



BARBARA SULLIVAN

*Fresco Vocabulary, Domestic Scenarios,
and Small Plates*

July 1 - 31, 2026

First Friday Opening

July 3 5-7:30pm

CALDBECK GALLERY

12 Elm Street Rockland Maine 04841 (207)594-5935
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BEDROOM CORNER 2026 acrylic on mylar with shaped frescoes atop 99 x 72 inches

Fresco Vocabulary, Domestic Scenarios, and Small Plates

Barbara Sullivan makes fresco objects that reflect both the domestic and the natural world. In short, she is interested in what is around her everyday in the present, as well as natural settings that harken back to her childhood. Yet she makes what she notices about *your* life too, by depicting what she evokes through nostalgia and memory. In this way, her work is accessible, but it also makes one look in the nooks and crannies for what is inherently relevant about these familiar domestic objects that surround us. By making them still, and into effigies of themselves, they are given new life that spells “importance”, as she reverses the overlooked and the mundane.

In her fresco painting, Sullivan moves color around in the same style as she did in her oil paintings of yesteryear, yet the medium of fresco allows her to construct and also *paint* her bas-relief sculpture. Sullivan is interested in the often laborious task of making things by hand. In this way fresco is a good fit for her. It is a laborious medium and with its many steps, it is process oriented. She feels that the repetitive steps in cooking, sewing, and seeing, from an early age on, have informed her work more than anything. It is the physical flow of these actions that Sullivan truly loves and practices. They have seen her through and continue to be her open window in which to view the world.

In this exhibition Sullivan presents what she calls fresco vocabulary compilations. These are single, shaped fresco objects that are grouped together on a wall, presenting her visual vocabulary. The stand-alone pieces can be reconfigured to form a new sentence. The exhibition also showcases domestic vignettes and offers a grouping of “Small Plates”, in case you need sustenance.

Photo Credit: Jay York (individual frescoes) and Katherine Devereux (Installations)



SPINSTER CHAIR
2025
shaped fresco
44 x 19 x 6 inches



BEDSIDE LAMP ALWAYS
2026
shaped fresco
17 x 8 x 4 inches



CAMP LAMP
2026
shaped fresco
16 x 8 x 4 inches



SUMMER BREEZE #2
2026
acrylic on mylar with shaped frescoes atop
100 x 96 inches



FRANKLIN
2023
shaped fresco
24 x 27 x 4 inches



GIRL ON A LINE
1999
shaped fresco
62 x 28 x 5 inches



DOLLHOUSE

2026

acrylic on mylar with shaped frescoes atop
29 x 41 1/2 inches



WARM ROOM
2026
acrylic on mylar with shaped frescoes atop
100 x 70 inches



YELLOW AND BLUE TOWEL RACK
2026
shaped fresco
16 x 9 x 2 inches



SMALL PLATES

CLUB SANDWICH
5 x 8 x 2 inches

LEMON MERINGUE PIE
4 x 7 x 2 inches

LOBSTER ROLL ON A
CHECKED PLATE
5 1/2 x 8 x 2 inches

BUTTER & BISCUITS
4 1/2 x 8 x 2 inches

EGGROLLS
3 1/2 x 8 x 2 inches

BROWNIE & MILK
6 x 8 x 2 inches