I have lived in Vermont for just one year and have already learned that this is a complex place; one that treasures traditional New England values and at the same time harbors the most progressive tendencies. This duality is one of Vermont’s defining characteristics. This is a place of white houses, picket fences, and covered bridges, celebrated by the state’s tourist industry. Yet from its very beginning, Vermont has provided a refuge for forward-thinking, even at times revolutionary figures, from Ethan Allen to the founders of Bennington College to Bernie Sanders today. All through the 20th century, artists came to Vermont because here they found room to experiment and create: from Rockwell Kent and Martha Graham to Paul Feeley, Ken Noland, Pat Adams, David Gil and Johnny Swing.

Bennington Museum is famous for its superlative collections of Vermont furniture and folk art, Grandma Moses paintings, American glass, and Bennington stoneware. Now, with the installation of the Bennington Modernism Gallery, we bring attention to the most avant-garde art created in Vermont – all within miles of the museum – and yet we are only doing what we have always done: record, collect, exhibit, and interpret the history of culture and creativity in Vermont from the 18th century to the present.

As always, we thank you for your generous support that makes all this possible!

The NEW Bennington Museum – Get into It!

From The Director

It was with great excitement that on July 20, Bennington Museum unveiled two new permanent galleries - Gilded Age Vermont and Bennington Modernism. Gilded Age Vermont is dedicated to aspects of the museum’s permanent collection not cohesively celebrated in the past. It reflects the industrialization and resulting economic prosperity in Bennington from the mid-nineteenth through the mid-twentieth century. At its height, around 1890, Bennington was home to nearly three dozen mills positioned along a two-mile stretch of the Walloomsac River. The mill owners built glorious homes, and filled them with beautiful art, furniture and decorative objects.

Representative of this wealth are elaborate Renaissance Revival furnishings and a stylish parlor organ manufactured by the Estey Organ Company of Brattleboro, Vermont. Grandeur of this time is seen in the Frederick MacMonnies’ sumptuous portrait of May Suydam Palmer, Tiffany Glass, and the Martin Wasp, a luxury automobile made in Bennington by Karl Martin between 1920 and 1924. Together the objects in this gallery paint a vivid picture of innovation and prosperity from Vermont’s past.

Jumping ahead several decades, the works created by a group of avant-garde artists who worked in and around Bennington from the early 1950s through the mid-1970s are on view in the new Bennington Modernism Gallery. Leading the nation in artistic thought and innovation, the artists of national and international stature with local ties included Pat Adams, Willard Boepple, Helen Frankenthaler, Vincent Longo, Kenneth Noland, Dan Shapiro, David Smith and Tony Smith. At the center of this group was Paul Feeley, head of Bennington College’s art department, recognized as one of the most dynamic hubs of creativity in the country. Their embrace of abstraction and common desire to move beyond Abstract Expressionism, which had dominated the American art scene since the mid-1940s’ united this disparate group of artists, and Vermont provided them with a retreat to focus on creation as well as a setting for lively discussion and socializing.

on the cover:
"Acorn" table Lamp, c. 1895
Designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848-1933)
Made by Tiffany Studios (1893-1931)
Corona, NY
Collection of the Bennington Museum
Top:
At the Brew and Food Pairing held in the Parestky Wing on May 17, Executive Director Robert Wolterstorff and Telly Halkias; Amy Dobson enjoys a moment with Justin and Christiana Salem.

Middle:
The Invisible Jams provided great music for the Brew and Food Pairing. ?????? examines an antique at the 2013 Appraisal Fair. Natasha and Matt  ??????? Need to get how they want their names listed.

Bottom:
Michael and Kathy Sleeman; Jeffery Yucht is joined by his wife, Suzy Yucht along with Allison Rogue and Bennington Museum Trustee Lorraine Smith

Bottom Left:
Chef-Owner Amy Chamberlain of The Perfect Wife in Manchester, VT.
May 25 through October 27  

**Southwestern Vermont and the Civil War** – a two-part exhibit that coincides with and commemorates the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War.  *The Fabulous General Ripley: Gen. Edward H. Ripley and the Capture of Richmond* and *Bennington Boys (and Ladies Too): The Local Civil War Experience* take a close look at the local involvement of those who lived in the southwestern portion of Vermont.

June 2 through September 6  

**Tom Fels: Cyanotypes from the Arbor Series** - the first public exhibition of a series of large-scale cyanotypes by the North Bennington artist and writer. Located in the Ada Paresky Education Center located on the second floor, the Arbor Series stems from Fels’ lengthy engagement with a single subject he has observed over many years: a tree in his backyard.

