

# Historic Homes & Properties



50 — Antiques and The Arts Weekly — June 2, 2023

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## Ground Penetrating Radar To Aid Research At Kingscote, Hunter House

**NEWPORT, R.I.** — Exciting historical research using modern techniques is happening at Kingscote (1841) and Hunter House (c.1748), the two oldest of the Preservation Society of Newport County's 13 historic house museums.

From Monday, May 15, through Thursday, May 18, a team from Dartmouth College conducted research utilizing cutting-edge technology, including ground penetrating radar, at Kingscote and Hunter House. The team of four students will be led by Dr. Jesse Casassa, a professor of Anthropology at Dartmouth College and co-director of the Dartmouth Spatial Archaeometry Lab and Research Collaborations.

"Diligently maintaining our historic properties for future generations is just one aspect of the work we do," Preservation Society chief executive officer and executive director Trudy Cox said. "It is also important to continue learning how the people who occupied these houses lived. This kind of in-depth research will provide another layer of insight, helping us better understand a significant era in Newport's history."

Casassa's work will shed light on the way these properties have been used over the centuries. This project will be instrumental in discovering the locations of previous structural foundations and outbuildings while also identifying specific sites for future archaeological dig.

When the surveys are completed, the Dartmouth group will examine the data and develop a map of both properties. Ideally, they will provide an understanding of ground disturbances that register in the radar scans and can be used to create an aerial, spatial map that indicates non-existent building footprints, former garbage pits, historic graves such as the Kingscote animal cemetery) and modern utility lines as well as anomalies. Based on these findings, the Preservation Society will decide whether further investigation via archaeological digs is warranted.

The ground survey project follows a recent analysis of the layers of paint on the exterior of Kingscote, which led to it being painted a different color, representative of its period of significance. The Preservation Society's curatorial and conservation team sought to identify the color used in the 1800s when Kingscote was significantly renovated



Hunter House, courtesy the Preservation Society of Newport County.

and expanded by architect McKim, Mead & White. Approximately 125 samples were collected and examined using a high-power microscope. The analysis identified up to 20 individual paint layers dating as far back as the house's construction in 1841. The curatorial staff determined the house was repainted in a shade of grayish brown and red as part of the 1800s work. In the Twentieth Century this eventually gave way to the house's famous light gray color. This spring, Kingscote was repainted in its 1800s color.

For further information, visit [www.newport-museums.org](http://www.newport-museums.org).



Kingscote, courtesy the Preservation Society of Newport County.

## Preservation Long Island & Huntington Historical Society Host Companion Exhibitions Exploring Long Island's Early Textile Industry

**TOWN OF HUNTINGTON, N.Y.** — A two-venue exhibition collaboration hosted by Preservation Long Island (PLI) and the Huntington Historical Society (HHS) showcases early Long Island textiles.

The HHS's exhibition, "From Farm to Fabric: Early Woollen Textiles on Long Island," curated by Emily Wozniak, looks closely at the materials, technology and design of woven textiles produced in the home and in small-scale professional workshops across Long Island from the late Eighteenth to mid-Nineteenth Century, while PLI's exhibition, "Blanket Statements: Long Island's Early Woollen Industry," curated by Lauren Briscoe, explores the social, political and economic contexts of early industrial weaving and overcoat production on Long Island during the first half of the Nineteenth Century. Blanket Statements combines recent overcoat acquisitions with furniture, maps, and paintings from PLI's collection in addition to key loans from the HHS and the Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum.

"Long Island was at the forefront of overcoat production during the early Nineteenth Century. Highly skilled weavers created complex designs using innovative loom technology introduced by recent European immigrants. Beautiful and functional, these objects reflect the interwoven connection between people, materials, technology and labor — both on land and free — across an ocean and generations," said Lauren Briscoe, Preservation Long Island curator.

"Coverlets are more than just fancy blankets. Studying these local textiles can tell us so much about early Nineteenth Century life on Long Island. They represent the culmination of months of labor from many different hands, from growing flax and cotton or raising sheep, to spinning and dyeing the yarn, and to designing, weaving and finishing the fabric. I was thinking about where the yarn and dyes came from, who were the overcoat makers, and who stayed warm under them during chilly nights," said Emily Wozniak, curator at Huntington Historical Society.

Both exhibitions will be on view through October 8. "Blanket Statements" is at the PLI exhibition gallery, 161 Main Street, Cold Spring. "From Farm to Fabric" at the Huntington Historical Society History & Decorative Arts Museum, is at 228 Main Street.



Detail of a coverlet woven by Mary H. Wood in 1808. Donated by Hilary Corwin, Huntington Historical Society.



Carpet fragment, probably Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., circa 1835, now Preservation Long Island.

