

# CAPE ANN MUSEUM

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## ART HISTORY CULTURE

### *Stephanie Cole - My Life in Pieces: Painting with Stuff*

Mixed media works by Rockport artist Stephanie Cole

ON VIEW: MAY 11, 2019 — JULY 7, 2019

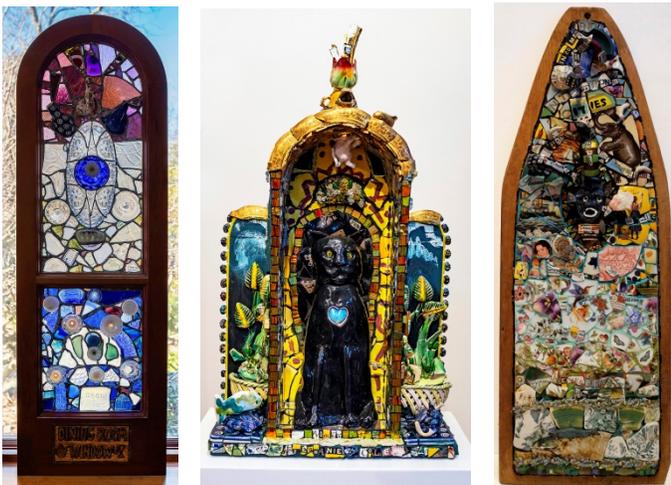


GLOUCESTER, MASS. (April 2019) - The Cape Ann Museum is pleased to announce the opening of *My Life in Pieces: Painting with Stuff*, the first public exhibition of Rockport mixed media artist Stephanie Cole's sculptural and eclectic collection. The works will be on view from May 11 through July 7 with a meet-the-artist reception on May 18 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. The reception is free to Museum members or with Museum admission.

Born in Connecticut, Cole studied painting at California College of Arts and Crafts and later at the Hartford Art School at the University of Hartford in Connecticut. By the mid-1960s, she and her husband, Jim, had settled in Rockport where they raised their children, and Cole taught art in the Rockport Elementary School.

By the early 1980s, Cole was moving from painting into experimentation with elaborate mosaic-like sculptures that she calls her "memory sculptures." Today, her sculptures which fill her Rockport home and studio are each made of hundreds of pieces—everything from colored glass and ceramic shards to bits of clothing and old typewriter keys.

Many of Cole's designs are based on feminist and political themes; others are autobiographical, capturing the artist at 10-year intervals throughout her life. Part of her intention has been to record history through her sculpture, her own personal story and the history of the world around her.



Mixed media works by Stephanie Cole (left to right) *Dining Room Window*, *Violet*, *Depressing Issue*.

Programming offered in conjunction with this special exhibition will include a gallery talk by Cole on Saturday, June 22, at 11:00 a.m.; space is limited and reservations are required. For more information please visit [www.capeannmuseum.org](http://www.capeannmuseum.org).

Cape Ann has long been recognized as one of this country's oldest and most important art colonies. 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 Cape Ann 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.***