

PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Kosti Ruohomaa Collection: February 2022 Rollout

By Matt Wheeler, Digital Collections Curator



LB2017.19.5734 Winnowing blueberries, Dodge Mountain, 1942

Back on the mainland, years earlier at the beginning of his tenure with Black Star, Ruohomaa made a trip back to his childhood (and future) home on Dodge Mountain in Rockland during the annual blueberry harvest. This bare coastal hillside with its panoramic exposure to Penobscot Bay had been a wellspring of inspiration to the creative young man, whose passion for art led him to break with his farming lineage and eventually to become a photojournalist. His images of the harvest celebrate the life which shaped him: a life intertwined with land and place.

To view the new content, visit the museum's [Kosti Ruohomaa site](#).

As we near the middle of winter, Monhegan Island in Maine is also coming up on the middle of its lobstering season. Ruohomaa visited the remote plantation—destination for sightseers and artists and home to adaptable mavericks—one week in January, late in his career, to capture the harsh setting and the characters who inhabited it. Ruohomaa, an independent spirit himself, had just leveraged his talent and reputation with Black Star to renegotiate his contract, giving him latitude to devise his own assignments. The Monhegan visit was one of the first.



LB2017.19.40015 Winter storm, Monhegan Island, 1957