CAM (Re)Connects celebrates community’s resiliency during pandemic by looking back at other pivotal times in history

New exhibition opens Nov. 27 at Cape Ann Museum

GLOUCESTER, MASS. (Nov. 24, 2020) – When the Cape Ann Museum shut its doors in March along with museums all over the world in response to the COVID 19 pandemic, CAM staff began to pursue several initiatives to buoy community spirit and to remain connected to members and supporters with expanded virtual programming and other innovative initiatives.

CAM (Re)Connects is a new exhibition, opening Friday, Nov. 27, that showcases many of the objects and works of art spotlighted in the Museum’s virtual outreach shared over the past six months as part of its CAM Connects series. The exhibition covers a range of locally-significant subjects including St. Peter’s Fiesta, the fishing industry, granite quarrying, food of the region, local traditions, printmaking, and Cape Ann writers, artists and musicians, underscoring the versatility of the Museum’s collection as well as the rich and varied story of the Cape Ann region.

“This challenging time in our history gave us an opportunity to take stock of our collection, the generosity of our community, and the spirit that it takes for all of us to endure during the pandemic,” said Museum Director Oliver Barker. “We put together this exhibition to tell that story, not only for this time in history but for many other times, where community perseverance saw us through. The banner on the front of the museum reminds us that “Storms Rage; Gloucester Endures.”

Fitz Henry Lane (1804-1865), Vessel Returning from Surinam, c. 1850s. Oil on canvas. Private Collection, Cape Ann Museum Board Member.
Several works of art are integrated into the exhibition including Fitz Henry Lane’s *Vessel Returning from Surinam*, c.1850s, which is represented in the “Gloucester Endures” banner; Emile A. Gruppe’s *Always at your Service*, c. 1940s; William Meyerowitz’s *Meyerowitz’s Garden, Spring*, 1924; Winslow Homer’s *The Life Line*, 1884; Philip Reisman’s *Blessing of the Fleet*, 1952; Barbara Swan’s *John Swan’s Quarry*, 1986; George Demetrios’s bronze sculptures, *Charles A. Savinen (1885-1961)*, 1953 and Marcia Gronblad: *Finnish Girl*, c. 1949; Max Kuehne’s *Floral*, c. 1936 – among others.

The show looks back at significant historical moments including the “Tent Hospital” set up outside Addison Gilbert Hospital to treat patients during the 1918 influenza pandemic and discusses the success of Open Door Food Pantry’s response to a 40 percent increase in the need for meals and food during this pandemic. The Crowning Feast of the Holy Spirit, an annual religious ceremony significant to the City’s Portuguese community since 1902, is also featured. The many contributions of Cape Ann women in the fishing industry, the artistic community, and during wartime, among other moments is also included in the exhibition.

**High res images available to press on request.**

For more information about the Museum, its programs, exhibits, and collections, visit [www.capeannmuseum.org](http://www.capeannmuseum.org).
For a detailed media fact sheet please visit www.capeannmuseum.org/press.

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