

<p><i>Press Contact:</i> Matthew Swift Director, Trident Gallery 189 Main Street Gloucester MA 01930 director@tridentgallery.com 978-491-7785 TridentGallery.com / Gloucester.Center</p>	<p><i>Press Contact:</i> Ann Cortissoz Communications, Ocean Alliance 32 Horton St Gloucester MA 01930 alcortissoz@whale.org 978-281-2814 x14 whale.org / Gloucester.Center</p>
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Open House Art Installation and Gala Benefit Concert and Performance at Historic Former Paint Factory, September 2–4, 2017

GLOUCESTER MA, 22 AUGUST 2016

Partners [Ocean Alliance](#) and [Trident Gallery](#) are pleased to present *EDGE*, a three-day open house art installation and a gala benefit concert and performance at the historic Tarr and Wonson Paint Manufactory buildings on Rocky Neck in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Saturday, Sunday, and Monday (September 2–4, 2017), visitors will be welcomed at the paint factory to meet Ocean Alliance staff, tour the facilities, and experience an art installation within the industrial spaces of the former paint factory. Open House hours are Saturday and Sunday 10am–4pm and Monday 10am–2pm. The multi-media art installation, curated by Matthew Swift, Director of Trident Gallery, explores the boundary of land and ocean as both place and idea.

Saturday evening at 7:30pm, a gala party will feature a unique, site-specific staging of *Down to the Sea in Ships*, a piece for strings and narrator by composer Robert J. Bradshaw about Captain George Pollard, Jr., captain of the whaleship *Essex*, whose travails inspired the novel *Moby-Dick*. This unique staging will feature a movement score for two dancers by Trident Live Art Series Director Sarah Slifer Swift, and will be lit by lighting designer Michael Friedman.

In addition to the performance, the gala event includes delicious food and drink, the art installation, and excellent views of the the Gloucester Schooner Festival’s Parade of Lights and fireworks.

Tickets are \$100 per person, a contribution toward the continuing restoration of the paint factory complex, one of the last standing icons of Gloucester’s maritime history. Tickets and more information about *EDGE* are available at <http://Gloucester.Center> and by calling Ocean Alliance at 978-281-2814 x14.

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The Beauport Chamber Players are Luke Miller and D. Scott Hufford, Violin; Nathan Cohen, Viola; Steve Smith, Cello; Bruno Raberg, Bass; and Robert J. Bradshaw, Conductor. Matthew Swift will be the Narrator, and the dancers are Nina Brindamour and Sarah Slifer Swift.

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The former paint factory is the international headquarters of [Ocean Alliance](#), a world-renowned marine research and education organization founded in 1971. Open House visitors will see first hand Ocean Alliance's extensive project, well underway, to clean up, restore, put to use, and share with the public the iconic paint factory buildings. When completed, the facility will be a state-of-the-art oceanographic research and education center open to the public. The exterior will be restored to match its past expression, and the interior will house laboratories, offices, classrooms, workshops, a library, auditorium, and event spaces, as well as an exhibit on the history of the facility. The entire first floor will be devoted to community space for visitors and students.

Ocean Alliance is presenting *EDGE* in partnership with Trident Gallery, which shows contemporary fine art and performance in downtown Gloucester, within sight of the paint factory.

EDGE is the second annual production of [Gloucester-Center](#), a joint project of Ocean Alliance and Trident Gallery to foster creative interchange among artists, scientists, and the public through programs at the paint factory facility, a place at the center of Gloucester Harbor and of Gloucester's history of excellence in the arts and sciences.

The title *EDGE* pays homage to the book *The Edge of the Sea* (1955) by author and scientist Rachel Carson (1907–1964), whose books became cornerstones of the environmental and conservation movements. The title of the inaugural production of [Gloucester-Center](#) in 2016, *The Deep Sea Has Its Stars*, is a phrase from Carson's *The Sea Around Us* (1951).

Further information about *EDGE* and the Gloucester-Center project is online at [Gloucester.Center](#).

Ocean Alliance

[Ocean Alliance](#) is a world-renowned marine research and education organization founded in 1971 by biologist Roger Payne. In 1967, Dr. Payne and a colleague discovered that humpback whales sing songs. Dr. Payne's discovery is credited with inspiring the Save the Whales movement of the 1970s. His multi-platinum recording *Songs of the Humpback Whale* is included on the Voyager spacecraft, each now in or near interstellar space. Ocean Alliance, a 501(c)3 non-profit, collects a broad spectrum of data on whales and ocean life with a focus on pollution and toxicology and strives to increase public awareness of the importance of whale and ocean health. They are pioneers of non-invasive whale research techniques including the SnotBot drone, which is used to collect biological matter from whales without causing them stress or harm.

Trident Gallery

[Trident Gallery](#) is a fine art gallery in Gloucester, Massachusetts within sight of the paint factory. Trident Gallery presents contemporary art and performance with a multi-disciplinary, intellectual approach. Gallery Director Dr. Matthew Swift curates and produces gallery exhibitions, drawing on over twenty years of multi-disciplinary scholarship, teaching, and creative exploration. The Trident Live Art Series presents performances by professional artists showing experimental and collaborative work. Live Art Series Director Sarah Slifer Swift curates and produces the performances, drawing on two decades of experience in the United States and abroad as a dance artist, choreographer, and producer. For this event, as previously in 2016, Trident Gallery is working closely with Michael Friedman, a theatrical lighting designer with more than 25 years' experience.

Robert J. Bradshaw

Robert J. Bradshaw is an award-winning composer whose music has been heard around the world from Lincoln Center to Australia. His cutting edge steampunk opera *Deus Ex Machina* was awarded two gold medals and named one of the top ten albums of 2015 by the Global Music Awards. Bradshaw's socially conscious modern art music is inspired by historical events and influenced by his multi-cultural family including immigrants from Italy and Scotland and his maternal grandmother's Jewish family that emigrated to America from Eastern Europe at the turn of the century.

The Paint Factory

The Tarr & Wonson Paint Manufactory is a complex of buildings built about 1880 by the inventor and manufacturer of the first anti-fouling marine paints, which revolutionized maritime commerce. One of the last standing icons of Gloucester's maritime history, it is located at the tip of Rocky Neck, a neighborhood of Gloucester that is home to one of the oldest working art colonies in the United States.

Ocean Alliance purchased the factory in 2008 and began restoring the buildings and cleaning up the site, which were contaminated with the by-products of over 100 years of paint manufacturing. Ocean Alliance moved its headquarters into the first building when it was completed in 2013. Cleanup is complete on a second building and its restoration is well underway. Work will continue as funds are raised, and when completed, the former paint factory will be a state-of-the-art oceanographic research and education center open to the public. The exterior will be restored to match its past expression, and the interior will house laboratories, offices, classrooms, workshops, a library, auditorium, and event spaces, as well as an exhibit on the history of the facility. Like generations who have lived in the City of Gloucester, Ocean Alliance makes its living from the sea, and the organization intends to move forward hand-in-hand with the community. Accordingly, the entire first floor will be devoted to community space for visitors and students.

Though the cost and effort required for this plan are significant, Ocean Alliance believes that preserving this Gloucester landmark — gateway to the inner harbor and an icon of the City's maritime history — preserves an irreplaceable asset for Gloucester and New England, while providing a profound reinforcement of the organization's message of responsible stewardship of the ocean and marine life.

Ocean Alliance has produced a [panoramic visual tour](#) of the paint factory buildings and [a short video](#) explaining the history of the factory and the historical importance of its anti-fouling marine paint.

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