

SHELBURNE  
MUSEUM

FALL

20  
22





## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR THOMAS DENENBERG

Early this spring, thirty yards of soil arrived at Shelburne Museum destined for the lawn in front of the Pizzagalli Center for Art and Education. This new, rich earth became the basis for a garden surrounding the monumental timber-framed sculpture of Nancy Winship Milliken. Planted and nurtured by Bee the Change, a non-profit devoted to creating habitat for pollinators, the garden thrived, bloomed, and created a fantastic and Impressionistic splash of color around the works—and a metaphor for the season here at the Museum.

Just as the pollinator meadow burst with color and nurtured the pollinators, so too the Museum's offerings added to our world and nurtured our souls. From the vivid paintings of Luigi Lucioni to the vibrant quilts of Maria Shell, returning to full-fledged operation left us feeling, well, ebullient. Joining the Museum's outdoor sculpture collection is our newest permanent object, *Faceted Rock*, by Vermont-based sculptor David Stromeyer. This stunning large-scale steel sculpture evokes a sense of wonder about the environment and immediately felt right at home on the Museum campus.

There was so much to celebrate this 75th Anniversary year, and you joined us in droves. Bookended by the Garden Stroll in June and our Gala in September, with openings and artist receptions in between, we saw sell-out numbers at our events. Free First Friday Evenings drew crowds of more than a thousand visitors for live music and gallery tours. In July, Antiques Roadshow came to town drawing thousands of visitors with their prized possessions and cherished heirlooms hoping for a surprise find and a chance to land on the beloved PBS show. You showed us how much Shelburne Museum means to you.

As the leaves started to turn in September, we reopened the long-anticipated Stagecoach Inn building, home to the Museum's renowned American folk art collection. Stagecoach Inn's galleries have been refreshed and reinstalled presenting the collection to visitors in a way that examines the times in which they were created and unfolds narratives that are relevant today.

As the season changes, the year is not over! Winter Lights is on the horizon. Last year was such a roaring success that we're back lighting the campus aglow, and adding even more glimmering displays to dazzle visitors of all ages. New this year, an ice bar event with hot signature drinks and live music to round out this year's festivities.

All of this to say, thank you for a fabulous and celebratory 75th season, and don't go too far because there is a lot more to celebrate in a few short weeks. I look forward to seeing you at the Museum, early and often, for Winter Lights 2022.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Denenberg, PhD  
*John Wilmerding Director & CEO*







# 75th Gala

Fireworks over the Round Barn were a festive coda on the evening.

On September 10 we celebrated 75 years of Shelburne Museum with a Gala on the North Lawn. The evening kicked off with an official proclamation from Vermont Governor Phil Scott recognizing the day as 75th Anniversary of Shelburne Museum Day! The event marked the reopening of Stagecoach Inn, newly renovated and reinstalled, and celebrated the newly updated Dana-Spencer Galleries at Hat & Fragrance with curator tours. The Print Shop was also demonstrating letterpress printing.

Additional thanks for the generous support of our corporate sponsors:

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Benoit Electric, Barr Hill, Lake Champlain Chocolates, and WhistlePig Whiskey.



(clockwise from top right) Guests enjoy cocktails on the lawn near Stagecoach Inn.

Floral arrangement in the dinner tent.

Caroline Haines and Duncan Davis pose for a portrait.

Sunset over Horseshoe Barn and the dinner tent.

Sam Webb, grandson of Museum founder Electra Havemeyer Webb, taking in the festivities from the porch of Stagecoach Inn.

Gala Committee Co-chair and Trustee Lisa Pizzagalli and Dan Johnson at the Gala dinner.

From left, Joey Bergstein, Gala Committee Co-chair and Trustee Andrea Bergstein, Natalie Harder, and Hank Harder arrive at the Gala.

Longtime Members and supporters Donna and Remo Pizzagalli.





# Stagecoach Inn Reopening

In September, Stagecoach Inn reopened with refurbished galleries highlighting a variety of colorful, whimsical, sculptural objects that honor Museum founder Electra Havemeyer Webb's early vision, assembled to encourage visitors' curiosity and bring light and life to vernacular American life.

Stagecoach Inn was built in 1783 and was used as an inn in Charlotte, Vermont, along the main stage route to Montreal. Relocated to Shelburne Museum's campus in 1949, its galleries have displayed folk art since 1951.

But... What is folk art, anyway?

Historically, answers to this question have been as diverse as the individuals who assembled collections of objects sometimes classified as "folk," "peasant," "primitive," or "naïve" art in the first half of the 20th century.

