

QUICK HIT

Gleason Fine Art, 31 Townsend Ave. in Boothbay Harbor, celebrates the season with its annual show "Eye Catchers: Artwork for Holiday Giving." Through Jan. 2. 633-6849, gleasonfineart.com

MAINE CHRISTMAS STORY ARTFULLY REVISITED **BOOKS, E4**

AUDIENCE

NOTE TO READERS:
FIND GAMES AND TV
LISTINGS ON PAGES D7-8.

Dine Out Maine/E2
Calendar/E3
Daniel Kany/E6
Take Heart/E7
Scene & Heard/E8

Sunday, November 29, 2015

Maine Sunday Telegram

SECTION E



This image of photographer Jeffrey Becton at his studio in Deer Isle was created by exposing the camera's sensor to two separate images, one of the trees outside the studio, as well as the other of him in the window of the studio. Becton often digitally layers his own work. *Gabe Souza/Staff Photographer*

Photographed to abstraction

Jeffrey Becton's multi-layered digital montages take viewers to the edge of reality, posing questions that he asks them to answer on their own terms.

By **BOB KEYES**
Staff Writer

DEER ISLE — Before Jeffrey Becton married his wife, Hillary, they met with a minister to talk about religion and spirituality. Becton told the minister that he was not religious but had a spiritual side.

"I know," the minister told him. "I've seen your work."

That might be the best compliment Becton could receive. A photographer who plays with pixels the way a painter pushes paint, the 68-year-old makes images that demand contemplation. Whether making pictures of old New England homes luminous with the patina of generations or the steel hull of a boat scaled with rust, paint and sea life, Becton's work is ambiguous and suggestive. He layers those images with elements from other photos, imbuing his work with dreamlike mysteries. He doesn't lead the viewer to answers. He just asks the questions. "I want the viewer to finish the story," he said.

This winter, Becton is showing nearly two dozen large-scale photographic montages at Bates College Museum of Art. "The



Images courtesy of the artist

Please see **BECTON**, Page E5

"The Pilot House," 2014



IF YOU GO

WHAT: "The View Out His Window (and in His Mind's Eye): Photographs by Jeffrey Becton"
WHERE: Bates College Museum of Art, 75 Russell St., Lewiston
WHEN: 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday; through March 26
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: 786-6158, bates.edu/museum

"March Morning 2," 2012