



MEETING CONNECTICUT'S MASTERS

A NEW FIELD TRIP EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS

FEATURED ARTISTS

Thomas Cole

Frederic Church

John Twachtman

Childe Hassam

Lilian Westcot Hale

Fidelia Bridges

Charles Porter

John Haberle

Ralph Earl

Willard Metcalf

Matilda Browne

[BRIEF HISTORY OF MUSEUM]

The Florence Griswold Museum reflects an extraordinary era in our nation's history when in 1899, a group of the country's most accomplished artists gathered at Florence Griswold's boarding house to record their impressions of the countryside surrounding Old Lyme, Connecticut. Together they forged a flourishing artist colony that became America's best-known center of Impressionist painting. Centered in "Miss Florence's" ad-hoc boarding house, the artist boarders painted directly on the doors and walls of the first floor of the Griswold House, leading to creation of one of the truly unique rooms in America, a dining room of painted panels created by over 30 leading American artists. The dining room panels are preserved in situ, as are the painted door panels throughout the first floor of the 1817 Griswold House.

The Florence Griswold Association was formed in 1936, to maintain the Griswold homestead as an art museum and an outstanding example of early New England architecture. In 1947, the Museum opened on a seasonal basis, and in 1955, joined forces with the newly formed Lyme Historical Society, broadening its purpose to include procuring and preserving objects relating to the history of the towns of Lyme and Old Lyme. The Museum has been continuously maintained accreditation by the American Association of Museums since 1978, and in 1993 was designated a National Historic Landmark.

In 1997, the Museum purchased five acres of adjacent property, once part of the original Griswold estate and one of the most significant painting grounds of the American Impressionists. Guided by a master site plan and an archeological study, the Museum began a far-reaching capital improvement project designed to enhance the visitor experience by building an accessible gallery, a collections storage facility, and an education center; by reinterpreting the historic house; by creating a visitor services center; and by restoring the gardens and landscape. These improvements, in no small way, led to Hartford Steam Boiler Company's decision in May 2001 to donate its entire fine arts collection of 190 works by Connecticut artists to the Museum. This extraordinary collection, considered one of the finest in America, has been housed in a new exhibition gallery and collection facility that opened in July 2002, making it fully available to the public.

To Register Contact
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FLORENCE GRISWOLD MUSEUM
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