

Greenwich Historical Society

Explore our colorful past



news+programs

september | october 2013

GREENWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

is dedicated to promoting Greenwich's unique and colorful past. Our Archives actively chronicle the life of our town for future generations, our programs and exhibitions help people of all ages better understand their connection to history, and our preservation efforts safeguard an architectural heritage that includes the National Historic Landmark Bush-Holley House, the site of the Cos Cob art colony.

BUSH-HOLLEY HISTORIC SITE

is a member of the Connecticut Art Trail, a partnership of 15 world-class museums and historic sites across the state. Discover collections rich in history and heritage, including European masterpieces, American Impressionism, ancient art and contemporary culture.

HOURS

Storehouse Gallery

Open Wednesday through Sunday,
12–4 pm

Docent-led tours of Bush-Holley House
1, 2 and 3 pm

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Library and Archives

Wednesdays, 10 am–12:30 pm
and 1 pm–4 pm, or by appointment

ADMISSION TO STOREHOUSE GALLERY

\$10 for adults

\$8 for seniors and students

Admission always free to members.

Free to the public the first Wednesday
of every month.

CONTACT US

Greenwich Historical Society
39 Strickland Road
Cos Cob, CT 06807
203-869-6899
www.greenwichhistory.org

DIRECTIONS

Off I-95 at exit 4. Visit
www.greenwichhistory.org
for details.

Lauded as one of the most influential events in the history of American art, The International Exhibition of Modern Art in 1913—popularly known as the Armory Show—was the first large exhibition of modern art in the United States, and one that introduced astonished Americans to European “avant-garde” artists such as Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse and Paul Cezanne. Much has been written about the impact of the show, yet no exhibition to date has explored the direct effect that the Armory Show had on artists and their artistic production. The Greenwich Historical Society is about to change that.

Beginning October 9, the Greenwich Historical Society will present *The New Spirit and the Cos Cob Art Colony: Before and After the Armory Show*, which, for the first time, shows the direct impact of the Armory Show on the Cos Cob art colony artists. It also highlights the involvement of Cos Cob artists, such as Elmer MacRae and Henry Fitch Taylor, in producing the Armory Show, and brings the public's attention to several of the accomplished Cos Cob artists who have been virtually unknown until now.

“This is the first exhibition to illustrate the Armory Show's direct influence on a group of artists, specifically the Cos Cob art colony,” says Valerie Ann Leeds, guest curator of *The New Spirit*. Viewers will be able to compare artists' works from before and after the Armory Show and see to what degree each embraced Modernism as the movement became assimilated into the mainstream of American art.

The tightly focused exhibition is comprised of 40 works of art by 12 Cos Cob artists, including several pieces that were shown in the 1913 Armory Show, and enhanced with archival material and ephemera from the Greenwich Historical Society and private and museum collections. In addition to MacRae and Taylor, the show features artists D. Putnam Brinley, Childe Hassam, Ernest Lawson, Carolyn C. Mase, Frank A. Nankivell, Allen Tucker, Alden Twachtman and J. Alden Weir. It also includes influential pioneering artists Theodore Robinson and John

THE NEW SPIRIT AND THE COS COB ART COLONY: BEFORE AND AFTER THE ARMORY SHOW



H. Twachtman, whose works were part of the Armory Show but who had died years earlier.

A number of related events and programs are planned in conjunction with the exhibition, and a catalog for the exhibit will be available.

Members' Opening Reception at the Vanderbilt Education Center and Curator's Tour with Valerie Ann Leeds at the Storehouse Gallery

Tuesday, October 8, 2013, 6:00 to 8:30 pm

39 Strickland Road, Cos Cob, CT

To RSVP, call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10.

The New Spirit and the Cos Cob Art Colony has been funded by a lead gift from Deborah and Chuck Royce. Additional funding has been provided by the Joseph J. and Claire Morrow Foundation, donors to the Greenwich Historic Trust and members of the Exhibition Patrons Council.

Culture Shock 1913:

An Illustrated Lecture
with Sara Fishko



It's 1913. The traditional culture of the 1800s is breaking apart. Growing cities. More noise. Violence. Machines. Artists are responding by making jarring, Cubist paintings. Composers are writing thrusting, rhythmic, dissonant music. The world seems shaky and uncertain, and there are riots and fistfights in performance halls! At this year's combined Annual Meeting and Crooks Distinguished Lecture, Sara Fishko of WNYC, New York Public Radio, will reflect on a truly astonishing moment in history. Don't miss this rare double feature that so aptly demonstrates what the Greenwich Historical Society is all about.

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Indian Harbor Yacht Club, 710 Steamboat Road, Greenwich, CT

Cocktail reception begins at 6:00 pm; program begins at 6:30 pm

Admission \$35 for members; \$40 for nonmembers.

Many thanks to Edith and Roy B. Simpson for their generosity in funding this event.

