

# Arts & Entertainment

## Exhibits



Dee Lessard; Birch Banks oil 18x28

### East Colony Fine Art

Featuring oil paintings by Dee Lessard and oil paintings by Priscilla Memole

MANCHESTER – East Colony Fine Art's April featured artists are Dee Lessard and Priscilla Memole. The Feature show, an exhibit titled "Every Painting Has a Story" on exhibit from March 31 thru April 25 highlights paintings from key landmarks around the greater Manchester area along with still life subjects from everyday NH life.

Dee and Priscilla are both Manchester residents. Both paint in oils and enjoy a variety of subjects. Each painting they create are born with a story behind the why, where, and when. Come and discover the story behind each one when you meet the artist at the show reception on April 11, 2:00-4:00pm.

Dee was raised and educated in southern NH, always loved everything artistic and creative. With this in mind, she pursued a full time career in hairstyling. Equipped with the ability to see shape and color as it relates to your surroundings, she transposed these abilities onto canvas. Dee is a member of NH Artist Association, Manchester Artist Association and Oil Painters of America and has won many local and national awards.

Priscilla grew up in the beautiful Berkshires of Massachusetts. She developed a love of nature at a very early age, which she expresses in her artwork. As she gained more experience, she became more interested in architecture and perspective, and in Still Life. She enjoys painting local scenes as she has spent most of her adult life in N.H. She is currently a member of the Manchester Artists Association and the N.H. Pastel Society.



Verne Orlosk - "Moon Lights" Fused glass

### 12th Annual "Petals2Paint" Floral Exhibit and Show !!

Opening Reception – Thursday evening, April 16, 5:00PM–8:00PM

MANCHESTER— The East Colony Gallery is going to be full of flowers and art! One of the coldest and snowiest winters is behind us now and we are getting ready to warm our Gallery space with over 20 floral displays by local florists and floral designers. Come enjoy the visual explosions of color and texture combined to produce the spring aromas of fresh blooms. Each designer has picked an individual piece of artwork from the East Colony members and will show you their interpretation in flowers.

The flower arrangements will be on display after the Thursday evening reception from Friday, April 17th from 11:00 – 5:00PM and on Saturday the 18th from 11:00 – 3:00PM.

This event is East Colony's most attended event of the year. We hope you will stop by and vote for your favorite designer's creation. There will be voting instructions given to you when you arrive. Bring your friends and come enjoy the splendor and beauty of fresh and diverse flora! Each arrangement is unique and is a feast for your eyes. A welcome sight for the upcoming spring in New Hampshire.

East Colony Fine Art is located in Langer Place, 55 South Commercial Street, Manchester, NH. Regular gallery hours: Tuesday-Friday 11-5 & Sat 11-3. Phone: 603-621-7400. All gallery events are free and open to the public, come as you are, there is plenty of free parking.

## PEM Presents First Major Thomas Hart Benton Exhibition In More Than 25 Years



Thomas Hart Benton, *Bootleggers*, 1927. Egg tempera and oil on linen, mounted on Masonite panel, 68 3/4 x 74 3/4 in. Reynolda House Museum of American Art, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Museum purchase with funds provided by Barbara B. Millhouse. Courtesy of Reynolda House Museum of American Art. © Benton Testamentary Trusts/UMB Bank Trustee/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY.

SALEM, MA – The Peabody Essex Museum (PEM) presents the first major traveling exhibition about American painter Thomas Hart Benton (1889-1975) in more than 25 years. American Epics: Thomas Hart Benton and Hollywood explores how the motion picture industry influenced and ignited Benton's creative imagination. Melding Old Master European painting traditions with Hollywood's cinematic and production techniques, Benton reinvented 20th-century American narratives and captivated the public with his signature brand of visual storytelling. As lead organizer of American Epics: Thomas Hart Benton and Hollywood, PEM hosts the exhibition from June 6 through September 7, 2015. The exhibition then travels to The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, PEM's collaborating partners on the exhibition. The Milwaukee Art Museum serves as final venue for the national tour.

