

CAPE ANN Museum

Cape Ann Museum's Fitz Henry Lane Gallery re-envisioned with attention to ongoing scholarship and dedicated space for changing exhibitions



(Left) Fitz Henry Lane (1804-1865), *Babson and Ellery Houses, Gloucester*, 1863, oil on canvas, Cape Ann Museum, Gloucester, MA, gift of Roger W. Babson, 1937 [779.02] (Right) Fitz Henry Lane (1804-1865), *The Babson Meadows at Riverdale*, 1863, oil on canvas, Cape Ann Museum, Gloucester, MA, gift of Roger W. Babson, 1937 [779.03].

GLOUCESTER, MASS. (Oct. 2020) – The Cape Ann Museum is home to the foremost collection of works by the Gloucester-born maritime artist, Fitz Henry Lane. In recent months, the Museum has re-installed its signature Lane Gallery to better showcase new and ongoing scholarship into the artist's work and to create a dedicated space within the large, multi-sectioned gallery for regularly changing exhibits related to Fitz Henry Lane.

The gallery's new look aims to align more fully with *Fitz Henry Lane Online*, a free digital catalogue raisonné created in association with the Cape Ann Museum, as well as to make a strong connection to the Museum's new campus, the Cape Ann Museum Green, where Lane's 1863 paintings of the historic Babson-Alling and White-Ellery Houses and the surrounding landscape were done.

"Although Lane's life ended 155 years ago, research into his career and his artistic accomplishments continues today, and the Cape Ann Museum is pleased to keep abreast of that ongoing work and make contributions to the effort when we can," said Museum Curator Martha Oaks.

Since the online catalogue was initiated in 2012, Oaks said Lane's life and artistic career have been examined from many new and exciting perspectives. Research has been done into his work as a printmaker, his association with fellow artist Mary Blood Mellen has been explored in depth, infrared analysis has been used to better understand his working process, and new works attributed to Lane have been uncovered.

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Important insights from the Museum's 2017 exhibition, [Drawn from Nature & On Stone: The Lithographs of Fitz Henry Lane](#) are now featured in the Lane Gallery. Additional examples of Lane's lithographic works have been put on exhibition, elevating that section of the gallery to reflect the importance of printmaking to Lane throughout his career.

Three major oil paintings from the Samuel E. Sawyer Collection have also been put on display, including a view of Sawyer's homestead, Brookbank. And a section of the gallery has been devoted to exploring the history of Gloucester's Town Green through Lane's works, archival materials, and decorative arts from the Museum's permanent collection.

"The Cape Ann Museum is extraordinarily fortunate to have such a wealth of works by Fitz Henry Lane. It is a collection of great local importance that elevates the Museum into the national spotlight," Oaks said.

Oliver Barker, the Museum's Director, is delighted that the re-designed Lane Gallery makes a clear and direct connection to the new campus on Poplar Street in Gloucester, including period maps as well preparatory drawings by Lane for guidance and inspiration. "We looked to Lane and his paintings as a guide to the new CAM Green grounds, working with local artisans in re-creating the defining fieldstone walls and wooden gates that Lane captured in his paintings of this site. The campus offers expansive, inspiring views bridging the historic structures with a new contemporary Janet & William Ellery James Center for artists to find new ways of interpretation," Barker said. "It's an exciting and pivotal time for the Museum."

The nearly four-acre CAM Green campus is home to the White Ellery House (1710), an adjacent Barn (c. 1740), and the Babson-Alling House (c.1740). A new 12,000-square foot contemporary archival collections storage and public exhibition space there is called the Janet & William Ellery James Center and includes 2,000 square feet of flexible community programming galleries designed to reach broader audiences.

For more information about the Museum, its programs, exhibits, and collections, visit www.capeannmuseum.org.

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, three historic homes, a Library & Archives and a sculpture park in the heart of downtown Gloucester. In June 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.

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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. 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.

For a detailed media fact sheet please visit www.capeannmuseum.org/press.

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