French Farm Frolic



The entire family is invited to French Farm, the first property in Greenwich to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, where arts meets nature in a truly unique private landscape. Kids will get up close and personal with the farm's animals; enjoy games, nature crafts and a scavenger hunt; press cider and climb the "pterodactyl nest" tower. Adults can take one tour led by Florence Boogaerts, focusing on the horticultural aspects of the property, or another led by farm manager Jacek Nidzgorski on the property's cultural landscape, collections and development. Artists are invited to set up their easels during the event, and photographers will be free to snap. A finger-food buffet, served on the main lawn, will include an artisanal cheese board, seasonal bites, and sweet and savory pastries by celebrity chef John Barricelli of SoNo Baking Company.

Sunday, September 15, 2013. Rain or shine. 1:30 to 4:30 pm

516 Lake Avenue, Greenwich, CT

Adults: \$35 in advance; \$30 at the door. Children 4-12: \$10. Children under 3: free. Buffet, wine and soft drinks are included in admission.

Autumn Story Barn Shock! Tales of Horror, Joy and Surprise



Staged in a cabaret-like setting, Story Barn is a creative approach to oral history that puts a contemporary spin on good, old-fashioned storytelling. Storytellers will focus on events in their personal experience that produced emotions of horror, surprise or joy. The theme is in keeping with our fall exhibition's theme, *The New Spirit and the Cos Cob Art Colony: Before and After the Armory Show*, an event notable for the display of "shocking" (at the time) works of European art that influenced countless American artists. Emceed by board member and comedian Bonnie Levison, the evening's lineup will be ... guess what? A surprise!

What *won't* be shocking is just how much you'll love this program. Sit back, relax and get ready to hear amazing yarns spun by your friends and neighbors. If you haven't attended a Story Barn, do yourself a favor and sign up now!

Ready to tell your own story? Shock yourself (and maybe us) and contact program organizer Bonnie Levison at sconsetbon@aol.com.

Friday, October 25, 2013

Doors open at 7:00 pm; performance begins at 7:30.

Greenwich Historical Society, Vanderbilt Education Center

Members \$15; nonmembers \$20. Beer, wine and light snacks will be served.

To reserve, visit www.greenwichhistory.org or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10. Space is limited.

Fall Festival and Scarecrow Competition



A community event to celebrate the harvest season, this year's Fall Festival will feature crafts, colonial games, a special harvest tour of Bush-Holley House and free admission to the Storehouse Gallery exhibition, *The New Spirit and The Cos Cob Art Colony*. We're also bringing back our popular Scarecrow Competition. For a \$25 entry fee or \$20 for members (advance registration required), we'll supply the armature, hay

for stuffing, twine and a burlap sack for the head. You customize your scarecrow's look with clothing and "accessories" you bring from home. Refreshments will be available.

Sunday, October 13, 2013, 12:30 to 3:30 pm

\$10 per person. Children under 2 are free.

Reserve ahead or pay at the door.

Greenwich Historical Society Announces Events and Leadership for Antiquarius Fundraiser

We are very pleased to announce that this year's roster of holiday events includes the Greenwich Winter Antiques Show (managed by Frank Gaglio, Inc.) on December 7 and 8, 2013, at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, Old Greenwich, Connecticut. The Greenwich Winter Antiques Show and preview party will be premier features of the Historical Society's annual Antiquarius fundraiser, which also includes a Holiday House Tour and a Holiday Gift Boutique. The House Tour, chaired by mother/daughter designer team Sandra Morgan and Laird Morgan Tolan, will showcase five spectacularly decorated Greenwich homes. The Holiday Boutique, chaired by Ashley Allan and Holly Cassin, will be held at Christ Church Parish Hall (a new venue).

Talented leadership for Antiquarius is in abundance once again with a steering committee that includes Tiffany Burnette, Fraser Bennett Beede, Killeen Faughnan, Sabrina Forsythe, Suzanne Frank, Rachel Kelley, M. E. Kjaernested, Anne Niemeth, Anne Ogilvy, Deborah Royce, Leigh Ann Ryan, Catherine Tompkins, Roxanne Vanderbilt and Davidde Strackbein, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Alicia Laing

will coordinate media for the event, and Katie Nogaki and Kathryn Stewart will coordinate volunteers for the House Tour.

Antiquarius will kick off with a preview party at the Winter Antiques Show on December 6, with the mid-century modern theme "Meet Me at the Beverly Hills Hotel." The celebration will include signature cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, designer tours of the booths, door prizes, private early shopping and consultation with exhibitors. The Greenwich Winter Antiques Show will feature period to mid-century antiques, fine art and exceptional jewelry. In addition to collections from top exhibitors, a series of special programs is being planned, including designer and celebrity guest speakers (both sold-out programs in 2012). A November 15, private patron event to thank Antiquarius angels, patrons and benefactors is also on the calendar and will be graciously hosted by Linda and Richard Breeden.