## Transformation Of Horton Point Lighthouse's Nautical Museum

**SOUTHOLD, N.Y.** — Each May, Southold Historical Museum reopens the Nautical Museum, at Horton Point Lighthouse for the season. Volunteers welcomed visitors back once again on May 27, however, this year the museum interior looks much different. The exhibits have been reinterpreted to emphasize several important local narratives, including whaling, working on the boys, the history of the lighthouse and its keepers, and a scaled model of the famous Holland Submarine.

Southold Historical Museum executive director, Dennis White-Walker stated, "Historically, museums began as cabinets of curiosities. In some ways, the Nautical Museum at Horton Point Lighthouse had a similar feeling. It was a collection of interesting stuff. When our volunteers expressed interest in making some changes, I realized the time was suitable to re-imagine the exhibit."

Visitors will notice that while there might be fewer artifacts filling the cases, there is more to absorb. The interpretive labels help to share a story of what life was like for boys who made a living mending sailing nets and using rakes to harvest the local waters. Additionally, the whaling section highlights the story of Captain Henry Jones, who moved to Peconic after retiring as a whaling ship captain out of Sag Harbor. Modelled after similar wheels at the USS Constitution and the Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum, this section features the "What-If" of Horton Point, which visitors both young and old alike are encouraged to spin to learn their fate as a whaler.

The section that examines the history of the Horton Point Lighthouse still centers around the impressive Third Order Fresnel lens. The narrative is enhanced by artifacts related to the work of keeping a light which includes brass lamps, workbooks, charts and tools from Horton Point Lighthouse, as well as other artifacts. The timeline which delineates the chronology of the lighthouse, alongside the years of the keepers as well as the years of the shipwrecks, makes for an attractive visual which is also thick full of information.



Horton Point Lighthouse, courtesy Southold Historical Museum.

There are still finishing touches to be added and items are being explored for an interactive touch screen in the room with the model of the Holland Submarine, the early sub which was tested by the US Navy off New Bedford.

One thing that hasn't changed in the "Underover: Horton of Rum Running in Southold" exhibit. The seasonal exhibit which explores the stories of local residents during Prohibition was originally planned to be installed for just one summer season. However, the exhibit has proved so popular that the museum decided to keep it on view for the 2023 season as well.

Southold Historical Museum looks forward to welcoming first-time and repeat visitors to the museum. There is something for everyone to explore. Additionally, volunteers will be available to greet people at the top of the lighthouse tower.

Horton Point Lighthouse is one of seven historic lighthouses located in Southold Township. The tower and adjoining keepers' residence was built on the "Cliff Lot" of Bartholomew Horton's original 1649 land grant. The National Museum of American History's "The National Museum at Horton Point Lighthouse" is open Saturdays and Sundays until September 17, from 11:30 am to 4 pm. Admission is \$10 per adult, \$10 per family, which includes visitors to a passport that can also be used for admission to the Museum's Maple Lane complex.

For more information, visit [www.southoldhistorical.org](http://www.southoldhistorical.org) or 631-765-5000.

## At Forest Lawn Museum, 'Grand Views: The Immersive World Of Panoramas'

**GLENDALE, CALIF.** — Revealing the art and history behind some of the world's largest paintings, Forest Lawn Museum, in collaboration with the Velasquez Panoramia, is presenting "Grand Views: The Immersive World of Panoramas" until September 10. The exhibition explores the history of panoramic paintings, an immersive, large-scale artistic format popularized in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries. Presented by two distinguished, decade-old art institutions and panorama experts, "Grand Views" will feature an array of artworks and artifacts spanning the late Eighteenth Century to present, including never-before displayed preparatory paintings, Nineteenth Century prints and posters, a painted movie backdrop and more.

Organized thematically, the exhibition features three major topics: the early history of panoramas, crucifixion panoramas and panoramas in Hollywood and Los Angeles. In addition, Forest Lawn will launch a new documentary-style audio visual program on Jan. 21's "Crucifixion" during the run of the exhibition.



From left, Sara Voias, "Panorama of the Valley of the Smokes," 2006, oil on canvas, 60 by 3 feet. Courtesy of Velasquez Panoramia. Jan Styka, "Crucifixion," 1906 oil on Belgian linen, 195 by 45 feet. Courtesy of Forest Lawn Museum.

A centerpiece of the exhibition is "Panorama of the Valley of the Smokes" (60 by 3 feet). Painted by Sara Voias, founder of the Velasquez Panoramia, in 2006, the panorama visualizes the natural landscape of Los Angeles before the city became a metropolis and is the earliest prior to the arrival of the film industry. Archival photographs, ephemera and a newly constructed model of the estuaria where "Valley of the Smokes" was originally displayed will be exhibited alongside the artwork.

"Grand Views" also includes prints, broadsides and other artworks from the late Eighteenth through the early Twentieth Centuries. These rare objects are related to panoramas exhibited in the United States and Asia throughout the "heritage era" of the panoramic medium. The artworks address topics ranging from world travel to the American Civil War.

