



# Spyglass

A QUARTERLY LOOK AT THE CAHOON MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART • HOLIDAYS 2009

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## EXHIBITIONS

### GIFTS FROM THE GIFTED

Capping off the Cahoon Museum's 25th anniversary year, the invitational exhibition "Twenty-Five for Twenty-Five" will feature two works by each of 25 distinguished Cape artists. And from there, it just gets better.

The show is subtitled "Artists Salute the Cahoon Museum of American Art" because — in a display of extraordinary generosity — virtually all of the participants are donating one of their two pieces to the museum. "It's a nice gesture on the artists' part to support the arts themselves," said North Falmouth artist **Kevin King**.

We think it's very nice — and salute these talented artists right back! All were invited by former museum director Dr. Robert Gambone, who primarily drew upon the ranks of those who have previously shown at the Cahoon. Twenty-one are painters. In addition to King, they include **Vincent Amicosante, Anne Boucher, Karen Buckley, Naomi Cohan, Arnold Desmarais, John Dowd, Kimberly Ann duCharme, Rick Fleury, Thomas B. Higham, Marieluise Hutchinson, Jane Lincoln, Carl Lopes, Kate Nelson, Carol Odell, Adam Rhude, Doug Ritter, Robert Roark, Nancy Rubens, Phill Thompson** and **Christie Velesig**. The other participants are ceramists **Hollis Engley, Ron Geering** and **Ramona Peters** and photographer **Bill Hamlin**. Their gifts will be a tremendous boon to the museum, adding a substantial body of excellent contemporary work to its permanent collection.

The artists' Cape connection and the high quality of their work are the common denominators. Otherwise, they represent a great diversity of styles, ranging from startling realism to thoroughgoing abstraction. Generally, they

*Continued on next page*



Kimberly Ann duCharme, **Fresh Fish**, pastel on paper

## COMING SOON ...

**Twenty-Five for Twenty-Five:  
Artists Salute the Cahoon  
Museum of American Art  
November 10 – December 30**

*Museum Members' Reception:  
5 to 7 p.m. Friday, November 13*

*Docent tours: by appointment*

## EXHIBITIONS

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Kevin King, **Holy Mackerel XVI**, oil and mackerel ash on panel

## Gifts

*Continued from page 1*

selected works typical of their style, which — from a museum’s standpoint — is highly desirable. To give just a few examples:

- Kevin King chose “Holy Mackerel XVI” from a series combining images of the fish with abstract elements. Years ago, he worked with a marine biologist who used mackerel to catch sharks. “Mackerel were always around, and I got fascinated with the fish itself,” he said.

- Wellfleet artist Vincent Amicosante’s Italian heritage and magic realist style come together in “Playing in the Road,” a painting of a winery in the Provincia de Chianti. The title alludes to an accordion,

mysteriously set in the road, where it leans against a pot of geraniums.

- Rick Fleury of North Eastham — known for minimalistic landscapes with expansive skies — selected “Autumn Shadows,” a 40-inch-wide canvas capturing Fox Island Marsh. He refers to the location as “my haystacks,” because — like the French Impressionist Monet — he has painted the subject many times in varying conditions of light and weather.

- In choosing her gift, Marieluise Hutchinson of Yarmouthport decided upon a recent painting of a Maine farmhouse with architectural angles that create interesting areas of light and shadow. “I describe my work as ‘traditional, realist, rural New England,’ so the painting I am donating to the Cahoon Museum represents just that,” she said.

## CAPE ARTISTS’ GALLERY

Our Cape Artists’ Gallery is a small space reserved for one artist’s work per month.

During November, **Joan Augustino** of Marstons Mills is showing her primitive paintings. Her scenes are set in both the past and present, with the occasional



Ronald J. Tinney, **August View**, oil on canvas

mermaid thrown in for good measure. Augustino is a docent at the museum and this year’s *Great Brush Off!* publicity featured one of her paintings.

In December, the gallery will be devoted to the oils of **Ronald J. Tinney**, who has focused on marine and landscape painting since moving to the Cape in 1996. He works outdoors on location year-round, but also does many paintings at his studio in West Barnstable. He is a past president and director of Cape Cod Art Association and a Signature Member of the American Society of Marine Artists.

Most works exhibited in the gallery are available for purchase. A portion of the sales benefits the museum.

## Tuesday Talks

*All talks start at 11 a.m. and are included in the price of admission to the museum.*

**November 17:** Ramona Peters will speak on “Wampanoag Forms in Clay,” covering everything from the composition of the clay to tribal symbolism.

**December 1:** Rick Fleury will present “The Essence of the Landscape.” The artist excels at reducing landscapes to their essence.