July 15 through September 16  

**Circus on Broken Boulevard** – photographs by regional artist Lodiza LePore comprise a disturbing yet strangely profound and humorous meditation on the loss of innocence and the darker, authoritarian impulses of church, family and corporate media.

August 2 through December 30  

**20th-Century Vermont Ceramics** - featuring works by Karen Karnes, David Gil, Brother Thomas, and Charlotte Potok.

August 31 through October 14  

**150th Anniversary of the 1863 Jane Stickle Quilt** – celebrating the anniversary of this extraordinary quilt, new research adds even more depth to the story of the quilt and its creator.

May through October  

**Disappearance of the Catamount from Vermont and Is the Catamount Really Gone?** — continue the museum’s participation in telling the story of the Green Mountain Catamount and its extirpation from Vermont. This exhibit is in conjunction with Bennington’s street art festival, Catamount Prowl, 2013.

Exhibitions made possible in part by the S. Lane Faison Jr. Exhibition Fund.
Southwestern Vermont and the Civil War

“Everything changed for the country and for Bennington on April 12, 1861, when South Carolina artillery opened fire on Fort Sumter, the fort meant to protect Charleston harbor. The Civil War had begun. It took a day or two for the news to reach Bennington, but when it did the citizens responded immediately.”
—Bennington and the Civil War, (2013) a book by Bill Morgan

Southwestern Vermont and the Civil War coincides with and commemorates the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. The exhibit was installed in two parts in order to pay honor to two distinct types of “heroes.”

The Fabulous General Ripley: Gen. Edward H. Ripley and the Capture of Richmond examines the service of Rutland native Edward H. Ripley and his significant role in the Union’s capture of Richmond, Virginia. Enlisting as a private in May, 1862, Ripley quickly ascended through the ranks, being brevetted to Brigadier General on August 1, 1864. He was placed in charge of the First Brigade, Third Division, 24th Army Corps. In this role, he led the first Union troops into Richmond on April 3, 1865. The retreating Confederates had set fire to much of the city and Ripley was placed in command. His first task was to quell the fires and subdue looting mobs. Having done this immediately, Ripley was credited with playing a major role in saving Richmond from destruction and the unofficial end of the Civil War.

Bennington Boys (and Ladies Too): The Local Civil War Experience explores the role that local men and woman of southwestern Vermont played in the war as well as the impact it had on their lives. Comprised exclusively of selections from the museum’s extensive collection of Civil War archives and objects, this installation provides insight into both the public and personal facets of the war. One of the highlights of the exhibition is an American flag featuring a 33-star canton, forming a variation on the “Great Star” pattern popular on the eve of the Civil War. It was originally appliquéd with the inscription, “Presented to the Bennington Boys of ’61 by the Ladies.” Objects like this, and the many others on display, help paint a vivid picture of the sacrifices made by local soldiers and civilians in their effort save the American union.

This exhibit is sponsored by Berkshire Bank and supported by the S. Lane Faison Jr. Exhibition Endowment Fund. The museum also recognizes and thanks Bill Morgan, President of the Bennington Historical Society, for full advance access to his research into, and the resulting text, for his book, Bennington and the Civil War. Much of his writing has been incorporated into the exhibition.

In keeping with the museum’s Civil War theme, the summer Walloomsack Review features a description of life on the home front in Bennington by Bill Morgan, president of the Bennington Historical Society.

While most Civil War writing focuses on major battles, Morgan’s research tells of anxiety about news from the battlefields, repeated calls to duty, patriotic parades, work of the Ladies’ Soldiers’ Aid Society, and an occasional gunpowder explosion.

The issue also includes a new study of the Stickle quilt and reviews of Howard Coffin’s new Civil War book and a biography of Robert T. Lincoln. The summer Walloomsack Review is available at the Bennington Museum Shop and bookstores in the region.
The new fiscal year is upon us! From a fundraising perspective, turning the page and starting a new balance sheet is a fresh start, full of opportunities and possibilities. Bennington Museum has big plans for FY2014. To match the effort that is going into rethinking and reinventing the museum, we are working on making changes in the way we raise funds. One goal is to increase our reach in the community and beyond by making sure we are in touch with people who feel connected to the museum. We will be freshening up our events, taking a hard look at our membership program, applying for grants and increasing our planned giving initiatives.