The Hall of Crucifixion-Reurrection, located next to Forest Lawn Museum, showcases the "Crucifixion" (195 by 45 feet),

which was painted by Polish artist Jan Styka in the 1890s. The exhibition features original artifacts related to Jan Styka's painting and other crucifixion panoramas. The "Reurrection" (70 by 51 feet), which was painted by American artist Robert Clark, is also on display in the Hall of Crucifixion-Reurrection. Completed in 1905, Clark's work was commissioned by Forest Lawn as a companion to Styka's painting. "Grand Views" features never-before displayed preparatory paintings for the "Reurrection," including

works by Clark, fine artist and Disney Imagineer, Herbert Ryan and artist Allyn Cox, the artist's models in the United States Capitol.

Panoramic paintings have long influenced cinema and other immersive media formats. The final section of "Grand Views" features a Hollywood backdrop (21 by 15 feet), which was painted in the 1950s. It is displayed alongside silver cinema artifacts, including original film strips on loan from 3-D SIMAC (The Center for Stereoscopic Photography, Art, Cinema and Education).

There will be an opening reception on Saturday, May 13, from 5 to 7 pm at Forest Lawn Museum. The evening will include free exhibition tours, live music and complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres. The free, family-friendly event includes free parking, and is open to the public. ADA compliant, and wheelchair accessible. Guests are invited to RSVP to [www.forestlawn.com](http://www.forestlawn.com) or 323-340-4762. Forest Lawn Museum is located adjacent to the Hall of Crucifixion-Reurrection, 1712 South Glendale Avenue. For information, visit [www.forestlawn.com](http://www.forestlawn.com).

## MFA Boston Explores Wedding Fashions And Traditions In Upcoming Exhibition

**BOSTON** — From white silk dresses to diamond rings and wreaths of orange blossoms, some wedding traditions have endured over hundreds of years and countless shifts in culture, style and social norms. The upcoming exhibition "Something Old, Something New, Wedding Fashions and Traditions" at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), explores the origins of wedding customs and looks at how they've evolved — and stayed the same — from the Nineteenth Century to today. The exhibition is on view May 27 through October 1 and is included with general admission.

Thematic groupings present nearly 40 objects from the MFA's fashion collection — including bridal dresses, shoes, jewelry, undergarments and hair accessories.

The objects are paired with a wall of photographs showing brides and grooms throughout the decades, from formal portraits taken by Carl Boston, Henri Cartier-Bresson and Edward Weston to candid snapshots by unidentified photographers.

Exhibition highlights include contemporary dresses designed by Arnold Scaani — who inspired Barbra Streisand, and draped Elizabeth Taylor, Joan Rivers and Barbara Walters — as well as by Priscilla Comins Kilder, the owner of Priscilla de Bono bridal boutique, who dressed Grace Kelly's bridesmaids and President Johnson's and Vice's daughters for their wedding.

These and other exquisite objects, from a gold wedding band made in the Eighteenth Century by Paul Revere to a turquoise and pearl brooch designed by Prince Albert for Queen Victoria's bridesmaids on the occasion of their 1840 wedding, reveal the changes and lasting trends surrounding marriage ceremonies in America.



MFA Boston is at 665 Huntington Avenue. For information, 617-287-0000 or [mfa.org](http://mfa.org).

Arnold Scaani, woman's wedding dress (1989), silk satin wove, feathers, silk plain weave (tulle), metal, plastic, elastic.

## The Met Presents First Exhibition Focusing On Van Gogh's Cypresses

**NEW YORK CITY** — The Metropolitan Museum of Art (The Met) presents an exhibition of some 60 works by Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890), through August 27. "Van Gogh's Cypresses" is the first show to focus on the unique vision the artist brought to bear on the towering trees — among the most famous in the history of art — affording an unprecedented perspective on a motif virtually unknown to his creative process, challenging prevailing notions with fresh insights into the artist's work.

Justifying landmark paintings with precise drawings and illustrated letters — many rarely, if ever, lent or exhibited together — this tightly conceived thematic exhibition will feature Van Gogh's most substantial "I see them" at the apse in Saint-Rémy, iconic paintings such as "Wheat Field with Cypresses" and "The Starry Night" will take their place as the centerpiece of this historic

exhibition, which will only be presented at The Met. "The show is a dream come true," said Max Hollein, Marina Klein, French director of the Met. "Marking the 170th anniversary year of Van Gogh's birth, this highly focused survey works presents both an overview and an intimate glimpse of his creative process, challenging prevailing notions with fresh insights into the artist's work."

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**ANTIQUES AND ART SALE**

**Sun., May 28 10am - 2pm**

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Double drop leaf, decorative clawfoot 4 column faux plus single drawer 48.5 x 60" \$1200 EXCELLENT CONDITION.

Early pine dovetail 4 drawer table 18x32" 8800

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