**December 8:** Jane Lincoln will present “Color Conversations,” a talk on her series of white-line woodcuts.

- For a number of years, Jane Lincoln of East Falmouth has been exploring color relationships through blocks of color in white-line woodblock prints. She envisions one particular series, her “Color Conversations,” as “two colors talking to each other.” For this exhibition, she has created two pieces using the barn red of the museum’s exterior and silver, in honor of its silver anniversary.

Once “Twenty-Five for Twenty-Five” is over, the remarkable thing is that half the pieces will remain at the Cahoon Museum. So the exhibition will be merely an introduction to artworks likely to become favorite old friends.



Joan Augustino, **CatNap**, acrylic on board

# Silver Anniversary Party Sparkles Plenty



HONORARY CHAIRWOMAN FRANCESCA CARRIUOLO, center, with CO-CHAIRS SUE HAMILTON, left, and KAREN PINARD

The Cahoon Museum of American Art's **25th Anniversary Gala** had all the makings of a perfect evening. Held on August 14, it featured breathtaking views of Nantucket Sound from the sprawling lawn of Suzie Reid's Ocean View Avenue home in Cotuit; a gleaming white tent decorated with white flowers and green palms; champagne passed on silver trays; elegant food circulated by a crisp and efficient waitstaff; Cotuit oysters on a bed of ice; and the soft breezes of summer off the sparkling ocean.

Honorary chairwoman Francesca Carriuolo and co-chairs Sue Hamilton



CAROL McINNES and DICK HAMILTON

and Karen Pinard, along with a very hard-working committee, welcomed 160 people who came to celebrate the museum's 25th anniversary. The evening started with a cocktail party which included a silent auction and a live auction led by Jack Connors and Bob Morrissey, who held forth with hilarious repartee. Among the offerings donated for the auction were a stay at a private villa in Monaco by Tom Conner; Red Sox tickets for a field box at Fenway Park by Bruce Rodman; a three-bedroom villa in the dunes outside Charleston, South Carolina, by Sue Schlott; a case of premium wine from France by Lydia and Jack Smith; a stunning necklace and earring set from DePrisco Jewelers; and the list goes on.

Following the auction, participants attended private dinner parties held at ten homes in Cotuit. The surprise of the evening? Two musicians from the Rolling Stones, dressed as troubadours, dropped in to serenade some of the dinner parties while the guests clapped, sang and danced. All of this really happened in little, not-so-sleepy Cotuit this summer. The result: a stunning \$194,000 raised for the museum!



SUZIE REID and SUE SCHLOTT



BOB and ALYCE MORRISSEY

## Steering to Avert a Rocky Shore

It has happened to others many times before. Just when all seems right with the world, when the ship is gliding along on a misty night, the wind and a moderate swell running behind. The crew is ready to reach safe harbor, ready for home. But what is that ahead? The roar of breakers? And now, looming up through the gloom, a rocky shore!

Nothing will answer but quick action. "Helm alee!" Swing this ship around. Claw back upwind to safe water and, with more care, replot your course to that safe harbor.

Well, we here at the museum are safe on dry land, but still we have just done a "helm alee" of sorts. Our rocky shore turned out to be an overly ambitious plan for the addition to the museum. We have watched the plan grow and mature over the last year only to come to the realization that its cost would exceed our resources by a good margin.

Now the good news is that no great harm has been done. It is true that our expense for architectural services will be somewhat more than would otherwise have been the case, but having said that, we will consider it a "lesson learned" and move on. The experience gained in this first effort will make our final version all the better. Our Building Committee will go back to work with the architects to produce an affordable plan. We expect that the results will be highly successful.

Other aspects of our project are proceeding well. Aside from the addition itself, the project encompasses improvements to the existing building, easier driveway access from Route 28 to a new parking lot, upgraded utility lines, a new septic system, storm water drainage, landscaping and more. Our site planning has made good progress and has been accepted by the Town of Barnstable.

As Cahoon Museum members, you will want to know where we stand on our fund-raising campaign for this project. A silent phase of the campaign has been under way for about one year. The campaign goal is \$2.3 million, of which we now have \$1.1 million in donations and pledges, including the \$400,000 grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Much as expected, we are finding that this is a slow and steady business which can't be rushed. With good fortune, we may be able to fulfill the campaign during 2010.

Our \$2.3 million goal covers the estimated cost of the project, an allotment toward endowment and a modest amount towards campaign expenses. Now, with a better foundation for planning and a renewed sense of confidence, we are back on course, heading for what will be a wonderful improvement for our Cahoon Museum.

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## RALPH AND MARTHA CAHOON SOCIETY

### Evening Begins and Ends with a Sunset

The seventh annual **Cahoon Society Dinner** began with society members admiring a breathtaking sunset from the patio of the Oyster Harbors Club in Osterville. It ended with them voting to buy a wilderness scene with a glorious sunset for the museum's permanent collection.