This major reevaluation of Benton's art -- the first since 1989 -- gathers more than 100 works, including the artist's paintings, murals, drawings, prints and illustrated books. The exhibition pairs curated clips from Hollywood movies with Benton's art from the 1920s through the 1960s to take visitors on a journey through America's myths and into its national character.

#### WHY HOLLYWOOD?

Benton wanted to become the major American artist of his time. He trained in Chicago and Paris and was a member of New York's artistic vanguard, but by his mid-20s, Benton had yet to make the kind of defining contribution to the art history of the United States that his ancestors, U.S. Senator Thomas Hart Benton and John Charles Fremont, had made to the nation's political history. Casting about for work and opportunities, Benton became a set painter on silent film productions in Fort Lee, New Jersey — the nation's "first Hollywood."

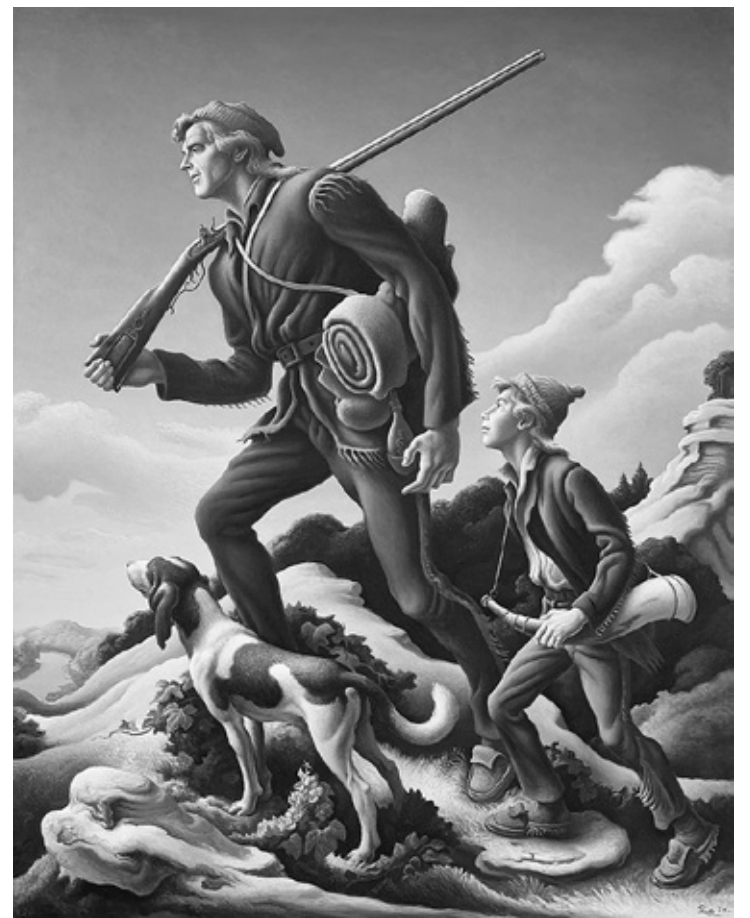
Benton became acutely aware of the motion picture industry's rising influence and mass appeal. Themes of cultural identity, westward expansion, prejudice, tolerance and the American Dream were given epic treatment on movie screens, and Benton sought to paint them. Like the movies, murals are a form of public art, so Benton embarked on a self-commissioned, independently produced mural series, American Historical Epic. This sweep-

ing series painted between 1920 and 1928 runs to more than 60 feet in length and appears in the exhibition. Benton selected episodes from American history familiar from 1920s silent films, but he depicted the nation's past in unconventional ways to engage the hot-button issues of the day: citizenship, race relations and national identity. Inspired by his characterizations, 20th Century Fox commissioned Benton to create a series of lithographs in 1940 to promote John Ford's filmed adaptation of John Steinbeck's best selling novel *The Grapes of Wrath*.

#### A CAST OF HEROES AND HEROINES

When America was drawn into World War II, Benton rapidly produced *Year of Peril*, a mural series intended to issue a "wake-up call" to his fellow countrymen and women. "War Art Creates Sensation" is the title of the 1942 Paramount Newsreel featuring Benton and these propaganda paintings. Informed both by Hollywood motifs and the artist's personal memories of seeing soldiers departing for war, Benton painted *Shipping Out* in 1942. The composition recalls the final scene of the acclaimed anti-war movie from 1930, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, when each soldier turns to lock eyes with the viewer and bid a final farewell.

