



FALL 2016

# Spyglass

A LOOK AT THE CAHOON MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART



## DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

### See Art Anew

I consider myself very lucky to have come on board at the Cahoon Museum of American Art at this moment in its history. It has been so exciting moving to Cape Cod not only because of its natural beauty but also because of the strong sense of place. The Cahoon Museum's unique voice and distinct character set it apart. So many visitors comment about the sensitive balance of the historic building renovation with the new addition, and this merging of old and new is reflected in the Museum's ambitious schedule of exhibitions, with a wealth of opportunities to draw on the historic breadth of the collections and to connect artistic traditions with contemporary art making.



One of the special draws of this position was joining an enthusiastic community of supporters; the Museum has long-standing dedicated volunteers, a talented staff, and a committed Board of Trustees. My thanks go out to all of those who worked hard and took the leap to enrich this cultural treasure. After an astoundingly successful re-opening season, the Museum proves it has so much to offer- from the creative spirit of Ralph and Martha Cahoon as reflected in their paintings on view and in the recreation of their studio, to the American art collection which has never looked better with more room to be displayed, and the new, simply breathtaking light-filled gallery space which is an open canvas for fresh ideas. This is a celebratory moment for the Museum and one of growth. I am looking forward to continuing to bring art to our community at the 'new' Cahoon!

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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#### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Sarah Johnson, PhD, *Director*  
Christy Laidlaw,  
*Communications and  
Membership Manager*  
Gwen Manross, *Museum Shop  
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Rosemary Rapp, *Research  
Coordinator*

#### VISITOR SERVICES STAFF

Grace Gleason, *Reception Desk  
and Gift Shop*  
Laurie Sylvia, *Reception Desk  
and Gift Shop*  
Hanna Tyser, *Reception Desk  
and Gift Shop*

Sarah Johnson, *Director*

# Coming Home Again

Works by Ralph and Martha Cahoon



## GRAND REOPENING AND COMING HOME AGAIN EXHIBIT May 8 – June 26

After many years of planning and two years offsite at a temporary location in Mashpee Commons, the Cahoon Museum celebrated with a Grand Reopening. The inaugural exhibition in the new addition was aptly titled *Coming Home Again* and featured rarely seen paintings and painted furniture by Ralph and Martha Cahoon from private collections. Curated by Cindy Nickerson, the exhibit was enjoyed by record numbers of visitors!



FROM TOP RIGHT:

Young viewer looking at *Shocking Incident on Route 28*

Stuart Rapp and Lynn Barry

Don McInnes, Cindy Nickerson and Carol McInnes

Ben Hesse, Sarah Johnson and W. Benton Jones

Jason Eldredge and his daughters





## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

# A Year to Celebrate

2016 has been a year of celebration for the Cahoon, celebrating the restoration of our historic building, the completion of our marvelous new wing, and the grand re-opening of the museum in May with the extraordinary exhibit of rarely seen works by Ralph and Martha Cahoon. Celebrating, too, the people who gave us all these causes for celebration: Carol Wilgus Giller as President of the Board of Trustees, Jason Eldredge as Chair of the Building committee, and Cindy Nickerson as curator of the opening exhibit, not to mention a wonderful group of donors who, with their contributions large and small, made the whole expansion of the museum possible.

But 2016 has also been a year of remarkable achievement. First and foremost, there is our new Director, Sarah Johnson, whose vision and leadership have launched us on the path to a new level of museumship. She has radically improved our IT infrastructure, has upgraded the security of our building, has charted the way to an exciting range of future exhibits, has overseen the ongoing restoration of the Cahoons' studio, and is guiding the museum with a sure hand as we move into the future that our new building and our new director have opened up for us.

It is not just celebration, then, but also achievement that will be the mark of 2016 in the history of the Cahoon. And I very much hope that you will participate in both the celebration and the achievement by visiting the museum often in the remaining months of 2016 to enjoy its bright, new spaces and the art they allow us to display in such a refreshing way. The year is not over yet!

