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## **Alan Caron to Talk on "Art, Conservation, and the Economy of Maine"**

(ROCKPORT)--Alan Caron of GrowSmart Maine will give a talk entitled "Art, Conservation, and the Economy of Maine" at Elan Fine Arts on Tuesday, October 23, 7 pm. This presentation will be open to the public and free of charge, although seating is limited.

Caron's talk takes place in conjunction with *Contours*, a benefit art show on display at Elan Fine Arts from October 5 through October 28. A portion of the proceeds of all *Contours* art sales will benefit Coastal Mountains Land Trust. The Land Trust and Midcoast Magnet are co-sponsors of Caron's talk. *Contours* is made possible in part by the sponsorship of Bangor Savings Bank and Scholz & Barclay Architecture.

Alan Caron is the founder, President and CEO of GrowSmart Maine, a statewide non-profit organization based in Yarmouth. GrowSmart was created in 2002 to engage people across Maine in working together for a more sustainable and prosperous future, while preserving the qualities that make the state such a special place. In October of 2006, they released a major report by the Brookings Institution which outlined how Maine is changing, the challenges and opportunities we face, and offered a 'Blueprint for Action' for growing Maine in the 21st century.

GrowSmart Maine's mission of "Protecting the Maine we love...to build the Maine we need," neatly corresponds with *Contours*. The show's concept of artists supporting the protection of the natural beauty of Maine that inspires their work underscores the importance of preserving these ecological and economic assets for the community.

Talk co-sponsor Midcoast Magnet is a non-profit organization dedicated to vibrant culture, entrepreneurship and bringing people together socially and professionally to develop innovative projects that support creativity, livability and economic sustainability in midcoast Maine. Their website is [www.midcoastmagnet.com](http://www.midcoastmagnet.com).

Elan Fine Arts is located at 86 Pascal Avenue, Rockport. More information on *Contours* may be found at [www.contours-art.com](http://www.contours-art.com) or [www.elanfinearts.com](http://www.elanfinearts.com).