Painted by New York artist **Homer Dodge Martin** in 1866, "Running Brook in the Adirondacks" was the winner among three landscapes offered for the society's consideration. A yard wide and magnificently framed, the painting is representative of Martin's early period, when he was heavily influenced by the Hudson River School, with its romantic view of America's natural beauty. The setting is the Adirondack Mountains — his favorite



Homer Dodge Martin, **Running Brook in the Adirondacks**, 1866, oil on canvas

stomping grounds as an artist — and reflects his preference for scenes of untamed nature and subtle, poetic lighting. The rushing brook, the rosy sky and the blasted tree are all typical elements of Hudson River School paintings.

Martin was close friends with such notable artists as John Frederick Kensett and John LaFarge. He was elected to the National Academy in 1874 and was a founding member of

the Society of American Artists. He is represented in such major collections as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and the Art Institute of Chicago. The Cahoon Museum is delighted to strengthen its own choice collection of nineteenth-century American landscapes through the purchase of his painting.

Membership in the Cahoon Society is \$1,500 annually. Of this, \$1,000 helps fund museum operations. The remaining \$500 of each donation is pooled for the purchase of a new acquisition. While the museum's director/curator generally narrows the field to three pieces, society members make the final selection. Thanks to their generosity, the museum has — to date — acquired seven exceptional artworks in this manner.

# Writing the Cahoon Book a Privilege

"I'm baaack," as they say — back to serve as interim director while the board of trustees searches for a replacement for Dr. Robert Gambone, who replaced me two years ago. This is a surprising development in my life. But I'm excited to be working at the Cahoon Museum again, and I've been touched by everyone who's given me such a warm welcome back. Thank you — the feeling is indeed mutual.

My tenure as director/curator ended in March 2007. I continued to be involved with the museum well into 2008 as a designer and curator, however, even as I began working on a book about Ralph and Martha Cahoon. For the past year, writing the book for the museum has been my sole occupation.

When I tell people I'm writing a book, they sometimes comment, "That must be fun!" And, yes, it certainly is — especially if you enjoy feeling like your brain is going to explode. But whoever said the most rewarding things in life are going to be easy? Though I'm an experienced writer — having worked as a journalist for many years — I've never been a fast writer. On even the most productive day, I might type only a page or two. Still, the pages have a way of adding up, and I'm now far along on Chapter Six. That's out of seven, total. After that — in a case of the first being last — I'll also need to write the introduction.

I feel privileged to be the person who's first getting to tell the Cahoons' story in such depth. My most important source has been Franz Cahoon, the artists' son. In addition to sitting still for several interviews, he's responded to innumerable e-mail questions and read each of the completed chapters. I was also fortunate enough to be able to talk to Martha's brother, Eric Farham, and Ralph's sister, Alice Atwood, before they passed on. In addition, the museum has given me access to abundant source materials, including Martha's diaries, Ralph's ledgers and several folders of correspondence. Especially valuable has



Ralph Cahoon's **Tossed in a Blanket** was in a major show of the Cahoons' work at Vose Galleries in Boston in 1960. When you see sailors in striped trousers in one of his paintings, it's highly likely the piece dates from around this time.

been the catalogue *raisonne* of the Cahoons' work, which museum founder Rosemary Rapp has been compiling since the early days of the museum. Rosemary has also been a great help with research.

The book's working title is "**Chasing the Mermaids: The Lives and Art of Ralph and Martha Cahoon.**" Ralph, whose ancestors included many whalers and fishermen, has been quoted as saying, "I like to think that, in all their grim trade, they chased the mermaid from time to time." I like the title because the Cahoons — after working hard as furniture decorators and antique dealers for many years — were finally able to chase the mermaids both figuratively and literally through their fanciful paintings.

Ralph was born in 1910, so next year will be the centennial of his birth. It's doubtful the book can be published in time, but we'll observe the milestone by mounting the first Cahoon exhibition in several years. The show will focus on

the development of Ralph's paintings. Though clearly reflecting his touch, his earliest works were crude in comparison to the polished pieces he painted in his mature style. Perhaps more than anything, Ralph's ability to tell a story or make a joke in his paintings improved steadily over time, until he was quite the master of the art.

Although this museum was named in his honor — and although the popularity of his paintings has never waned (as evidenced by auction prices) — surprisingly little has been made of the fact that Ralph Cahoon was the most famous native artist the Cape has ever produced. As a modest man, he was really rather shy about such recognition. Still, the hundredth anniversary of his birth is quite a momentous occasion — and a fitting time to make sure he receives full due.

*Cindy Nickerson is the museum's interim director.*

# Holiday Gift Ideas from the Cove



Harwich folk artist **Virginia Pena** donated three wonderful breadboards decorated in the style of Provincetown artist Peter Hunt. Two have mermaids, the other an angel. All are signed and dated on the back and are priced at \$85.