Bill Babcock, *President*



AT LEFT:

Exhibit curator Maggie Van Sciver and Jon Friedman

Artist's talk with Jon Friedman

## FACE TO FACE: RECENT PORTRAIT STUDIES BY JON FRIEDMAN June 28 – August 14

Nationally renowned artist, Jon Friedman, drew large crowds to the Museum with his large-scale oil portrait renderings in an exhibit curated by Maggie Van Sciver. Jon, who divides his time between studios in Truro and New York City, gave an engaging artist's talk and shared interesting background stories on his portrait subjects and artistic practice.

“This museum to me is a treasure in our midst” – MUSEUM VISITOR

## CONTEMPORARY PASTEL: CAPE COD LANDSCAPES August 17 – October 2

## AMERICANA REVISITED FLOWER SHOW, September 13 – 15

Eighteen contemporary pastel artists displayed their vivid and beautiful artwork focused on Cape Cod landscapes from August 17 through October 2. During the exhibit, the Southeastern District of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts held its annual flower show throughout the museum's buildings. What a combination of stunning pastels and floral artistry.



AT RIGHT, CLOCKWISE:

Exhibit Reception: Leonard and Carol Carter, Bruce Wallin, Carol and David Giller

Visitors enjoying the *Americana Revisited* Flower Show and pastel exhibit

*Sweet and Low*, Barbara Stone, pastel on paper



# THOUGHTFUL GIVING, GROWING COLLECTION

## A Generous Bequest and Donation

When Robert “Dudley” Harrington, Jr., of Greenwich, CT, and Edgartown, MA, passed away last year, he left to the museum a generous bequest and a donation of two extraordinary Cahoon paintings, one by Ralph and one by Martha. Because we had no opportunity to honor Mr. Harrington before his death, we were especially pleased that his wife Clare was able to be present for the grand re-opening in May. The event incorporated grateful recognition of their gift and featured the two paintings as focal elements in the *Coming Home Again* exhibit. These wonderful paintings are currently on view in the museum’s galleries for all of our visitors to enjoy.

“Dudley grew up spending summers on Cape Cod and discovered the work of Ralph and Martha Cahoon sometime during the 1950s or 1960s. He visited them frequently at their home and admired their folk-art style and whimsical paintings. Dudley loved mermaids so Ralph’s paintings were of particular appeal to him.

Dudley introduced me to the Cahoon Museum in the mid-1990s and we would make at least one trip there every summer. I remember on one of our early visits we spotted Martha Cahoon in her yard in front of the house!

The transformation of the museum with the new addition is just wonderful! The paintings that hung in our home for so many years have now come back to their home as Dudley wished. He would be so pleased that the Cahoon Museum is thriving.”

– Clare Harrington

## Planned Giving

Make a lasting impact with your planned gift. A bequest can be a transformative tool to strengthen the future of the museum. It is a simple and generous gesture to name the Cahoon Museum in your will with a bequest of cash, securities, or other assets. In many cases, a planned gift may provide an attractive and appropriate alternative to an outright donation.

We are happy to work with you to find an approach that will suit your interests.

For more information, please contact Sarah Johnson, Director, at [sjohnson@cahoonmuseum.org](mailto:sjohnson@cahoonmuseum.org) or 508.428.7581.



Museum director, Sarah Johnson, and Clare Harrington



FROM TOP:

*Ship and Scrimshaw* by Ralph Cahoon;  
*Three Boats* by Robert Cardinal;

*Duxbury Clam Digger, Massachusetts* by Daniel Santry.

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The Cahoon Museum’s collection of fine art, folk art, and American art is growing.

