

NEW WORKS FROM

“For The Love of Vermont: The Lyman Orton Collection”



MHS is deeply honored to present Lyman Orton’s “For the Love of Vermont” exhibition this summer in partnership with the Manchester Community Library. The show runs from June 14-September 7 and includes 70 artworks that were not included in last summer’s very popular exhibition at the Southern Vermont Arts Center.

Orton has spent almost half a century collecting artwork depicting the people and the landscapes of Vermont. The artists include Vermont painters as well as the many artists who flocked to Vermont in the early 20th century and later to find a peaceful and cool environment to work among fellow artists during the summer months.

Orton sees his mission as “repatriating” Vermont art to its original place. He has amassed



a spectacular collection of works depicting what Vermont was like in the last century. As an insight into the activities and the places of long-ago Vermont, they give us an historic perspective as well as aesthetic pleasure. They show us how ways of life have changed, and landscapes have been altered by nature filling in the once wide-open fields. These are perspectives that are gone forever, but fortunately captured by many talented artists.

MHS Curator Shawn Harrington was instrumental in making the selections from the Orton Collection for this exhibit with For the Love of Vermont Collection Curator Donnel Barnum. “It was an extraordinary opportunity to be involved with the exhibitions of the Orton Collection last summer,”

FOR THE LOVE OF VERMONT

(continued)

said Harrington. “To partner with the library this year, with many new pieces that Lyman has acquired since last summer, coupled with works that haven’t been publicly displayed here in Manchester, brings everything full circle. I am looking forward to hosting talks at the library this summer, making those connections between the artists, their lives here, and their legacy. We’ll take a look at how some of those scenes appear today ... scenes that have stayed the same and what has changed.”

The paintings are divided into subject areas and the effect of this arrangement is to give the viewer a deeper understanding and appreciation for stylistic differences. The common theme allows us to comprehend more deeply the scenes depicted as the renditions of each artist seem to reflect upon one another. We see Farms and Barns, Agricultural Fairs, Outdoor Country Auctions, Covered Bridges, Logging and Quarries and Sugaring.

Many of the artists represented were members of the Southern Vermont Artists Association, which was formed by artists working in Manchester and Dorset in 1933.

Edwin B. Child exhibited one of his landscape paintings in a one-week show sponsored by Burr and Burton in 1919. On display are two of his paintings done in Dorset: “Netop” and “Freedley Quarry, Dorset,” which is a magnificently dramatic depiction of the moment the marble is blasted out of the ground.

Also on display are two works by Claude Dern of the Nichols Farm in Dorset, which was across the street from where he lived and still exists today though much altered.

Arthur Jones was a self-taught artist who never left Vermont. His works became very popular and were highly prized by collectors. His painting table and brushes are now part of the MHS collection.

Do plan to visit the exhibit this summer. You will find it very approachable. When you go, don’t miss the sign next to the elevator. Judge Edgerton, a prosperous Manchester lawyer and businessman, had this bold but elegant sign made c. 1915 to advertise his real estate business to visitors entering Manchester from the south. This was long before the state passed a law against signage along Vermont roadways.

The Manchester Community Library is located at 138 Cemetery Avenue in Manchester, Vermont. The exhibit can be seen during regular library hours and admission is free. Please go to mclvt.org

You can learn more about Lyman Orton’s collection at fortheloveofvermont.org



Accepting awards are Mike diMonda; Wendy and Joe Gawlik for Helen Gawlik, who could not be us that day; Jen Shaw for Louise Hughes; and Flo Ewasko.

2023 Exceptional Service Awards

On Tuesday, May 7, we gathered at The Equinox to celebrate four incredibly generous members of the MHS “Friday Irregulars.” We cannot begin to thank them enough for their significant contributions to the processing of our collection.

Helen Gawlik joined us in 2016. Since then Helen has been carefully cataloguing hundreds, probably thousands, of items in the collection. With great patience and beautiful handwriting, Helen has painstakingly described the documents, photographs, and artifacts in preparation for their being entered into the Past Perfect software. “I have been a volunteer for the last eight years and have enjoyed every moment of it,” she said. “My experiences have run the gamut from reading heartbreaking Civil War letters to cataloging the paint brushes used by Luigi Luccioni. The best part is meeting all the people who drop in seeking their family histories or to donate items. Every Friday brings a new adventure!”