In 1907 Mrs. Webb established her collecting interest in folk art with the purchase of a tobacconist figure for fifteen dollars in Stamford, Connecticut. As Mrs. Webb prepared to open Shelburne Museum to the public, her assistant, Lilian Baker Carlisle, drafted a methodology for display of the idiosyncratic collection that Mrs. Webb amassed as one of the country's trailblazing collectors. Carlisle wrote, "It had been decided that the folk art would be exhibited in the Stagecoach Inn, but how and where to draw the line as to what items would be exhibited as part of the museum folk art collection was the question." The collection could be roughly grouped into seven categories of three-dimensional objects: ship's carvings and figureheads; weathervanes;



Trade signs in the newly refurbished gallery.

trade signs; circus figures; miscellaneous whimsy; decoys; and eagles. Within these categories, objects selected for display must also possess a practical "use value" and an aesthetically pleasing "beauty."

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Shelburne Museum's founding, Stagecoach Inn's galleries have been refreshed and reinstalled with iconic selections representing the best of the folk art collection. New research looks past the formal qualities of weathervanes, ship's carvings, trade signs, and more, digging into the origins, makers, and functions of these objects to offer 21st century perspectives reflective of the vast and varied ingenuity and creativity that inflects America's rich visual story.

Katie Wood Kirchoff, *Curator*

Unidentified maker, *Eagle*, 1858. Carved wood. Collection of Shelburne Museum, museum purchase. 1962-171.





Director Tom Denenberg with sculptor David Stromeyer and Todd Lockwood in front of the Museum's recent acquisition of outdoor sculpture *Faceted Rock*, which was installed in August. The acquisition was made possible thanks to a generous gift from Todd Lockwood. David Stromeyer is a sculptor based in Enosburg, Vermont, and Austin, Texas.

## Welcome **Faceted Rock**

Shelburne Museum is thrilled to share its newest permanent collection acquisition, *Faceted Rock*, by the talented Vermont-based sculptor, David Stromeyer. Prominently placed on the Museum's grounds, this sculpture thoughtfully engages with the Museum's bountiful gardens, buildings, and collections.

For over five decades, Stromeyer has created sculptures whose graphic forms, saturated colors, and complex, balanced compositions seem to defy steel's material limits. Working out of both his studio and sculpture park, Cold Hollow Sculpture Park, in Enosburg Falls, Vermont, and his residence in Austin, Texas, Stromeyer's sculptures play with space. Despite the weight of their materials and construction—including welded, cold-bent, half-ton steel plates—many of Stromeyer's sculptures play with perception and seem to defy gravity, appearing to float and extend upwards effortlessly in the landscape.

*Faceted Rock* is the first in a series of large-scale sculpture informed by the artist's two-year exploration of a single Vermont fieldstone. "It represents, in all kinds of ways, almost spiritually, exploring [this field stone's] density and shape, etc," Stromeyer recently explained. The forty-six facets of this monolith feature a metallic paint that fractures natural light across its bold geometry, highlighting its abstract form. Epitomizing Stromeyer's expressive and technical dexterity working with steel, *Faceted Rock* embodies the soul and identity of place and maker.

David Stromeyer, *Faceted Rock*, 2004. Steel, epoxy, and metallic paint, 8 1/2 x 9 x 11 3/16 ft. Museum purchase, made possible by a gift from Todd R. Lockwood. 2022-2.





# WINTER LIGHTS AT SHELBURNE MUSEUM

## Shelburne Museum will light its campus aglow for the second annual Winter Lights holiday event.

The Museum will decorate 14 buildings and gardens in multicolored light arrangements for the event, which will run from Thanksgiving weekend through New Year's Day. The campus will be magically illuminated for the event with the Hershell-Spillman Carousel bedecked, the *Ticonderoga* floating on a sea of light, Beach Woods twinkling, and the Electra Havemeyer Webb Memorial Building aglow.

Winter Lights will run Friday, November 25 through Sunday, January 1 from 5–8 p.m. according to the schedule (right). Visitors are strongly encouraged to purchase timed tickets in advance on the Museum's website [www.shelburnemuseum.org](http://www.shelburnemuseum.org). Tickets will be sold at 15-minute intervals and will be available for online purchase beginning in early October. **Tickets are non-refundable and non-changeable.**

For inquiries regarding accessibility accommodations, please contact Bonnie Douglas at 802-985-0831.

THANK YOU WINTER LIGHTS SPONSORS!



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NEW DISTRIBUTING

## Winter Lights Schedule

The event runs from 5–8 p.m. on each date:

Friday, November 25–Sunday, November 27

Thursday, December 1–Sunday, December 4

Thursday, December 8\*–Sunday, December 11

Thursday, December 15–Sunday, December 18

Thursday, December 22–Friday, December 23

Monday, December 26–Sunday, January 1

\*Ticket pricing differs this night. See Special Events for more information.

