SCHOOLGIRL DECORATIVE ARTS

A special loan exhibit of 50 pieces of original decorative art created by schoolgirl students in the early 1800s will enhance the Museum in the coming season. Co-curated by Linda Lefko and Julie Lindberg, there are simple beginning pieces along with advanced artistic examples of the highest quality including freehand watercolors, theorems, memorials, needlecraft, samplers, valentines and friendship tokens.

Classes and discussions will be offered enabling visitors to understand the history of schoolgirl art and the role it played in advancing the desire for decorative arts in everyday life. Classes in decorative arts were part of the curriculum in schools everywhere, but especially in New England.

HAM CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The Kendal C. & Anna Ham Charitable Foundation has awarded the museum a grant funding two summer interns for the coming season, plus the sponsorship of a series of Children's Summer Art Workshops and a Summer Lecture Series. The Ham Foundation believes “that the vitality of a community depends upon the ability of its people to be responsible for themselves and concerned about one another.”

The Rufus Porter Museum shares and teaches about the region's cultural and artistic heritage by promoting concern for history, regional art, and preservation. This grant will enable the museum to offer educational programs which support the vitality of our region, history, and traditionally inspired art.

WALL MURAL CONSERVATION

This winter, skilled area artisans capably reinforced the museum building’s foundation, and then reattached the plaster wall mural to the lathing support behind that wall.

Apparently due to heavy moisture during the past two summers, one wall containing murals began to sag with resulting cracks. In 2009, it became more pronounced and a building assessment by intern Anne Rutherford led to repairs.

The house had been moved to the present location in 1986, resting on a concrete block foundation. Eric Beane replaced foundation beams and leveled the floors, adding the needed support under the center of the house. Peter Lord, a plaster specialist, employed conservation techniques when he and his assistant, Craig Campbell drilled holes in the lathing and then forced glue through the holes to reattach the plaster to the lathing. A pressure board was applied on the mural side forcing the glue to spread. The result is a conserved wall mural and solid foundation to welcome visitors for the 2010 season. This technique is described on our website and is included in the Lefko/Radcliffe new book on wall murals to be released in 2011.
2010 SUMMER INTERNS

We are fortunate to welcome two outstanding graduate students as interns this summer. Both are in their final year of obtaining master degrees and look forward to pursuing careers in the museum field.

Miranda Peters is returning for a second year as she is writing her master’s thesis on Rufus Porter and his contributions to the folk art of New England. Miranda is a student at the Bard School of Decorative Arts in New York City, and will continue her research during the summer.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Several ambitious projects for small children through adult ages are under way at the museum. Programming has been developed to weave the Rufus Porter story into a variety of contexts to reach diverse audiences.

Visitors to the museum will be aided in their visit by using a new guide entitled “Discovering the Rufus Porter Museum”. The guide provides easily accessed information about the life of Rufus Porter. The program uses a scavenger hunt means of introducing visitors to mural painting, miniature portraiture, inventions, and writing. Elementary school children will be able to learn from an artist-oriented program called “Porter’s Perspective”. Activities are created to place Rufus Porter and his art in a comparative context with other artists and art forms. Porter is used to illustrate principles related to color, line, form, space, pattern, and balance.

Older students have the opportunity to explore myriad aspects of Rufus Porter’s life by undertaking the study of a unit called “What is a Renaissance man?” Students explore the Renaissance man concept by making comparisons between Porter’s accomplishments and those of persons like Leonardo di Vinci and Thomas Jefferson.

The life of Rufus Porter holds great potential for educational development. We will continue to explore potential educational programs and activities with the support of the Ham Foundation grant.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Joining the Rufus Porter Museum Family as the Museum Director is the fulfillment of a dream I have worked, studied, and crafted towards for most of my life. I have practiced and taught in a variety of arts and crafts for many years. The mission of the Rufus Porter Museum speaks to my passionate wish to promote traditional art and perpetuate interest in our unique regional culture and history.

As the George J. Mitchell Peace Scholar of the University of Maine System, because of my commitment to community service and leadership, I was able to study in Ireland where my interests in folklore, folk art, and public history became my profession. A Master’s degree in American and New England Studies, with a minor in Public History as well as a graduate certificate in Non-Profit Management followed. My graduate internship was spent preparing an exhibit for the Maine Folk Art Trail in 2008. With these rich life and educational experiences I hope to lead the Rufus Porter Museum into the future.

The Rufus Porter Museum promises to become the national research center for the Rufus Porter School of Art, as well as the destination for traditional art education in western Maine. These achievements are due entirely to the dedicated contributions of time, money, and talents of the museum’s wonderful members, friends, and volunteers. We are becoming focused and energized with the prospects of the future. Our educational offerings are of the highest quality and promise to continue to engage people of all ages and all sectors of the community to learn about regional cultural history, the life and work of Rufus Porter, as well as practice and promote traditional arts. We assist homeowners in saving and restoring Rufus Porter School wall murals throughout the Northeast. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to be a part of leading the Rufus Porter Museum into the future.