**Ralph Cahoon (1910-1982)**  
Empire secretary, circa 1855; painted by Ralph Cahoon, 1944  
71 ¾ x 41 ¾ x 21 ½ inches  
Gift of Sally Haven in memory of the Carl Stark family and in honor of the Sally Stark family  
2016.01

**Ralph Cahoon (1910-1982)**  
*Ship and Scrimshaw*, 1966  
Oil on masonite  
28 ¼ x 41 ½ inches  
Gift of Clare and Robert Dudley Harrington, Jr.  
2016.02

**Martha Cahoon (1905-1999)**  
*Skating Scene*, 1966  
Oil on Masonite  
21 ¼ x 26 ¼ inches  
Gift of Clare and Robert Dudley Harrington, Jr.  
2016.03

**Three Stamps**, used for printing in Ralph Cahoon’s studio  
*Top Hat Seaman with Telescope* (Cahoon calling card); *Sail*; and *Whale*  
Gift of John and Marjorie Ferguson  
2016.04 a-c

**Robert Cardinal (b. 1936)**  
*Three Boats*, 2015  
Oil on canvas  
30 x 40 inches  
Cahoon Society purchase 2016  
2016.05

**Daniel Santry (1858-1915)**  
*Duxbury Clam Digger, Massachusetts*  
Oil on canvas  
30 1/4 x 40 1/4 inches  
Frame size: 39 x 49 inches  
Signed lower right  
Cahoon Society purchase 2016  
2016.06

## UPCOMING EXHIBITS



## BOTANICA

**October 5 – November 20**

Reception with the artists, Friday, October 7, 5:30 – 7:00pm

Art inspired by botany, horticulture and nature featuring artists from the National Association of Women Artists, Massachusetts Chapter.

A number of artists founded the National



Association of Women Artists (originally named

the Women’s Art Club) when they were barred from participating in the National Academy of Design and the Society of American Artists in 1889. NAWA has grown and changed over the decades, and many prominent artists have been members including Mary Cassatt, Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, Louise Nevelson, Alice Neel, and Dorothy Dehner. Officially created in 2013, the Massachusetts Chapter of NAWA is composed of area artists who have gone through the jury process and been invited to be members of the national organization.

## SMALL WORKS

**November 23 – December 23**

Opening Reception and Holiday Party Friday, December 2, 5:30 – 7:00pm

Small Works sales support the creative artists in our community and a portion of the proceeds benefits the museum. Get in your holiday shopping while supporting the arts!

## ADMISSION

\$10 general admission, \$8 seniors & students, free for members and children under 12

## HOURS

10-4 Tuesday-Saturday | 1-4 Sunday  
Closed Jan. through mid-March and major holidays

# LOOKING AHEAD

## 2017 – SAVE THE DATE!

### CRUISE WITH THE CAHOON

Thursday, June 1 (raindate Tuesday June 6), 6:00–8:00pm

All aboard the *Island Queen* for a fun and festive cruise in support of the Cahoon Museum!

### THE BRUSH OFF

Saturday, July 8

A day of summer fun celebrating the Cape's art and artists. This 27th annual art festival features silent and live art auctions, artists painting live on location, food and music on the Cotuit Village Green. Come experience heart-warming community spirit while benefiting the museum!

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### Membership Program

Are you a Cahoon Museum member? Would you like to join as a member and stay connected to receive updates on upcoming exhibits and events? Join today! For more information, contact Christy Laidlaw, Communications and Membership Manager, at [christy@cahoonmuseum.org](mailto:christy@cahoonmuseum.org) or join on our website: <http://cahoonmuseum.org/membership>. Stay tuned for a refreshed Membership Program in 2017 with new benefits and special access to the arts.

### Volunteer Program

Volunteering at the Cahoon Museum is a great way to learn, have fun, and contribute to the vibrant cultural life of our community. Volunteers are essential to the museum, and we are re-tooling our Volunteer Program to make sure volunteers receive excellent training and support. More to come in Spring 2017!

[cahoonmuseum.org](http://cahoonmuseum.org)

**Cahoon**  
**Museum**  
OF AMERICAN ART

PO Box 1853  
4676 Falmouth Road (Route 28)  
Cotuit, MA 02635