

New England Self-Fashioning: Portraits and Presentations, 1700-1950

A symposium sponsored by the Grace Slack McNeil Program for Studies in American Art at Wellesley College and the Office of Academic Programs at Historic Deerfield, Inc.



Cecilia Beaux, *Portrait of Harriet Sears Amory*, 1902-03, Davis Museum and Cultural Center, Wellesley College

Saturday, March 13, 2010
Collins Cinema, Wellesley College
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Reception to Follow

This one-day symposium will explore the people of New England through their visual and material representations from the late 17th through the 20th centuries. How have the residents of New England been portrayed individually or in groups? How have they chosen to represent themselves – in what contexts and in which media? How, in particular, has portraiture and self-presentation in New England presented an alternate view of the region?

Talks by scholars from a wide range of disciplines will explore portraiture and self-fashioning through a variety of lenses from paintings, to photographs, furnishings and interior design.

The conference is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. For further information call the Wellesley College Art Department, 781-283-2043.

The symposium is made possible by the generous support of the Barra Foundation.

Schedule of Events

9:00 - 9:15 Welcome

Martha McNamara, Wellesley College

9:15 - 11:00 Fashioning Self and Family: Portraits in Early New England

Susan M. Llewellyn, George Mason University
“A Tale of Two Portraits: Motivations behind Self-Fashioning in Seventeenth-Century Boston Portraiture”

Guy Jordan, Western Kentucky University
“Elizabeth Eggington and the Semiotics of Grief in Puritan New England”

Benjamin Colman, Yale University Art Gallery
“Facing the Modern World: Portraits and the New England Domestic Assemblage, 1700–1730”

11:00 - 11:15 - Break, Collins Cafe

11:15 - 12:30 Performing Portraits: Materiality, Identity and Representation

Sarita Zaleha, Harvard Divinity School
“A Phenomenology of Scale: In-visibility, Intimacy, and Interiority in Sarah Goodridge’s Rev. Henry Ware, Jr. Portrait Miniature”

Nathan Rees, University of Maryland, College Park
“William Matthew Prior’s *Ms. Fairfield* and “Realism” in Nineteenth-Century Memorial Portraiture”

Tia A. Vasiliou, University of California, Riverside
“Making the Ninth Try a Success: John Singer Sargent’s 1888 Portrait of Isabella Stewart Gardner”

12:30 - 2:00 - Lunch (on your own)

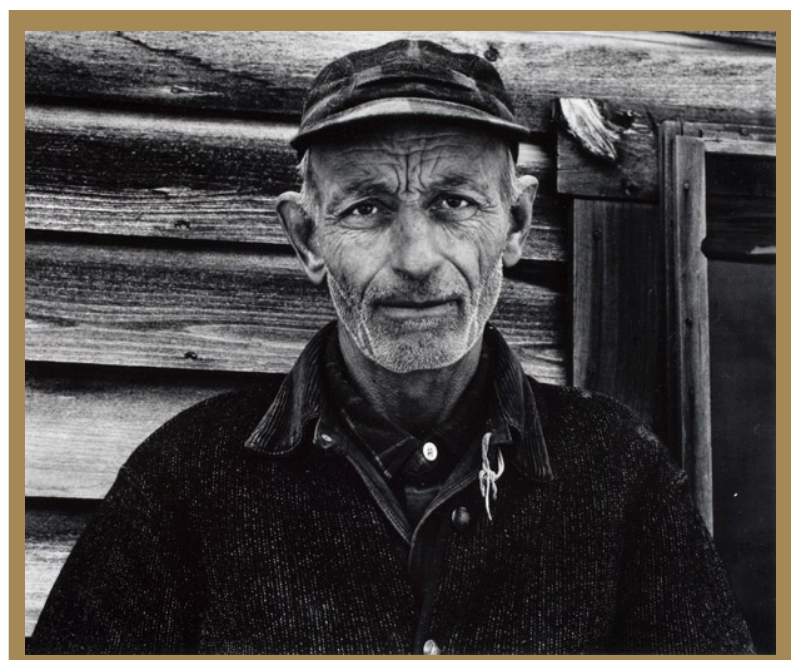
2:00 - 4:00 - People, Place and Time in New England: Portraying Region in the 20th Century

Katharine Martinez, Fine Arts Library, Harvard University
“A Photographer and two African American Sitters in Boston, 1900-1904: W. E. B. Du Bois, “the Young Colored American”, and James E. Purdy”

Justin Wolff, University of Maine
“The Other Region: Thomas Hart Benton, the People of New England, and the Environmentalist Portrait”

Elizabeth Bischof, University of Southern Maine
“Revisiting Time in New England: Paul Strand, Nancy Newhall, and the Fashioning of a Composite Portrait of Place”

4:00-5:00 Reception, Davis Museum and Cultural Center Lobby



Paul Strand, *Portfolio III, Mr. Bennett, Vermont*, 1944, Davis Museum and Cultural Center, Wellesley College