "Homage to the Auction Block" from 2021 by Steve Locke, a recent acquisition at the Addison.

While the composition

mattress.

When Wilkins first saw "Losing Ground," which the museum acquired in 2022, he was immediately reminded of "West Wind" by Winslow Homer, which has been part of the Addison's collection since it first opened in 1931.

"This is this woman walking along the rocks at Prouts Neck and she looks like she's about to be blown off into the water, and thinking about the forces of nature fighting against human beings," Wilkins said.

While "Losing Ground" and "West Wind" depict individual women struggling with forces of nature, they also evoke unique burdens imposed by gender.

The surprising similarities between the works, in spite of their obvious formal and stylistic differences, is why they appear across from one another as part of an exhibit, Acquisitions in Context."

"I guarantee you'll never said.

the whole second floor of the online a week later. Addison.

and then incorporating that, Director at the Gallery. figuring out how works that certain themes," Wilkins imalist art. said.

while giving a recent gallery emerge in different histori- said, and many of its innotalk at the exhibit, along with cal periods, such as the body vations are still with us in Assistant Curator Rachel and nature-where "West consumer goods that favor Vogel, which was organized Wind" and "Losing Ground" by Andover's Memorial Hall are located-and classical materials.' Library.

The pair will give a vir- ors and light. tual talk on Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m., that people can some reason," Wilkins said. exhibition in the United

COURTESY PHOTO

In the gallery dedicated to

"Free Association: New Matthew Brandt, "Fire Hole Falls 2C2M1Y2," 2014, is composed of multi-layered Duraclear prints that were processed with water from the falls they depict, then placed see a Winslow Homer next to in an LED lightbox frame. This acquisition from 2022 appears  $a\,Patty\,Chang\,anywhere\,else$  % (Mathematical Addison Gallery in the exhibitbut at the Addison," Wilkins "Free Association: New Acquistions in Context."

The show will be on dis- website, mhl.libnet.info/ what we do and we try to tell play until Feb. 11, and hangs event/8938373. This talk will stories, not so much in the 1935, after fleeing fascism. in nine galleries that occupy be recorded and then posted text that you read next to an

The show itself was curated ment of objects. "It was a show that we from the Addison's 27,000 organized organically, look- objects by Wilkins, Vogel and artists from the Bauhaus, ing at what we've acquired Allison Kemmerer, the Mary the German school for art over the past five years or so, Stripp and R. Crosby Kemper and design that was shut

The nine themes they visitors encounter works of we've acquired speak to work address are the American art that at first may seem that was already in the col- West, street photography, purely abstract. lection, so each gallery has queer modernism, Bauhaus emerged organically around artists in America, and Min- based on rethinking the

There are also galler- and function as a way to Wilkins was speaking ies devoted to themes that improve everyday life, Vogel mythology, domestic interi-

"Everything is placed for Albers, who had his first register for at the library "We have a logic behind States at the Addison in



Josef Albers, "Bent Black (A)", 1940, oil on Masonite, Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, gift of Mrs. Frederick E. Donaldson, 1944.



COURTESY PHOTO

Steve Locke, Homage to the Auction Block #88 arclight, 2021, acrylic and acrylic gouache on panel, 24 x 24 inches, Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, museum purchase, 2022.69.

"He has this theory that forward, they recede, they but it has real implications object, but through the place- color is relative and rela- have a larger presence, for how we relate to one tional and experiential," they dominate or they come another and how we fit in the Vogel said. "So we experience back into space based on the world," Vogel said.

different colors, they come about a fine painted canvas,



COURTESY PHOTO

clearly evokes works by Albers, its central square has an irregular shape that evokes the auction block mentioned in its title, suggesting a historical origin to what may have seemed a purely formal relationship.

"This foundation of what we consider the modern era really comes back to the legacy of chattel slavery in the U.S.," Vogel said. "The economic advances, globalization, really comes back to the legacy of slavery, and we can't understand modernism without reckoning with that relationship."

Locke's work is consistent with the Bauhaus approach of questioning the relation between form and function, but in this case pursues it in terms of "a conversation with the actual social circumstances of artistic production," Vogel said.

Further, Albers' notion of the relativity of perception is something that Locke experiences personally and professionally, as a Black artist.

"He's saying that this idea of the relativity of our perception is not something that's just a normal exercise