CULTURAL HERITAGE SERIES

JULY 5 - 10, 2010

Reception at The Tannery Pub
Wednesday July 7, 6:00PM
Keynote Address to follow at 7:00PM

David Jaffee PhD

“Rufus Porter:
Artisan-Entrepreneur of the 19th Century”
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Please watch for the 2010 membership letter soon in your mailbox. Support of our programs and efforts to expand knowledge of western Maine’s art continues to be of extreme importance to the management of the Rufus Porter Museum, and is needed to ensure they continue at a high level. The Museum is still in the beginning stages of development, and strongly needs financial support to continue to reach its potential. Already a national destination for folk art lovers, we are impacting the preservation of wall murals throughout New England with our website, and are developing the only research center in the country for study of the life of Rufus Porter. And we continue to enlighten the life of local residents and students with our exhibitions on the beauty of the decorative arts.

MAINE CIVIL WAR TRAIL

The RPM has been invited to join a Trail in 2013 celebrating exhibits on the lives of its soldiers in the Civil War throughout Maine. Although this seems years away, the time is needed for us to plan our exhibit. A book on the Trail is planned, and we ask anyone with folk art inspired by the War, who is willing to share it as part of the exhibit, to contact our curator, Julie Lindberg, j.k.lindberg@att.net. The Bridgton Historical Society is searching for private artifacts relating to the war and local soldiers for loan in a special exhibit. Please contact Ned Allen at nallen@megalink.com if you have something of historical importance to the region.

MEMBERSHIPS & DONATIONS:

Our new membership year begins on July 1. Your invitations will soon be in the mail. As the Rufus Porter Museum is facing the same loss of revenue this year as all cultural institutions, we are counting on as much support from our members as possible. Every dollar we receive goes directly to our programs. We are trying to increase our other revenues through fundraisers, store sales and grants, but our members provide us with a major portion of our income.

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Carolyn Stanhope

Warmest spring greetings to all members and friends of the Rufus Porter Museum! We open on June 23 with many new offerings. New to our staff this season is Diane Hoppe, our Museum Director. Her extended background of museum study and experience will help maintain the high standard of a professional environment we have come to enjoy each season.

In trying to meet the economic needs of our visitors we have decreased the cost of the Cultural Heritage classes, the individual and family membership fees and have combined the admission fees to the museum and the Westwood Murals in to one lower fee. We are hoping to strengthen our class registrations, memberships, and visitors by making our offerings more affordable.

We are grateful to all our volunteers who serve on the Board of Directors, advisors to the Board, and our wonderful docents who staff the museum during the summer and fall. We look forward to any newcomers who may want to be involved. We reached over 2,000 hours in volunteerism last year! The Rufus Porter Museum is a cultural presence within Bridgton and the surrounding communities. The continued hard work and generosity of all our supporters is certainly appreciated. Your time, money and talents have been, and continue to be, gratefully received.

Please keep Nancy Smoak, Projects Director, in your constant caring thoughts as she continues to recover from her surgery and undergoes further treatment.
EXPANDED HOURS – DOCENTS NEEDED!

The Museum has slowly expanded its open hours as our staff and volunteers allow, and we are pleased to announce that in 2010 we will be open from **10 am to 4 pm four days a week, from Wednesday through Saturday.** To meet the need for additional docents, we invite interested folk art fans to join our volunteer docent program. There are two scheduled training sessions planned prior to opening day on June 23. Each session will run from 10am until noon on Thursday, June 10th and Tuesday the 15th. Please call the museum at 207 647-2828 to inquire.

**Our Opening Reception for museum members and docents will take place on Friday, June 18 from 5 - 7pm.**

WEBSITE ADDITION

A new page has been added to our popular website, rufusporter museum.org., on identifying characteristics of miniature portraits painted by Rufus Porter. Porter is considered among the finest painters of portraits, and examples today have high value on the open market. As portraits by other artists are continually attributed to Porter, Advisor Linda Lefko consulted with museums and art dealers to create a guide for the traits which define Rufus Porter's work. These have been compiled by her in a new page on our website, and should be of great use to collectors and dealers alike in studying his work. The RPM has on display the largest collection of his miniature portraits known.

2010 SUMMER RAFFLE

Board member and popular artist Nelle Ely has decorated a set of four tray tables with wonderful different Porter-style landscape scenes on each, and they will be offered as the prize for a lucky winner in a summer raffle. They are on view in the museum gift shop, and are both functional and beautiful. We are fortunate to have so many talented and great artists supporting our programs.
The Rufus Porter Museum presents
2010 Cultural Heritage Series
July 5-10, 2010

The Rufus Porter Museum is pleased to announce the 2010 Cultural Heritage Series scheduled for July 5 - 10. Over 30 classes, workshops, and lectures will be presented. Topics include a variety of nineteenth century arts and crafts as well as contemporary applications of those time honored traditions. Be sure to register for one or more classes. You will not be disappointed. A complete schedule and registration information is available on our website.