There was a great crowd and great energy at the Brew and Food Pairing on May 17, and we surpassed all of our goals. On July 19, we hosted a Summer Party for Annual Fund donors, members and special guests who got a sneak peek at the two new galleries – Gilded Age Vermont and Bennington Modernism, and experienced Southwestern Vermont and the Civil War and Tom Fels Cyanotypes from the Arbor Series. The event schedule for the rest of the calendar year is very full. Farm to Table Dinner is on August 24, and Festival of Trees will be as delightful as ever.

Every donation to Bennington Museum is considered a “thank you” for doing something meaningful. We strive to inspire our visitors, and in turn ask them to show their appreciation by supporting the museum. There are many ways to do that. Come to our events, become a member, make a donation to help replace our deteriorating roof, sponsor an exhibition or gallery, help fund children’s programs, support acquisitions to the collections, or give to the Annual Fund. The list goes on. If you have any questions or want to make a donation, please contact Jeanne Conner in the Development Office at 802-447-1571. We are so grateful for your support!

New Members
February 1 through June 30

Individual
Joyce Scarey
Ronald Rabidou
Linda Johnson
Jeremy Roy
Tracy Baker-White
Abbott Cummings

Family
Mitch and Helen Greene
Michael and Theresa St. German

Contributing
Jeannette Lesser
Ron Ratliff and Suzanne Kirkpatrick
Pat White and Kathy Wagenknecht

Non-Profit
Voorheesville Public Library

Upgraded Memberships
Michael Keane and Edie Sawitsky
Tim and Celia Metcalf
Anthony and Jacqueline Marro
Donald and Melanie McKenna
Francis Jones
Robert and Helen Pezzulich
James Betts
Michael and Terese Comar
Laura Nowak and Laura Keanon
David and Laraine Naaktgeboren
Barbara Hoar and Bob Hoar
Jane Griswold Radocchia and Angelina Radocchia

B.P.O.E. NO. 567

Pembroke LANDSCAPE
Celebrating 30 Years Serving Southwestern VT

Supporting the Bennington Museum

Upcoming Events

Farm to Table Dinner - A gastronomical adventure offering a Tuscan-inspired, elegantly casual, seven-course tasting dinner that showcases dishes prepared with farm fresh foods from our region and available from the many local farmers represented at the Walloomsac Farmers’ Market. The dinner will be be accompanied by fine wines provided by Shelburne Vineyard in Shelburne, VT.

Annual Members’ Dinner - Enjoy dinner at the museum with fellow Bennington Museum members and special guests. The annual Walloomsac and General Stark Awards are presented and museum staff present their plans for the coming year. $25 per person

Programs for Adults

Bennington Historical Society presents programs in the Ada Paresky Education Center. September: The Mills of Bennington, a bus tour with Anne Bugbee and Bill Morgan; October: The Big Mill, presented by Joan Goodrich. Programs are free and open to the public.

An Evening with Brenda Papadakis – Spend some time with author Brenda Papadakis as she shares information about the creator of the 1863 Dear Jane Quilt, Jane Stickle. Hear the stories of Stickle’s life and times, and see quilts inspired by the popularity of Dear Jane© made by people throughout the world. Bring your own to share! $7 for Museum Members, $10 for not-yet-members

Dear Jane Workshops – Participate in one or both days of quilting with Dear Jane© author and quilter, Brenda Papadakis. She leads you through machine and hand-piecing blocks from the Dear Jane Quilt. Workshops are appropriate for any skill level. $60/day for Museum Members; $75/day for not-yet-members

Programs for Kids and Families


Shape and Color – Exploring Bennington Modernism – Visit one of the museum’s newest – and most colorful – installations and dive into some modern art

“Fall” for Art – Celebrate the season as you enjoy colorful foliage and look for representations of leaves and autumn in the galleries.

Dairy Days – Milk Bennita, the Bennington Museum “cow” and make butter from the cream!

Let’s Look – Explore some old-fashioned ways of viewing images, using stereoscopes and magic lanterns.
Looking Ahead …

August 24
August 31 through October 14
September 4 through November 8
September 20
September 21 through December 30
October 18
November 29 through December 30
December 7
December 14

Farm to Table Dinner
150th Anniversary of the Jane Stickle Quilt
Wall Drawing by Jarvis Rockwell
Stoneware Collectors’ Meeting
Regional Artist Gallery: Works by Daisy Rockwell
Annual Members’ Dinner
Hidden Gems at the Festival of Trees
Festival of Trees Family Day
Festival of Trees Gala

Ending September 2

Tom Fels: Cyanotypes from the Arbor Series