

Staten Island SEEN



Staten Island SEEN at the Staten Island Museum at Snug Harbor, Staten Island Foundation Gallery.

By Robert Bunkin, Curator of Art Staten Island SEEN traces the borough's unique history and changing landscape from the 17th century to the present. These works are made in a broad range of styles and materials, from ink drawing to anaglyph 3-D video. In the past, artists were attracted to Staten Island for its varied landscape: The shoreline, inland hills, ponds, valleys, waterways, and forests all provided inspiration.

Contemporary artists depict these natural features, as well as their responses to the changes that have occurred to Staten Island's

Staten Island so attractive to new residents. and led to its rapid development. But while the population density has greatly increased, more than one-third of the island is protected parkland, including the Greenbelt and more than 170 parks. Beaches, wetlands, hills, and little-known places of tranquility are adjacent to bustling commercial strips and residential

Staten Island continues a balancing act between the urban and rural aspects of its character; this contrast is explored in Staten Island SEEN.

The exhibition is on two floors and contains the following sections: The Bay, Villages and Farms, Industrialization and Urbanization, Land Use and Ecology, Neighborhoods, Bridges and Connections, Inside-out, and Conclusion.

Highlights from the exhibit include the earliest known sketch of Staten Island: Jasper Danckaert's 1679 View of the land on the southerly and southwesterly sides of the great bay between the Neversincks and Long *Island...*; Jasper Cropsey's 1895 masterpiece, Looking Oceanward from Todt Hill; The Survivor, S.I. (Staten Island Shore), Mabel



Staten Island: Bridge over Dizzy Bunker, Paul Caranicas. Oil on Canvas, 1987. Lent by The West Publishing Company St. Paul, Minnesota, a division of Thomas Reuters.

landscape, including the construction of the commuter bridges (Bayonne, Goethals, Outerbridge, and Verrazano-Narrows), urbanstyle high-rise housing, tract housing, new communities, and shopping centers.

Some of these developments have occurred in floodplain communities - many established as summer vacation retreats decades ago that were severely damaged or destroyed by Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

Staten Island is the most rural New York City borough, where you can hike for miles within dense woods, explore wetlands, and climb steep terrain, yet be only a bus and ferry ride away from Manhattan's skyscrapers. These natural aspects are part of what has made

Dwight's 1929 lithograph; Frederick Kost's wintery painting from 1890, Cedar Grove **Beach, Staten Island Winter**; a classic lively winter evening street scene from 1944 by Cecil Bell, **Stapleton Corner**; Paul Caranicas' 1987 oil painting, Staten Island: Bridge over Dizzy **Bunker** (pictured above); a stunning view from Grymes Hill, Moon and Venus 5 a.m. by Otto Charles Wigand, and New York Harbor and *The Narrows*, a 2013 diptych by one of Staten Island's leading artists, Sarah Yuster.

Anthony Toney (American, 1913-2004) Oil on canvas, 1956

Now on view at the Staten Island Museum at Snug Harbor as part of

Remember the Mastodon: Diversity & Preservation

A Richmond County Savings Foundation Exhibition

nemember the Mastodon is about the hard κ facts of extinction, the wonder of enduring species, the importance of biodiversity, and the challenge of preservation. We use our 150-plus year collection of flora, fauna, and fossils to show what survival and loss are about.

Sections of the exhibition include: **Fossils** Tell a Story (evidence of past life in dinosaur



Photo by Jan Somma-Hammel, September 2015.

footprints); Mastodons & Humans (Paleo-Indian projectile points and mastodon tooth fossils); Survivors (fossils of coral, horseshoe crabs, dragonflies, shrimp, and other ancient organisms that have close relatives existing today); Birds & Extinction (lost birds like the passenger pigeon, Carolina parakeet, and ivory-billed woodpeckers, are coupled with currently at-risk and saved species); Collecting & Preserving Biodiversity (the Museum's 19th century founders strove to collect and document the biodiversity of Staten Island; this scientific work continues today), and The Mastodon (a full-size replica coming through the Museum wall!).

We can learn about the natural world by studying fossils, collecting specimens to study interconnections and mark local changes, and taking action to protect species and prevent habitat loss. Understanding, preserving, and protecting our environment is a fundamental responsibility for us all.

Help name the mastodon!

Vote for your favorite name at www.statenislandmuseum.org/ exhibitions/current-exhibitions/name-themastodon/

Opening the Treasure Box

By Robert Bunkin, Curator of Art

The world comes to Staten Island via people and objects. The Staten Island Museum's

Opening the Treasure Box: Bringing the World Home exhibition presents art and objects that have made their way to Staten Island from around the world. Explore their stories, collectors, techniques, differences, and

The Treasure Box gallery displays art objects from five continents divided into four sections: Art of Europe: Greco-Roman Antiquities & Renaissance art; Art of Africa: Ancient Egyptian and traditional works from 19th & 20th century West and Central Africa; Art of the Americas: Arctic Circle, Native American, Central American and South American and Art of Asia: India, China, Korea, and Japan.

The oldest piece is an Egyptian funerary statuette of a striding man, dating from the second millennium BCE. Other works include an ancient Roman marble portrait head, a sculpture of the dancing Hindu god Ganesh, an intricately embroidered dragon robe from Imperial China, an elaborate Kuba Bwoom mask from the Congo (pictured right), and extraordinary beaded moccasins made by Lakota Sioux women.

The exhibition lets the visitor see in one place what people everywhere share: The desire for beauty and expressions of their religions, celebrations, conflicts, and burial practices, among other issues. While there will be a lot to absorb, this selection of objects will delight your eyes and your mind.

Con Edison's **STEM Days Out!**

Thank you to our partners at Con Edison for funding STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) lessons for middle school youth at the Staten Island Museum!

Teachers can contact our Education Dept. for more information 718.483.7103 or LLonecke@ StatenIslandMuseum.org







By Will Lenihan, Curator of Science

he Staten Island Museum would like to acknowledge John Criscuoli and Sean Kelly for their exemplary field observation and species identification skills. These two young naturalists served as enthusiastic role models for their fellow campers by identifying the most species and natural features of Staten Island during the 2015 Earth Camp Season. Fittingly, we would like to describe their achievements in the descriptive writing style of a nature

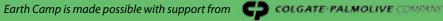
The John Criscuoli belongs to a diverse and widespread group of about 26 species of mammals known as 2015 Summer Earth Campers. The unique ability of the John

Criscuoli to discover Lenape hammerstones is a good field mark for identifying this species. This creature can easily be seen at the front of the group where its keen eyesight and conspicuous enthusiasm make it well adapted for exploring nature and making discoveries.

Sean Kelly: During the summer months, this creature's "Did I make the find of the day?" call is a familiar sound in the forests, meadows, and wetlands of Staten Island. For positive species identification, note the chert Lenape flake it discovered. It prefers open, shrubby areas where it can browse on wineberries. A very social creature, it is often found in groups with other Earth Camper species, making them laugh and smile.

Earth Camp is for adventurous kids, 8-12 years old, who love nature! Campers learn to appreciate nature, build science skills and friendships, while searching for the "find of the day." Campers explore a variety of habitats found in Staten Island green spaces! They are also taught how to keep a Field Journal to record daily observations.

Session I: July 11 - July 22, 2016 and Session II: July 25 - August 5, 2016. Sign up today! or more info visit www.StatenIslandMuseum.org/education/camps





Explore · Experience · Engage

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