

"Heading Out, from Portland Harbor, Maine"
48" x 32" Oil on Belgian Linen - 2013 by Stephen V Beckett

01 The raw frame and Belgian linen.



02 The back of the support after stretching the linen.



03 The front of the support after stretching the linen.



Linen shrinks when you wet it. Since there were a few slight ripples at one corner and along one side I brushed water on those edges And allowed the linen to dry. Ripples all gone with uniform tension.

04 I then gessoed the back of the canvas where it is stapled to the supports. This "glues" the linen to the support and Protects the staples from loosening.



05 Next we put three coats on the outside edges (further gluing the linen to the supports) The gesso wets the linen so when we do the main surface it gets tight as a drum! The acrylic dries pretty quickly so the canvas stays tight.



06 Now today I put on the third coat of gesso to the front, after sanding lightly with a sanding sponge. The support is ready for layout (once fully dry), then the painting can begin!!!



07 To begin we layout the positions of the major forms with graphite.



08 Next the under painting begins. Here we block out the sky.



09 Now get some color and a bit of form into the rocks to know where they are.



10 Just add water, and the horizon line on the left. These are just hints.



11 Ah - We've got buildings and a lighthouse!



12 Develop the rocks in the foreground. These are a way into the painting.



13 Develop the rocks in the bluff. This is still under painting.



14 Begin texturing the Sky



15 More texturing the sky



16 Developing sky and rocks



17 Wave shadow underpainting



18 Rocks & wave shadow



19A Under painting - waves



19B Over painting - waves



20 Rocks, touchup on buildings, lighthouse, sky, ocean horizon



21 Add deeper color, texture and contrast to sky.



22 Develop and soften new texture



23 Begin to add highlights and foam on rocks and foreground



24 Suggest lighthouse beam, more cloud highlights



25 Resize foreground clouds to create distance, balance elements with glazing and detail manipulation to push back or draw forward. Cool, loss of detail or highlight withdraw - Warm, addition of detail or highlight come forward.



26 More work on the clouds.



27 No more yellow. A clearing sky, thickly painted.



28 Add slabs of white highlights to the clouds. Preserving sense of depth.



29 My palette & pochade box...



30 Shipping!

