

CAPE ANN Museum

Cape Ann Museum celebrates acquisition of beloved “Three Dancing Girls” painting, thanks to generous donors



Charles Hopkinson (1869-1962), Three Dancing Girls, 1917-1923, oil on canvas, Collection of the Cape Ann Museum. [Accession # 2024.012.001]. Purchase made possible through proceeds from the 2023 CAM Luncheon.

GLOUCESTER, Mass. – The Cape Ann Museum is pleased to announce the purchase of Charles Hopkinson’s “Three Dancing Girls,” a colorful, lively painting that has been on loan to the Museum since 1997. The purchase and upcoming restoration work was made possible by donations and contributions made in support of the Museum’s Collections Fund during the CAM Luncheon in Fall 2023.

[Charles Hopkinson](#), a longtime resident of Manchester-By-The-Sea, was one of the most successful portrait painters in America during the first half of the 20th century. Over his 60-year career, he made more than 700 portraits including two of United States presidents, four Supreme Court justices, and 65

of university presidents, deans, and professors, according to the Museum's archives. He was also part of the team of artists, selected by the National Art Committee in 1919, to paint portraits of the delegates to the Versailles Peace Conference. While primarily known as an oil painter and portraitist, Hopkinson also worked in watercolors.

For "Three Dancing Girls," [a 1988 essay by Leah Lipton](#), "Charles Hopkinson: Pictures from a New England Past," noted that the title should be credited to John Singer Sargent "...after seeing the girls dressed in old-fashioned costumes, dancing on the rocks in Manchester. Sargent visited the Manchester house in 1916 while he was in Boston working on the murals at the (Boston) public library." Sargent and Isabella Stewart Gardner reportedly visited the Hopkinson house in 1917 too and encouraged Hopkinson to finish the painting.

"Visitors have enjoyed the presence of "Three Dancing Girls" hanging in the Museum for almost three decades" said Museum Director Oliver Barker. "The acquisition of a work so synonymous with the Museum represents a very exciting moment for this institution and for the community. The Museum is deeply grateful to the many individuals whose contributions in support of the Collections Fund during the CAM Luncheon last December have made this milestone purchase and planned conservation work on the painting entirely possible."

The Cape Ann Museum's Collections Fund is used for the purchase of artwork, artifacts and archival materials for the collection, and for the conservation of its holdings. These funds received from members of this community has proven invaluable over the years, allowing the Museum to purchase art and artifacts that are not available through donation. The Museum always welcomes support of its Collection Fund and remains eager to strengthen the Fund's presence as the institution moves towards the 150th anniversary of its founding in 2025.

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, four historic structures, a Library & Archives and a sculpture park in the heart of downtown Gloucester. In Summer 2021, the Museum opened the 12,000 square foot Janet & William Ellery James Center at the [Cape Ann Museum Green](#). The campus is located on the site at the intersection of Washington and Poplar Streets in Gloucester and is open seasonally.

The Cape Ann Museum is located at 27 Pleasant Street in Gloucester and is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. General admission is \$15.00 adults, \$12.00 Cape Ann residents, seniors, and students. Youth (under 18) and Museum members are free. Cape Ann residents can visit for free on the first Friday (from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) and second Saturday (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) of each month. More information can be found on www.capeannmuseum.org or please call (978)283-0455 x110.

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