In the 1950s and 60s, Benton revisited the American West and began painting landscapes of the Great Plains, the Grand Tetons and the Rocky Mountains. This "grand scenery," as Benton called it, inspired him to explore the visual vocabulary of Hollywood Westerns and to think of his palette as akin to the bold tones and rich saturation of Technicolor. Benton's final Hollywood commission was a 1954 promotional painting for *The Kentuckian*, starring Burt Lancaster as "Big Eli" and Donald MacDonald as "Little Eli." Accompanied by their faithful hound, the characters are shown mid-quest as they head westward to establish a new life outside civilized society. The distant undulating landscape of the West beckons the travelers to this mythic realm, where blue skies, freedom and a new beginning await.



Thomas Hart Benton, *The Kentuckian*, 1954. Oil on canvas, 76 1/8 x 60 3/8 in. Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Gift of Burt Lancaster. Photo courtesy of LACMA. © Benton Testamentary Trusts/UMB Bank Trustee/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY.



### First Music Offers Free Program

NASHUA – Three great artists unite in one free program, closing First Music's seventh season! Julian Milkis, internationally acclaimed soloist, chamber musician, and jazz clarinetist (and only remaining student of clarinet icon Benny Goodman!) joins bassoonist Gregory Newton and pianist Sima Kustanovich.

This unique program including works by Mendelssohn, Rota, Piazzolla and others invites all to experience chamber music up close and personal, in a beautiful Romanesque-revival architectural setting, Sunday afternoon, April 26 at 3:00pm in The First Church, 1 Concord Street, Nashua, NH. For more information [www.first-music.org](http://www.first-music.org) or [info@first-music.org](mailto:info@first-music.org), 603.882.4861.



### Spring Show Many-Media Winners

The winners for the Many-Media portion of the Spring Show at the Jaffrey Civic Center are chosen by public voting during the length of the show. Left to right are winners: Joan Tierney of Wilton, New Hampshire, with her 2nd place image on bottom left, "Monadnock with Birds", the 1st place image, center top, "Jaffrey", by David Zerbe of Croydon, New Hampshire standing at right, and the Honorable Mention image, bottom right, "Verdant Wild", by Shannon Stirweiss of New Ipswich, New Hampshire. The Jaffrey Civic Center is located at 40 Main Street, Jaffrey next to Library, parking in rear. Hours are Tues: 10-6, Wed-Fri 1-5, Sat 10-2. Admission is always free. For information, website, [www.jaffrey-civiccenter.com](http://www.jaffrey-civiccenter.com), or "Like" us on Facebook.

### Sweetback Sisters and The Stray Birds Perform in Peterborough

Saturday, April 18, 8:00pm  
Tickets \$25 advance. \$28 DOS  
Peterborough Players Theater

"Zara Bode and Emily Miller layer gorgeous girl-on-girl harmonies over swell honky-tonk melodies - the kind that make Loretta Lynn fans weep - and you just know you're in for some hot and/or mournful fiddle. Trust us: These guys are brilliant."—NBC New York

Sweetback Sisters Emily Miller and Zara Bode may not be blood relations, but their precise, family-style harmonies recall the best

of country music from the Everlys to The Judds, as well as the spirited rockabilly energy of Wanda Jackson, one of the band's role models. Like the artists they admire, the Sweetbacks are concerned with the traditional subjects of heartbreak, revenge, remorse and staying strong in the face of relationships gone wrong, albeit with a contemporary sensibility.

EAST COLONY FINE ART'S  
12th Annual *Petals 2 Paint*  
OPENING RECEPTION  
Thursday, April 16th 5 - 8pm  
Exhibit continues  
Friday, April 17th 11-5pm  
Saturday, April 18th 11-3pm

[www.eastcolony.com](http://www.eastcolony.com)

EAST COLONY Fine Art  
55 So. Commercial St.  
Manchester NH  
603-621-7400

WINNER  
BEST OF 2014