

# CAPE ANN Museum

## *Museum's new Education Manager launches Virtual Lecture Series*

GLOUCESTER, Mass. (January 22, 2021) – At the end of 2020, the Cape Ann Museum welcomed Miranda Aisling as their new Education Manager. Aisling's mission is to reconnect art to daily life, a purpose she brings to her new work developing programs for the Cape Ann Museum.

"As a practicing artist and community organizer, I believe that creativity is an innate human skill," says Aisling. "Some people suppress it, others develop it, but everyone has it. In my new role at the Cape Ann Museum, I'm excited to create avenues to celebrate and amplify the incredible creativity in this community, both past and present."

In response to the continued state-wide limit on large gatherings, the Cape Ann Museum is bringing its gallery talks online with the CAM Virtual Lecture Series. This new virtual programming builds off the Museum's successful virtual book launch of Paul St. Germain's "Saving Straitsmouth Island" last November. The regular online events will offer the chance to engage deeply with the Museum's extensive collection from the safety of your own home.

The series kicks off on Friday, January 29 at 3:00 pm with "Building an Exhibition in a Pandemic" featuring CAM Librarian/Archivist **Trenton Carls** and CAM Curatorial Assistant **Leon Doucette**. Virtual attendees will receive a tour of the Museum's newest exhibition, **CAM (Re)Connects**, live on Zoom. The exhibition features many of the objects and works of art spotlighted in the Museum's virtual outreach shared in 2020 under the banner [CAM Connects](#). Doucette and Carls will discuss the massive pivot that the Cape Ann Museum took with the onset of the pandemic which gave birth to this exhibition.

On Friday, February 26 at 1:00 pm, as part of Black History Month, the Museum will present "African Americans in Essex County" with Dr. Kabria Baumgartner, University of New Hampshire, and Dr. Elizabeth Duclos-Orsello, Salem State University. These two scholars have spent the past two years visiting historic repositories throughout Essex County, including the Cape Ann Museum, to collect, compile, and catalog the rich history of African Americans in this area. Their report, *African Americans in Essex County*, was funded by the National Park Service and will be released later this spring.

In this virtual discussion, Dr. Baumgartner and Dr. Duclos-Orsello will share the impetus behind the project, what they have learned, and their ten recommendations for how local individuals and institutions can celebrate and support African American History in Essex County.

"Miranda has hit the ground running, developing two timely virtual presentations in her first month on the job," says Oliver Barker, Director of the Cape Ann Museum. "I look forward to working with Miranda and the rest of our dynamic staff to bring exciting, new programming to the Cape Ann community and beyond as we continue to navigate these historic times."

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Each presentation in the Virtual Lecture Series is free for CAM members; \$10 for nonmembers. Registration is open online. For further details or information, please call (978)283-0455 x110 or email [info@capeannmuseum.org](mailto:info@capeannmuseum.org).

For more information about the Museum, its programs, exhibits, and collections, visit [www.capeannmuseum.org](http://www.capeannmuseum.org).

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*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, three historic homes, a Library & Archives and a sculpture park in the heart of downtown Gloucester. In Fall 2021, the Museum will officially open 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), an adjacent Barn (c. 1740), and the recently acquired Babson-Alling House (c.1740), all located on the site at the intersection of Washington and Poplar Streets in Gloucester.*

*The Cape Ann Museum is located at 27 Pleasant Street in Gloucester. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, operating hours have been reduced to better protect the safety and well-being of visitors, staff and volunteers. The Museum is currently open Thursday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Timed tickets are required for all visitors at this time and can be reserved online at [www.camuseum.eventbrite.com](http://www.camuseum.eventbrite.com). 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](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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