MONDAY, JULY 5
Beginner’s Tatting
Storytelling
Beginning Stained Glass
Bronze Powder Stenciling
Heirloom Gardening part 1
Redware Pottery

THURSDAY, JULY 8
RP Mural Painting
Spinning
Weaving
Traditional Stroke Design
Chair Caning
Floorcloths
Penny Rugs
Folk Fiddle
Cheesemaking

TUESDAY, JULY 6
Beginner’s Tatting
Spinning
Weaving
Grain Painting
Beginning Stained Glass
Scrimshaw
Redware Pottery
Rufus Porter Mural Lecture

FRIDAY, JULY 9
RP Mural Painting
Beginning Woodcarving
Rug Hooking - Proddy Method
Early American Brush Stroke Wall Painting
Floorcloths
Historic Home Preservation
Folk Fiddle
Soap Making
Papermaking

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7
RP Mural Painting
Heirloom Gardening
Dry Stack Stone Walls
Stroke Design
Genealogy
Folk Fiddle
Redware Pottery
Quilling
Rufus Porter Mural Lecture

SATURDAY, JULY 10
Beginning Woodcarving
Rug Hooking - Proddy Method
Steamboat Era on Long Lake
Intermediate Theorem Painting
Tin Punch
The Art of Oral History
Gourd Art

RECEPTION & KEYNOTE SPEAKER  ~ WEDNESDAY, JULY 7  at 6:00PM

David Jaffee, PhD, will discuss the role of Rufus Porter as the leading publicist for the fancy aesthetic in northeastern United States in the early 1800s. Dr. Jaffee teaches American Material Culture at the Bard Graduate Center in New York, and is author of the forthcoming book, *A New Nation of Goods: Artisans, Consumers and Commodities in Early America 1760-1860*.

Please join us for this enlightening discussion which is free and open to the public following our opening reception and cash bar at 6 pm in the Tannery Pub at the Magic Lantern Theatre in downtown Bridgton.
**Rufus Porter Museum**

**2010 Season Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 10 &amp; 15</td>
<td>Museum Docent Training</td>
<td>10 AM - 12Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 18</td>
<td>Opening Reception</td>
<td>5 PM - 7 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 5 - 10</td>
<td>Cultural Heritage Series Classes</td>
<td>All week</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 7</td>
<td>CHS Reception and Keynote Address</td>
<td>6PM - 9PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 21,22</td>
<td>Children’s Art Workshop Ages 5-7</td>
<td>9 - 10:30AM</td>
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<td>Children’s Art Workshop Ages 8 - 11</td>
<td>1 - 3PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>Museum Lecture Series 1</td>
<td>5:30PM - 7:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 28,29</td>
<td>Children’s Art Workshop Ages 5-7</td>
<td>9 - 10:30AM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Children’s Art Workshop Ages 8 - 11</td>
<td>1 - 3PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>Museum Lecture Series 2</td>
<td>5:30PM - 7:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 4, 5</td>
<td>Children’s Art Workshop Ages 12 - 15</td>
<td>9AM - 12Noon</td>
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<td>August 5</td>
<td>Museum Lecture Series 3</td>
<td>5:30PM - 7:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 10</td>
<td>Intern Research Presentations</td>
<td>5:30PM - 7:30PM</td>
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<td>August 12</td>
<td>Museum Lecture Series 4</td>
<td>5:30PM - 7:30PM</td>
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<td>August 19</td>
<td>Museum Lecture Series 5</td>
<td>5:30PM - 7:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 26</td>
<td>Museum Lecture Series 6</td>
<td>5:30PM - 7:30PM</td>
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**MUSEUM HOURS**

- **June 23 - September 4**: Wednesday - Saturday 10AM - 4PM
- **September 8 - October 9**: Thursday, Friday, & Saturday 10AM - 4PM

Special appointments are available for groups and during the off-season.

**RUFUS PORTER ART WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN**

The Museum is planning children’s art classes for the 2010 season. Partially funded by a grant from the Ham Charitable Foundation, participation in these fun and inspiring classes will be free except for the cost of materials. Broken into three age appropriate groups, the classes will meet twice a week for two weeks. These classes will include instruction in simple stenciling, clay modeling, theorems, and mural-style floor cloth painting. Additionally, each class will focus on Porter’s life, achievements, inventions, and of course his art. Watch our website for updates to our schedule and plans. Space is limited to 10 youth per class, so register your child early.

**SUMMER LECTURE SERIES**

Also sponsored by the Ham Charitable Foundation will be free Thursday evening lectures are planned this summer beginning July 15th between 6:00 and 7:30pm in the Rufus Porter Museum’s education center. Some of the topics include: “Antique Furniture Recognition 1700-1900”, “Mills of Bridgton”, “Barns of Western Maine”, “Open Hearth Cooking”, “An Overview of American Quilt History”, and “An Herbal Walk into the Past.” Space will be limited, so watch our website for more details www.rufusporter museum.org and register for one or all lectures.

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The Rufus Porter Museum™ and
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