



Both a student and a teacher at the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture during his lifetime, Bernard “Blackie” Langlais (1921-1977) was a prolific Maine artist known for his impressionistic folk-art style and oversized sculptures made from scrap wood and found objects.

In addition to Langlais’s iconic 62-foot Skowhegan Indian sculpture—which was erected in 1969 and dedicated to “the Maine Indians, the first people to use these lands in peaceful ways”—Skowhegan currently has on view 21 other pieces, providing a rare opportunity to experience a critical mass of Langlais artworks in one area.

All of the artworks are within walking distance of each other except for the two pieces that are displayed at the Skowhegan Community Center.

Another sculpture, Mule, is on loan to Sugarloaf’s Bill & Joan Alford Competition Center in Carrabassett Valley, just over an hour away.

MainStreetSkowhegan.org/Langlais-Art-Trail

Langlais in Skowhegan

A WHIMSICAL ART WALK



Mapping *Langlais* in Skowhegan

Note: All but *Girl with Tail*, *Animal Crackers*, and *Blue Bird* were untitled by the artist. All other titles are descriptive names. Two additional sculptures, *Camel* and *Tiger*, have not been placed yet.

1. Skowhegan Free Public Library, 9 Elm St.

- Panther, 1967, reworked 1976-77, wood
- Horse, ca. 1972, lathe wood and paint
- *Blue Bird*, 1976, wood and paint on wood
- Cow and Barn, ca. 1974, wood and paint
- *Animal Crackers*, 1969, wood and paint on wood
- Skating Rink, wood on aluminum

2. Langlais Park, between High and Leavitt streets

- Skowhegan Indian, 1969, wood
- Playground Group, ca. 1972, wood (Practice piece for a commission in Kansas City, so there was—and perhaps still is—another just like this in Missouri!)

3. Somerset Grist Mill (outside), 42 Court St.

- Sitting Woman, ca. 1973, wood

4. Skowhegan Area Chamber of Commerce, 23 Commercial St.

- Bear (Unfinished), 1975-76, wood on wood
- Indian (Model), 1967, wood on concrete

5. Municipal Parking Lot, Commercial St.

- Woman on Pole, ca. 1975, wood on metal

6. Renaissance Building Passageway, 60 Water St.

- Jungle Relief, ca. 1972, wood and paint

7. Main Street Skowhegan Office, 93B Water St.

- Bull and Bear, ca. 1973, wood and paint on wood
- Four Wolves, wood and paint on wood
- Indian (on Shelf), 1967, wood, paint, metal, fabric on wood

8. Riverfront Parking Lot

- *Girl with Tail* (Mermaid) ca. 1974, wood, paint, and rope



9. Skowhegan Municipal Building, 225 Water St.

- Indian, ca. 1967-68, wood (Working model for Skowhegan Indian. Originally installed outside; moved indoors in 1978. See inventory card for information about 1978 theft.)
- Balancing Dogs (Unfinished), 1977, wood on concrete
- Playground Animal Group, 1970s, wood

10. Skowhegan Community Center, 39 Poulin Dr.

- Basketball Player, ca. 1970, wood and paint
- Football/Scrimmage, 1969-70, wood and paint on concrete



In 2010 Colby College in Waterville, Maine, received a bequest from Bernard Langlais's widow, Helen Friend Langlais, of thousands of her husband's artworks and the couple's 90-acre property in Cushing, Maine. The Wisconsin-based Kohler Foundation purchased the property, and Colby gifted the foundation nearly 3,000 Langlais artworks.

A supporter of the arts and education, Kohler placed the works with nonprofits in Maine and beyond. More than 50 organizations in more than 40 Maine communities now hold these artworks, constituting the statewide Langlais Art Trail. After Colby and the Georges River Land Trust, Skowhegan has the most Langlais sculptures in the state.