Flo Ewasko joined the Friday group in 2019. Her experience working in administration meant she had exactly the skills needed to enter the information on each item into the PastPerfect database. “Working with the past gives us a glimpse of the strength and tenacity of the people that make Manchester a wonderful part of Vermont,” she told us. “Future generations will enjoy the history.”

Mike diMonda has been a member of the MHS Board of Directors since 2015. He has gone through hundreds of photographs given to MHS when the Manchester Journal closed its office. He has been patiently sorting, identifying, and boxing up these irreplaceable memories of people and places in Manchester’s recent past.

Louise Hughes joined us as a volunteer in 2018. Louise was an expert at deciphering the handwriting in old letters and documents and she transcribed many important and interesting items in the collection, giving us access to their contents we otherwise would have not so easily had available. We are so grateful that she gave us so many hours as a volunteer in the last years of her life. Louise died in 2021.

The Manchester Historical Society, located in the lower level of the Manchester Community Library, is open Fridays 1-3 pm and by appointment.

IN MEMORIAM

Sally Treat

1938-2024

Sally was a devoted supporter of MHS and was a member of the Board of Directors for several years. In addition to her interest in Manchester history, Sally was an active member of the Manchester community, serving on the Manchester Selectboard and the Manchester Transportation Initiative. She was a graduate of Syracuse University. After raising her children, she worked with her husband of 62 years, Dr. Robert Treat, at Green Mountain Veterinary Hospital.

Joan Shaw

1924-2024

After graduating from Middlebury College, Joan moved back home to Brooklyn. She soon found that she missed Vermont and returned to work first in Stowe and then in Manchester with attorney James Campbell. In 1955 she married Doug Shaw, whose family had lived in Manchester for several generations. Together they raised their five children here while Doug ran the family insurance business and Joan found innumerable ways to help out in the community. In the 1960s Joan was Secretary Pro-Tem of MHS and remained a lifelong supporter.

Roby Harrington III

1929-2024

Roby was a friend, mentor, and generous supporter of MHS for many years. A graduate of Princeton University, he served in the Marine Corps during the Korean War and had a long and distinguished career in advertising in New York City. He and his late wife Whit retired to Manchester where he offered his time and experience to many local non-profits. His generosity to the Manchester community was exceptional.

You can always find more interesting history and up-to-the-minute MHS happenings on social media. Ask us a question about local history and we'll do our best to find an answer.



Find us on
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@MHSVermont

Because of Your Generosity...

We were able this year to upgrade our website. We hope you will find it easy to navigate and interesting to browse. You will find information about our latest news, events, publications, and more. Our thanks to JEG Design for a great new look.



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, September 22, noon-2 pm

Our Victorian-Era Picnic Returns to Dellwood

You are cordially invited to attend *A Victorian-Era* picnic to be held at Manchester's historic Dellwood Cemetery.

MHS Curator Shawn Harrington will walk us through a section of the cemetery and describe the lives of some former Manchester residents. Afterward please relax with friends for an old-fashioned picnic under the trees. Costumes are encouraged though not required.



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On May 30 MHS Curator Shawn Harrington delivered a very popular talk on Manchester's old maps in collaboration with Green Mountain Academy for Lifelong Learning. Over 90 attended the event at the Manchester Community Library and many more participated online. MHS is truly grateful to Gloria Palmer and the board of GMALL for this important partnership.



On May 28, Vermont Folklife and the Manchester Historical Society, in collaboration with Green Mountain Academy for Lifelong Learning, hosted a Listening Party at the Manchester Community Library. Vermont Folklife Listening Parties bring people together to share the experience of listening deeply. The audience heard about maple sugaring with horses, a fiddle tune at a Franco-American music jam, the strains of a Burmese lullaby, and the many generations of shopkeepers at the H.N. Williams store in Dorset. The following day community members joined us to learn how to record their own interviews at our Introduction to Oral History workshop, held at Burr and Burton Academy.

The mission of the Manchester Historical Society is to collect, preserve, interpret and present the story of Manchester through the research collection, exhibitions, programs, and publications.

Thank you to our 2023-2024 CORPORATE SPONSORS for their interest in Manchester's history and their generous support.

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