## Special Winter Lights Events



Lake Champlain  
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**LAKE CHAMPLAIN CHOCOLATES MEMBER NIGHT**  
Thursday, December 1 from 5–7 p.m.

Explore the expanded Winter Lights extravaganza with fellow Members for an exclusive two-hours. All Members will receive a sweet treat courtesy of sponsor Lake Champlain Chocolates. This event is included in the price of Winter Lights admission for Members.



**NEW! ICE BAR AT WINTER LIGHTS**  
Thursday, December 8 from 5:30–10 p.m.

Delight in the spirit of the season while sipping and snacking amid the merry majesty of the Museum's glowing campus. Join Shelburne Museum for an evening at Winter Lights paired with outdoor ice bars featuring local spirits, wine, and beer, plus eats from an array of the area's favorite food trucks.

Tickets: \$70 for Barnstormers, \$75 for Members; \$85 for non-members. All tickets include two tokens for food from local food trucks and two tokens for drinks at the ice bars.

Thank you to Ice Bar at Winter Lights sponsors: Barr Hill, Burlington Beer Company, Farrell Distributing, and WhistlePig Whiskey, with additional support from Union Bank.



## Winter Lights Ticket Prices

\$15 per adult

\$10 per child, ages 3-17

Free for children under 3

For more information, visit:

[shelburnemuseum.org/winterlights](http://shelburnemuseum.org/winterlights)





## Antiques Roadshow!

Antiques Roadshow, the popular PBS appraisal show, came to Shelburne Museum on July 12. Thousands arrived with paintings, furniture, ceramics, and more to learn from expert appraisers the value of their treasured objects and to get a chance to be featured on the show. Shelburne Museum was one of five sites for the 27th season. The day's appraisals will be used to create three episodes to air in 2023. **Stay tuned!**







# EVENTS!

The Museum returned to a full slate of happenings this season from exhibition openings to artist receptions to Mindful Yoga outdoors and Free First Friday Eves. We can't imagine a more beautiful setting for any gathering!



Museum Members at the Pizzagalli Center for Art and Education enjoy openings for this season's special exhibitions, ***Eyesight & Insight: Lens on American Art*** in the Colgate Gallery (top) and ***Luigi Lucioni: Modern Light*** in the Murphy Gallery (above).

Young visitors enjoy **Lyric Theater Company's** production of ***Ivy + Bean The Musical***, a lively musical based on the best-selling book series.



**En Plein Air Pop Ups** were a big hit this season with the chance to get creative and have fun at the Museum.

(above) Artist Nancy Winship Milliken and Andrew Milliken at a special reception celebrating the outdoor sculpture exhibition ***Nancy Winship Milliken: Varied and Alive***. The exhibition included a pollinator garden installed by Bee the Change of Weybridge, Vermont.

(right) **Free First Friday Eves** drew thousands of visitors to hear live music from local bands, engage in learning activities and relax in the warmth of summer evenings.





# Conservation Corner

In 2020, Shelburne Museum was honored that J.J. Murphy and Nancy Mladenoff offered their collection of children's printed handkerchiefs. This collection, assembled over several decades and numbering about three thousand, served as the foundation for J.J. Murphy's book *Children's Handkerchiefs: A Two Hundred Year History* (Schiffer, 1997) and complements Shelburne Museum's extensive holdings of printed ceramics, textiles, and toys.

In addition to their collection, the donors also provided funding to help support the cataloging of the collection. Cataloging involves entering the details of the object's history, fabrication, dimensions, and image into the Museum's collection's management database. When items enter the collection, information is added about the item's condition and readiness for exhibition to that record. This information helps in the organizing of exhibitions and helps prioritize conservation treatment or determine what methods of display might be appropriate for each item.



MiddWorks interns Ethan Moss and Rose Robinson helped catalog handkerchiefs from the Nancy Mladenoff and J.J. Murphy collection.

While the collection arrived well organized in acid-free boxes, the plastic bags that encased each handkerchief were not providing enough support to prevent unwanted creasing.

To further support the work of cataloging and rehousing the collection using sturdy unbuffered acid-free paper, the Museum applied for, and was honored to receive, a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services Museums for America program in 2021. The grant project also brought textile conservator Camille Myers Breeze to the Museum for one day to collaborate with me to develop options for displaying the handkerchiefs safely.

This summer, as part of Middlebury College's MiddWorks for Vermont program, the Collections Department welcomed two Middlebury College students, Ethan Moss and Rose Robinson. I taught them how to examine and describe the handkerchiefs using controlled vocabulary, the methods used to rehouse the handkerchiefs, and Assistant Registrar Allison Harig taught them how to photograph the handkerchiefs on a copy stand and enter catalog information into the collections management database. Thanks to their good work, we are ahead of the project's schedule, and we are grateful for their help.

