CAPE ANN Museum

Recently restored beloved painting, "Three Dancing Girls," by Charles Hopkinson, returns to the Cape Ann Museum

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

LINK TO IMAGES OF WORK AND CONSERVATION

GLOUCESTER, MA (October 2026) – Charles Hopkinson's beloved painting, *Three Dancing Girls*, will return to the Cape Ann Museum (CAM) Downtown Campus on Thursday, Oct. 8, following several months at a conservation studio for restoration and stabilization work. The painting will be reinstalled in the Museum's fourth-floor galleries dedicated to 20th- and 21st-century art that open for public viewing on Saturday, Nov. 14, at 10 a.m.

"The painting is well-loved by our visitors, so this is a triumphant moment to see it come back to our revitalised post-renovation galleries in such good standing for the future," said the Museum's Director, Oliver Barker.

In 2024, the Museum purchased *Three Dancing Girls*, a colorful, lively painting that had been on loan to the institution since 1997. The restoration work was completed by the Gianfranco Pocobene Studio in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

The artist, Charles Hopkinson, was a longtime resident of Manchester-by-the-Sea. He 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 United States presidents, four Supreme Court justices, and 65 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 watercolor.

Three Girls Dancing also reflects Hopkinson's connections to the artists and cultural figures who shaped the artistic life of Cape Ann. In 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 again in 1917 and encouraged Hopkinson to finish the painting. More than a century later, *Three Dancing Girls* remains a vivid connection to the artistic community that made Cape Ann a destination for artists—and to the enduring legacy of those who lived and worked here.

The Cape Ann Museum, founded in 1875, exists to preserve and celebrate the history and culture of the region and to keep it relevant to today's audiences. Spanning 44,000 square feet, the Museum's Downtown campus is a major cultural institution on Boston's North Shore, welcoming thousands of local, national, and international visitors annually to its exhibitions, programs, and community-led events. In addition to fine art, the Museum's collections include decorative art, textiles, artifacts from the fisheries and granite industries, four historic structures, a Library & Archives, and a sculpture garden in the heart of downtown Gloucester.

The Cape Ann Museum's Downtown campus is located at 27 Pleasant Street in Gloucester and is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. General Admission is $20 for adults and $15 for Cape Ann residents and seniors. Youth (under 18), students with ID, and Museum members are free. Cape Ann residents receive free general admission on the second Saturday of each month.

The Cape Ann Museum Green (CAM Green), the Museum's campus off Grant Circle and Route 128 in Gloucester, is home to the 12,000-square-foot Janet & William Ellery James Center, built in 2020. The center includes a flexible exhibition and community programming space designed to reach broader audiences with new exhibits and public programs. CAM Green, which served as the Museum's base of operations during the renovations, features three historic structures—the White-Ellery House (1710), the Babson-Alling House (c. 1740), and an adjacent barn (c. 1740)—as well as a Contemporary Art Wetu (2023–2024) and a Mush8n (mi-shoon) (2023), an Eastern Woodlands boat. CAM Green is closed for the season and will reopen in Spring 2027.

More information can be found on capeannmuseum.org or please call (978)283-0455 x110.

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