



CONCORD
MUSEUM

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Concord Museum Announces New Exhibition In Collaboration with Concord Free Public Library *Highlighting the history of the Library's art collection*

(CONCORD, MA – February 22, 2023) To celebrate the [Concord Free Public Library](#)'s 150th anniversary, the Concord Museum, the Concord Free Public Library, and the Concord Free Public Library Corporation's William Munroe Special Collections have collaborated on a new exhibition, [A Perpetual Invitation: 150 Years of Art at the Concord Free Public Library](#). On view at the Museum from March 24 through September 4, 2023, visitors will enjoy thirty historically important objects collected over the last 150 years, some rarely on display, and will be able to participate in a variety of educational programs and workshops at both venues.

"A *Perpetual Invitation* is an ideal opportunity for visitors to view selections from the Library's wonderful art collection in one space," said Lisa Krassner, the Museum's Edward W. Kane Executive Director. "We're excited and honored to collaborate with the Library to share this important collection and learn more about Concord's community of artists."

When establishing the Library in 1873, founder William Munroe envisioned a combined library and art gallery, with the goal of creating a public space where Concord residents could experience art and culture. Munroe aimed to offer artists, donors, and visitors a "perpetual invitation" to explore and expand the Library's art collection. The original architectural plans for the Main Library included an art museum annex, and even though this space was never built, art became an important part of the Library since its inception. "We are delighted to be partnering with the Concord Museum to highlight the Art from the Library's Special Collections," said Sherry Litwack, President of the CFPL Corporation.

Featured works will include paintings by Washington Allston, N.C. Wyeth, May Alcott Nieriker, Charles Hovey Pepper, Alicia Keyes, and Elizabeth Wentworth Roberts, among other artists, as well as sculptures depicting noted Concord authors such as Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry David Thoreau, and Louisa May Alcott.

Exhibition stories and themes will highlight Concord's artist community, local art collectors, the history of institutions promoting public access to works of art, the role of women art dealers, collectors and artists, and the stories of specific artists, including May Alcott Nieriker, Alicia Keyes, Elizabeth Wentworth Roberts, and others who lived and worked in Concord.

Guided tours with curators from the Museum and the Library will be offered, and a variety of related programs and workshops exploring art history, Concord's artists, and artistic techniques will be presented at both venues.

Exhibition Sponsors

Exhibitions sponsors include [Middlesex Savings Bank](#), [Bonhams Skinner](#), [Freedom's Way](#) and many generous individuals.

About the Concord Museum

The Concord Museum educates visitors of all ages about the history of Concord and its continuing influence on American political, literary and cultural life. The Museum's nationally significant collection serves as a catalyst for changing exhibitions, extended classroom learning, dynamic programs and publications relevant to an ever-changing world. Founded in 1886, the Museum is the center of cultural enjoyment for the region and a gateway to the town of Concord for visitors from around the world. In 2021, the Museum completed a decade-long renovation project, including a complete redesign of its 16 permanent galleries and construction of the Rasmussen Education Center. www.concordmuseum.org

About the Concord Free Public Library

The Concord Free Public Library inspires lifelong learning and promotes personal enrichment by connecting community members to information, ideas, culture, unique historic resources, and each other in a tradition of innovation and excellence. The CFPL was established in 1873 as a public/private partnership between the Town of Concord and the CFPL Corporation. The William Munroe Special Collections is the most comprehensive archive of primary and secondary source material related to Concord history, life, landscape, literature, people, and influence from the 1600's to the present day. www.concordlibrary.org

Exhibition Press Preview

Thursday, March 23, 2023 1-4 p.m.

Media are invited to attend an exhibition tour led by the curators. Please RSVP to schedule your tour during the Press Preview or at a later date.

Please direct any questions and RSVPs to Barbara Evangelista, Director of Marketing, Concord Museum, bevangelista@concordmuseum.org or 978-369-9763 x 229.

Press materials may be download from [Dropbox](#)

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IMAGE CREDITS

Elizabeth Wentworth Roberts, *Church at Annisquam*. Courtesy William Munroe Special Collections, Concord Free Public Library Corporation. Photographic image © 2020 James E. Coutré.