

# CAPE ANN MUSEUM

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## ART HISTORY CULTURE

### ***Homer at the Beach: A Marine Painter's Journey, 1869-1880***

**An Exploration of the Earliest Marine Works of Winslow Homer**

**On view: August 3 to December 1, 2019**



Winslow Homer (1836–1910), *Children on the Beach*, 1873. Oil on canvas, 12 3/4" x 16 3/4". Private collection.

GLOUCESTER, MASS. (January 2019) – This summer, the Cape Ann Museum will exhibit some 50 original works by renowned American artist Winslow Homer. The exhibition will be the first close examination of the formation of this great artist as a marine painter. The Cape Ann Museum will be the sole venue for this exhibition, which will include loans from some 40 public and private collections.

In 1869, Winslow Homer (1836–1910) exhibited his first picture of the sea. He was an ambitious New York illustrator—not yet recognized as an artist—and freshly back from France. Over the next 11 years, Homer's journey would take him to a variety of marine destinations, from New Jersey to Maine, but especially—and repeatedly—to Gloucester and other parts of Cape Ann.

It was on Cape Ann that Homer made his first watercolors and where he discovered his calling: to be a marine artist. And it was in Gloucester in 1880, at the end of these 11 years, where he enjoyed the most productive season of his life, composing more than 100 watercolors of astonishing beauty. Homer's journey forever changed his life and the art of his country.

This exhibition will reveal new aspects of Homer, for the first time placing these paintings, drawings and even ceramic work in their rich geographic, cultural and historical settings, on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Homer's first paintings of the sea.

*Homer at the Beach: A Marine Painter's Journey, 1869-1880* at the Cape Ann Museum will run concurrently with *Winslow Homer: Eyewitness* at the Harvard Art Museums, a complementary exhibition opening August 31st.

Cape Ann has long been recognized as one of this country's oldest and most important art colonies and the collection of the Cape Ann Museum contains examples of works by many of the artists who put the community on the map including Marsden Hartley, Cecilia Beaux, Edward Hopper and John Sloan. At the heart of the Museum's holdings is the single largest collection of works by early 19<sup>th</sup> century artist Fitz Henry Lane (1804-1865). A native of Gloucester, Lane worked as a lithographer and a painter and his works on display at the Cape Ann Museum capture the town's busy seaport in its heyday.

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*The Cape Ann Museum has been in existence since the 1870s, working 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, two historic homes, a Library & Archives and a sculpture park in the heart of downtown Gloucester. Visit [capeannmuseum.org](http://capeannmuseum.org) for details.*

*The Museum is located at 27 Pleasant Street in Gloucester. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sundays from 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. For more information please call: (978)283-0455 x10. Additional information can be found online at [www.capeannmuseum.org](http://www.capeannmuseum.org).*

*For a detailed media fact sheet please visit [www.capeannmuseum.org/press](http://www.capeannmuseum.org/press).*

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***Print quality images are available upon request.***