Nancie Ravenel, *Director of Conservation*

(above left) Unidentified maker, *Natural History for Children Child's Handkerchief*, date unknown. Cotton, 14 3/4 x 15 1/2 in. Gift of Nancy Mladenoff and J.J. Murphy. 2020-9.2683. Photography by Andy Duback.

(left) Unidentified maker, *Hand Shadows Bunny Child's Handkerchief*, ca. 1870. Cotton, 8 x 11 in. Gift of Nancy Mladenoff and J.J. Murphy. 2020-9.2440. Photography by Andy Duback.







(above) Unidentified maker, *Squirrel Cage*, ca. 1900. Carved and painted wood, 25 1/4 x 24 x 9 in. Museum purchase. 1952-1252. Photography by J. David Bohl.

(right) Shepard Hardware Company, *Jonah and the Whale Mechanical Bank*, ca. 1890. Painted metal, 5 1/2 x 10 3/8 x 3 5/8 in. 22.4-11. Photography by Andy Duback.

# Action Figures: Objects in Motion

November 9, 2022

Including automatons, mechanical banks, toys, and whirligigs, this online exhibition brings Shelburne Museum’s collection to life. Whether by turnkey, button, string, or breeze, these objects have been carefully reactivated, many for the first time in more than half a century. Featuring short digital videos, the exhibition captures these rare performances, allowing contemporary audiences the opportunity to watch these historical objects spring into action.



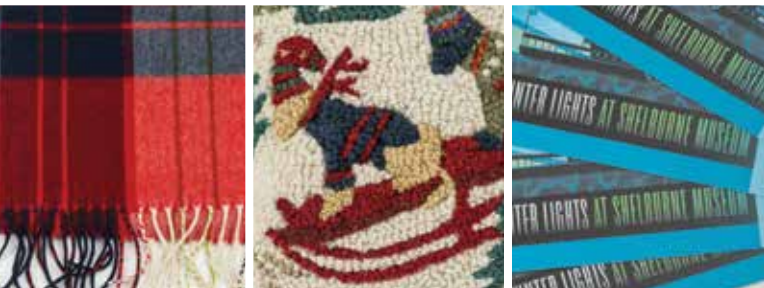
## Get Ready to Bid! The Holiday Auction Extravaganza Returns

Shelburne Museum’s holiday fundraising virtual auction is back! Auction items range from favorites from the Museum Store, one-of-a-kind experiences on the Museum grounds, and a variety of items from local Vermont businesses.

The auction supports Shelburne Museum’s multifaceted mission to provide collections stewardship, deliver education programming, mount world-class exhibitions, and foster engagement within the community.

The auction opens on Sunday, November 13 at 8 a.m. and runs through 6 p.m. on Sunday, November 20.  
**Let the bidding begin!**

Visit [shelburnemuseum.org](https://shelburnemuseum.org) for more details.



## Give the Gift of **Membership**

Through a gift of membership, you open the door to a world of exploration and engagement at Shelburne Museum! You can amplify your impact trifold by:

- Supporting Vermont’s foremost public resource for visual art and material culture;
- Inviting your friends and family to experience the unique educational experience that is Shelburne Museum;
- Receiving a 2021 tax deduction (all Individual, Dual, and Family Memberships are fully tax deductible).

Purchase a gift membership online at [shelburnemuseum.org/member](https://shelburnemuseum.org/member) or by calling 802-985-0923.

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HOURS

NOV 25, 2022–JAN 1, 2023  
Winter Lights  
Thursday–Sunday, 5–8 p.m.  
Closed on: Dec. 24 & Dec. 25  
*See p.7 for complete details.*



[shelburnemuseum.org](https://shelburnemuseum.org)

**Talk to us**

Need more information?  
Looking to get involved?  
Membership Office:  
(802) 985-0923



## A Great Way to Give Yourself (and Shelburne Museum) a **Gift This Year**

Are you 71 or older and have a traditional IRA?

If so, you probably know the drill: every year, you must withdraw a minimum dollar amount from your retirement account. This year, give the gift of a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to count toward satisfying your required minimum distributions (RMD) for 2022.

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity like Shelburne Museum. In addition to the benefits of giving to a non-profit, a QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions, including Social Security and Medicare.

To qualify, all gifts must be by your RMD deadline, typically December 31.

To learn more, please contact the Development Office at 802-985-0885 or [development@shelburnemuseum.org](mailto:development@shelburnemuseum.org).

Please note: we are not qualified to give tax advice, and a tax advisor can help you determine if your IRA qualifies for a QCD distribution to Shelburne Museum.