

PRESS RELEASE

University of Maine Museum of Art

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High resolution digital images available upon request

UMAINE MUSEUM OF ART ANNOUNCES WINTER EXHIBITION

THE MOMENT: Paintings by Michael De Brito

January 13 - March 24, 2012

Contemporary realist painter Michael De Brito creates works, some canvases larger than 6 x 8 feet, that depict moments of everyday life — from beachside gatherings to kitchen scenes. In several pieces, family members and guests are comfortably situated around a dining table sharing conversation, food and drink. De Brito's grandmother, a subject of numerous paintings, is the matriarch of the family unit and master of this energetic domestic world. In *Novela* (pictured), he has sensitively rendered his grandmother through beautifully varied brushwork. He captures the quiet moment of an individual who has been laboring over household tasks and lovingly preparing food for family and friends. In these paintings the artist provides a glimpse into his Portuguese heritage. Lavishly rendered traditional food, patterned ceramics and vividly colored decorative objects surround the inhabitants. The casual environments portrayed in De Brito's paintings induce a sensory, and perhaps familiar, experience for the viewer. The sounds of layered laughter and conversations of dinner guests are fused with the aromas of sweet bread baking, sizzling meats and other sumptuous dishes.

De Brito received a BFA from the Parson School of Design in New York City and also studied at the New York Academy of Art. He is the recipient of the prestigious Pollack-Krasner Grant. De Brito's works have been exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery, London; the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh; and the Presidential Museum, Lisbon.

Admission to the Museum is FREE in 2012 thanks to Machias Savings Bank in honor of Ted Leonard.

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MICHAEL DE BRITO (American, born 1980)
Novela, 2009
Oil on canvas
52 x 64"

Courtesy of the TIA Collecton



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Free Admission for 2012 is generously provided by Machias Savings Bank in memory of Ted Leonard.