

CAPE ANN Museum

The Legacy of the Family-Owned Fishing Vessel: A Special Exhibition at the Cape Ann Museum

On View: June 25, 2022 through September 18, 2022



R. Harting, *Model of the "St. Nicholas"*, 1969, wood, metal, enamel paint, cordage. Collection of the Parisi Family, on loan to the Cape Ann Museum, Gloucester, MA.

GLOUCESTER, MASS. (June 2022) – In recognition of Gloucester's upcoming anniversary and to mark 400+ years of Gloucester history, the Cape Ann Museum has organized a special exhibition exploring the enduring legacy of the family-owned fishing boat. The exhibition, which will include fine art, models, and archival materials shared with the museum by over 45 families, will be on display at the Museum's downtown campus at 27 Pleasant Street from June 25 through September 18, 2022.

A call for art was put out to the community and this exhibit is that collective effort. "The community has been amazingly supportive," said Museum Director Oliver Barker, "offering some of their most cherished possessions for this exhibition." The response also included a number of important stories that were

shared with the Museum. For this area of Gloucester's history these stories highlight an interesting intersection between genealogy and the fishing industry.

Throughout history, the people of Cape Ann have been linked to the sea and to fishing. The industry has provided jobs for waves of immigrants and given rise to inventions and innovations associated with the harvesting, processing, and the distribution of fish. Fishing has also influenced the collective identity of the region. From art and literature, to music, architecture, religious and secular traditions, the fishing industry has had profound and enduring effects on the character of Cape Ann and its people.

At the core of the local commercial fishing industry is the family-owned boat. Large and small, eastern rig and western rig, steel-hulled and wooden-hulled, the varieties are endless. Tying the lot of them together is the profound sense of pride individuals and families feel in their fishing vessels. Through good times and bad, the boats are there.

Visitors will be invited to share their thoughts and remembrances of family-owned fishing boats through a story-collecting kiosk set up in the gallery and in the guest book. Stories gathered will be preserved in the Museum's archives for future generations. Fittingly, the exhibition opens on the weekend of Gloucester's annual St. Peter's Fiesta with a 3:00 to 5:00 pm reception.

On Saturday, July 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., visitors will be able to make their own fish prints in the CAM Studio, and on Sunday, July 10 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. they can join artist Patricia Scialo to learn how to use Cyanotype Sun Mural to make their own art using fishing objects as inspiration.

The Cape Ann Museum, founded in 1875, exists to preserve and celebrate the history and culture of the area and to keep it relevant to today's audiences. Spanning 44,000 square feet, the Museum is one of the major cultural institutions on Boston's North Shore welcoming more than 25,000 local, national, and international visitors each year to its exhibitions and programs. In addition to fine art, the Museum's collections include decorative art, textiles, artifacts from the maritime and granite industries, three historic homes, a Library & Archives and a sculpture park in the heart of downtown Gloucester. In Summer 2021, the Museum opened the 12,000 square foot Janet & William Ellery James Center at the [Cape Ann Museum Green](#). The campus also includes three historic buildings – the White-Ellery House (1710), the recently acquired Babson-Alling House (c.1740), and an adjacent Barn (c. 1740), all located on the site at the intersection of Washington and Poplar Streets in Gloucester. CAM Green will re-open on June 11 for the summer.

The Cape Ann Museum is located at 27 Pleasant Street in Gloucester and is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$15.00 adults, \$12.00 Cape Ann residents, seniors, and students. Youth (18 and under) and Museum members are free. Cape Ann residents can visit for free on the second Saturday of each month. For more information please call (978)283-0455 x110 or visit www.capeannmuseum.org.

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