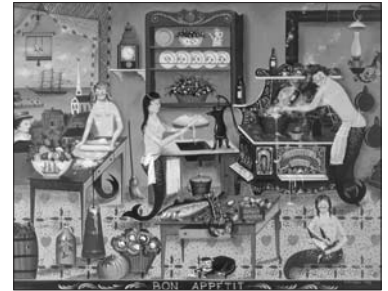
From **Flying Pig Pottery**, **Tessa Morgan's** stoneware is adorned with whimsical images of such creatures as mermaids, flying pigs, cats and turtles in a technique known as sgraffito. Prices of the stoneware range from \$20 to \$150.



**Jobi Pottery** began in Truro in 1951. It's a cottage industry with designs, shapes and methods still original to the Fifties and Sixties. Each piece is individually hand-crafted, then painted freehand with food-safe glazes. The joyful colors and whimsical minnow designs will brighten any home. Assorted pieces range from \$22 (for a small sauce dish) to \$39 (for a butter dish).

Stop by the Mermaids Cove Gift Shop during museum hours:  
10–4 Tuesday–Saturday and  
1–4 on Sunday for other great holiday gift ideas!

*Photos by William Dickson*



With its mermaid representing Julia Child, prints of **Ralph Cahoon's** "Bon Appetit" are always popular. But we have a few that are extra special, having been autographed by the great chef herself. Buy one framed and matted for your favorite cook for \$475.



**Ralph Cahoon's** mermaids frolic through the summer, fall, winter and spring on four different ceramic coffee mugs. Collect them all for \$7.50 each.

## MEMBERSHIP

Many thanks to these new and renewing members! This list reflects memberships received from March 16 through October 15, 2009. An asterisk indicates membership in the Ralph and Martha Cahoon Society.

- |                                 |  |                                  |                              |                                  |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Jack Ahlin                      | Anne Boynton & Martin Halper           | William & Sheila Dickson         | Mr. & Mrs. Charles Gachot    | Peter Hickman                    |
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# WINTER ART CLASSES

## Paint Your House

**Dates:** January 11–13 (Mon–Wed)  
**Times:** 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Cahoon Museum  
**Fees:** \$100 members  
 \$120 non-members  
 plus \$45 material fee

Nationally recognized folk artist Janet Munro will guide you in painting a portrait of your home — or another favorite building — in an appealing folk art style. In addition to leaving the final class with a finished house portrait, you can expect to learn a great deal about mixing and using colors, balancing a composition and applying finishing details. All materials will be provided.



Still have questions regarding one of our art classes or need help with registration? Just give us a call at 508-428-7581 and we will be happy to assist you.

## The Illuminated Letter

**Dates:** January 14, 15 (Thurs–Fri)  
**Times:** 9:00 a.m. to noon  
**Location:** Cahoon Museum  
**Fees:** \$50 members  
 \$60 non-members  
 plus \$8 material fee



Alison McMurry is a professional calligrapher with many years of experience. She'll provide a brief introduction to the rich history of illumination (the embellishment of the written word) from ancient manuscripts to contemporary examples. She'll then take you through all the steps of designing your own illuminated initial. Students who've previously taken the class can learn to do trailing designs. Illuminated letters can add a beautiful touch to stationery, Christmas cards and signs. They might make an effective logo or be used to embellish a journal. All materials will be provided.

## Registration for Winter Art Classes

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Please enroll me in the following class:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Check Enclosed  Visa  M/C  Amex

Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to *Cahoon Museum of American Art.*

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**Bronze Level**  
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**NEW TRUSTEE**

# Introducing Jennifer Reilly



JENNIFER EPLETT REILLY

The Cahoon trustees are pleased to welcome **Jennifer Eplett Reilly** as the newest member of the museum's board. She is originally from Boston, but now resides with her husband, Sean Reilly, and three young children in Louisiana and Cotuit.

She has been engaged in social entrepreneurship for 20 years as a co-founder of City Year, Inc.; the founding executive director and president of Echoing Green Foundation; a consultant with the Commission on National and Community Service; and a leader of public-private partnerships in Louisiana. She serves on the boards of City Year, Episcopal High School, Education's Next Horizon and the Louisiana Cultural Economy Foundation.

Jennifer received her B.A. from Wellesley College and her M.B.A. from Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.



## Cahoon Museum OF AMERICAN ART

4676 Falmouth Road • P.O. Box 1853  
Cotuit, MA 02635

Hours: 10–4 Tuesday–Saturday, 1–4 Sunday

Closed in January

Phone: (508) 428-7581

Fax: (508) 420-3709

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

e-mail: [cmaa@cahoonmuseum.org](mailto:cmaa@cahoonmuseum.org)

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