

CAPE ANN Museum

***Window on the Marsh* to showcase paintings and photographs highlighting the Great Marsh**

Exhibit on display from September 18, 2021 through March 30, 2022



Martha Hale Harvey (1863-1949), *Clammers in the Great Marsh behind Wingaersheek Beach*, c. 1890s.
Collection of the Cape Ann Museum Library & Archives, Gloucester, MA. Printed by Anne Rearick (2021).

GLOUCESTER, Mass. (August 2021) – As part of a community-wide initiative celebrating the beauty and ecological importance of the Great Marsh, the Cape Ann Museum will present a spotlight exhibition of work of painters Martin Johnson Heade and Fitz Henry Lane, and photographer Martha Hale Harvey. *Window on the Marsh* will open on September 18 and remain on view through March 30, 2022. Working over a century ago in different mediums, at different times and with differing approaches, each artist captured the timeless beauty of the Great Marsh in artwork that continues to inspire viewers today.

“This second rotation in the new project space created as part of the Museum’s refurbished Lane gallery, provides a unique opportunity to pair three visionary artists as well as work with a renowned contemporary photographer who has brought new attention to the accomplishments of Martha Hale Havey” said Oliver Barker, Museum Director. “Thanks to the generosity of a private lender, we are

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delighted to bring to Cape Ann this important juxtaposition of these artists and their focus on the Great Marsh.”

For nearly 45 years, Martin Johnson Heade (1819-1904), one of our nation’s most prolific and well-known painters of the 19th century, focused his artistic skills on capturing the beauty of New England’s salt marshes. Two paintings from that series, *Sunny Day on the Marsh (Newburyport Meadows)* (c. 1871-75) and *Sunset on the Marshes* (1867), both on loan from a private collection, will be on display at the Cape Ann Museum as part of *Window on the Marsh*. Small, powerful paintings, the pair showcases Heade’s expertise at capturing the magnificence of the Great Marsh as light and atmosphere change during the course of the day and storms roll in off the Atlantic Ocean.

Fitz Henry Lane (1804-1865) is known primarily as a marine painter, however, two of his most successful canvases are pure landscapes and include views of the marshes of Cape Ann: *Babson and Ellery Houses, Gloucester*, and *The Babson Meadows at Riverdale*. Both done in 1863, the paintings depict the Babson family homestead, located at Gloucester’s historic Town Green. For generations, the property was one of a handful of saltwater farms on Cape Ann, a family-driven venture, with its toes touching the salty waters of the Annisquam River, that produced dairy products, hay (both salt marsh and English hay) and vegetables.

Photographers as well as painters have found inspiration in the Great Marsh and *Window on the Marsh* will include pictures taken by Martha Hale Harvey (1863-1949), one of Cape Ann’s earliest and more accomplished female photographers. Harvey worked with glass plate negatives and often shared her images, including those of area marshes, with her husband, George, who was a painter. For this special exhibition, display prints are being made by noted photographer Anne Rearick in the darkroom, using Harvey’s original glass plates negatives. A long-time Gloucester resident, Rearick is the recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship in photography and has worked around the world.

The exhibit will include two works by Heade, two by Lane and four by Harvey, and will have supplemental educational programming focusing on the marsh including a panel discussion to be held on September 18 at 1:00 p.m. – **The Cultural and Environmental Significance of the Great Marsh**. The Great Marsh was a creative catalyst for renowned American artists Fitz Henry Lane (1804-1865) and Martin Johnson Heade (1819-1904). This panel discussion, presented on the first day of a special spotlight exhibit of work by Lane and Heade, will explore the Great Marsh’s cultural and environmental significance.

For more information about the exhibit and other events happening at the Cape Ann Museum, visit www.capeannmuseum.org.

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,

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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 is open Thursday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 pm.

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 \$12.00 adults, \$10.00 Cape Ann residents, seniors and students. Youth (under 18) 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.

For a detailed media fact sheet please visit www.capeannmuseum.org/press.

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