Antiquarius is a major source of funding for the Greenwich Historical Society, providing crucial financial support for the only organization in town dedicated solely to the preservation of Greenwich history. Proceeds help sustain the Historical Society's beloved Bush-Holley House and Historic Site, the William B. Finch Jr. Library and

Archives, lectures, exhibitions and award-winning educational programs that serve more than 7,000 students.

Thanks to early corporate sponsors David Ogilvy & Associates and NEBCO and to media sponsors *Connecticut Cottages & Gardens* and *Greenwich Magazine*.

Antiquarius Patron Party: November 15, 2013

Antiquarius Preview Party: December 6, 2013

Greenwich Winter Antiques Show: December 7 and 8, 2013

Holiday Boutique: December 10 and 11, 2013

Holiday House Tour: December 11, 2013

Tickets to the Friday night preview party and the Holiday House Tour must be purchased in advance and will go on sale online at www.greenwichhistory.org in September. Admission to the Holiday Boutique is free.

Tickets for the Greenwich Winter Antiques Show may be purchased at the door on Saturday and Sunday, December 7 and 8, 2013.

For Antiquarius updates, please visit www.greenwichhistory.org.

For patron tickets and sponsorship inquiries, please contact Anne Bradner at 203-869-6899, Ext. 15.

2013 Antiquarius Leadership (left to right): Top Row; Laird Morgan Tolan, Tiffany Burnette, Ashley Allan, Holly Cassin, Sandra Morgan, Catherine Tompkins. Bottom Row: Davidde Strackbein, Rachel Kelley, Roxanne Vanderbilt, Anne Niemeth, Deborah Royce



From Italy to America Closes with Lively Festa Al Fresco

What's more Italian than friends gathering around the table for a lovingly created feast? *Festa Al Fresco* was the grand finale for our exhibition *From Italy to America* and a truly fitting way to celebrate its success. Many thanks to all the wonderful cooks who contributed their time, energy and considerable culinary skills. It's safe to say, no one went home hungry!

Kudos to organized and creative chairman Karen Koetter and to site manager par excellence Michele Couture for creating such a beautiful setting for the event, and thanks to Town Ambassador-at-Large Bea Crumbine for helping to coordinate.

Special thanks for the generous contributions of J. J. Cassone Bakery, Sam Bridge Nursery and to Mionetto USA.

Save the Dates:

- **September 15**
French Farm Frolic
- **September 19**
Annual Meeting and Crooks
Distinguished Lecture by Sara Fishko
- **September 21**
Communities & Neighborhood,
Lecture Series: *Cos Cob* by Lou Caravella
- **October 3**
An Uncommon Cape
Lecture by Eleanor Phillips Brackbill
- **October 8**
The New Spirit and the Cos Cob Art Colony
Opening Reception
- **October 9 (runs through January 12, 2014)**
The New Spirit and the Cos Cob Art Colony
Exhibition Opens
- **October 13**
Fall Festival and Scarecrow Competition
- **October 19**
Communities & Neighborhood Lecture Series:
Old Greenwich by Missy Wolfe
- **October 25**
Story Barn: *Shock! Tales of Horror, Joy and Surprise*

news

Unraveling the History of a Home: A Lecture by Eleanor Phillips Brackbill

Little did Eleanor Phillips Brackbill know when she began to research the origins of her suburban Westchester home that she would unravel a tale that ran back through 350 years of American history. In partnership with the Greenwich Pen Women, we are pleased to present this author, who will share the eight-year journey that resulted in her first book, *An Uncommon Cape: Researching the Histories and Mysteries of a Property*. Not only will Brackbill tell her own intriguing tale, but she'll also provide insights into learning more about your own home. Brackbill was a curator of education at the Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College SUNY, for 25 years. She has an MA in art history from Boston University, completed a curatorial fellowship in the Whitney Museum of American Art's Independent Study Program and studied in the art history doctoral program at City University of New York. Program partner Greenwich Pen Women is a professional organization for women artists, composers and writers and is a branch of the National League of American Pen Women, founded in 1897. The event is free and open to the public. Reservations are suggested.

Thursday, October 3, 1:00 to 2:00 pm

Vanderbilt Education Center, Greenwich Historical Society

To reserve, call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10

Communities & Neighborhoods of Greenwich Lectures

Greenwich Library and the Greenwich Historical Society examine communities and neighborhoods of Greenwich in a lecture series presented



by local experts. On Saturday, September 21, Lou Caravella (a.k.a. the "Mayor of Cos Cob") will talk about the history of Cos Cob—first as the main maritime port for shipping agricultural products to New York, Long Island and throughout Connecticut and later as the center of the Cos Cob art colony in the early 20th century.

On Saturday, October 19, historian and author Missy Wolfe will speak on the history of Old Greenwich. Wolfe is the author of *An Insubordinate Spirit, A True Story of Life and Loss in Earliest America 1610-1665*, which focuses on the personal, political and physical hardships experienced by those who first settled our community.

Both programs will take place at 2:00 pm in the Greenwich Library Meeting Room, 101 West Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT. Admission is free.