

**Coming Soon: 2015 Exhibition Schedule at Peabody Essex Museum**

# PEM Offers Wide Variety of Art Exhibitions in 2015

**Audacious: The Fine Art of Wood from the Montalto Bohlen Collection**

February 21, 2015 to June 21, 2015

Rendered by lathe and carving tools, common and exotic woods are transformed into nearly 100 complex sculptural forms with alluring surfaces and textures. Mas-

the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia. Constructed from saplings collected by area volunteers, the natural structure will provide dramatic counterpoint to the highly finished wood-frame Crowninshield-Bentley House that dates to the early 18th century. This is the first time PEM has commissioned an outdoor sculptural installation.



Orlando Dugi (Diné [Navajo]). Cape, dress, and headdress from "Desert Heat" Collection, 2012. Paint, silk, organza, feathers, beads, and 24k gold; feathers; porcupine quills and feathers Courtesy of the designer, Santa Fe. Hair and Makeup: Dina DeVore. Model: Julia Foster. PHOTO BY UNEK FRANCIS.

sachusetts collectors Robert M. and Lillian Montalto Bohlen have assembled this premier collection of contemporary wood art that is international in scope and diverse in form. Experience the beauty, sensuality and sculptural qualities of wood.

**Storyteller: The Photographs of Duane Michals**

March 14, 2015 to June 21, 2015

One of the most influential photographers of the 20th century, Duane Michals (b. 1932) is credited with pioneering new ways of considering and creating photographs. Running counter to the prevailing conventions of photography, Michals began working with sequences of images and multiple exposures, often overlaying hand-written messages and poems. Michals identifies himself a storyteller and through his work explores universal life experiences such as dreams, desire, aging and death. He has noted: "I'm not interested in what something looks like, I want to know what it

**American Epics: Thomas Hart Benton and Hollywood**  
June 6, 2015 to September 7, 2015

This is the first major exhibition on Thomas Hart Benton (1889-1975) in more than 25 years and the first to explore important connections between Benton's art and the movies. After working briefly in the silent film industry, Benton became acutely aware of storytelling's shift toward motion pictures and developed a cinematic style of painting that melded European art historical traditions and modern movie production techniques. In paintings, murals, drawings, prints and illustrated books, Benton reinvented national narratives for 20th-century America and captivated the public with his visual storytelling. The Peabody Essex Museum organized this exhibition in collaboration with the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, the Milwaukee Art Museum, and the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art.



Patrick Dougherty. Summer Palace, 2009. Morris Arboretum, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. PHOTO CREDIT: ROB CARDILLO.

feels like ... a realm beyond observation." Organized by the Carnegie Museum of Art, this exhibition presents more than 200 works and provides a definitive retrospective of the artist's career.

**Stickwork: Patrick Dougherty**

May 23, 2015 to May 28, 2015

Patrick Dougherty bends, weaves and flexes saplings into architectural sculptures that dynamically relate to the landscape and built environment around them. Over the last 30 years, he has created more than 250 works throughout

**Strandbeest: The Dream Machines of Theo Jansen**

September 12, 2015 to December 31, 2015

PEM presents the first major American exhibition of Theo Jansen's famed kinetic sculptures. Dynamic and interdisciplinary, Jansen's Strandbeests ("beach animals") blur the lines between art and science, sculpture and performance. The exhibition celebrates the thrill of the Strandbeests' unique locomotion as well as the processes that have driven their evolutionary development on the Dutch seacoast. The kinetic sculptures are accompanied by artist sketches, facilitated demonstrations of the creatures' complex ambulatory systems, a hall of "fossils" as well as photography by Lena Herzog.

**Nature of Scale**

October 10, 2015 to Fall 2016

This exhibition in PEM's Art & Nature Center explores the concept of scale – from the subatomic to the

## Join the Souhegan Valley Chorus

The Souhegan Valley Chorus invites interested singers to join them as they prepare for their upcoming season. Popular songs from the past several decades will be presented in "The Great American Songbook" spring concert. Weekly rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the Milford Middle School music room, starting on January 20th. The first two rehearsals of the season are "open" for new members to visit and see what we're all about!

The SVC is directed by Jennifer K. Erdody of Milford, and accompanied by Kimberly Vars Whitehead of Milford. SVC, now in its 34th season, performs a variety of choral music – from classical and jazz, to popular and gospel. Its membership of 60+ singers are from towns in and around the Souhegan Valley. Two concerts are performed each year, one in December and one in May, along with the popular variety showcase in June. SVC also participates in local town events such as

the Amherst 4th of July celebration, Milford Labor Day parade, veteran's observances, and the Milford Holiday Stroll.

Jennifer K. Erdody is the choral director at Milford High School, where she also teaches voice workshop and musical theater. Jennifer serves on the staff of the Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club School of Theatre Arts, and directs the annual "Messiah" performance in Mont Vernon.

Souhegan Valley Chorus is open without audition to singers of high school age or older. Members bring a wide range of abilities and experience, so anyone who loves to sing is encouraged to give the chorus a try at one of the first two rehearsals in January. As one member put it – "Rehearsals are a good balance of work and fun. It's such a welcome treat for me at the end of a busy work day." For more information, visit the chorus website at [www.souheganvalleychorus.org](http://www.souheganvalleychorus.org), or find us on Facebook



Theo Jansen. Animaris Siamesis, 2009. Scheveningen beach, The Netherlands. PHOTO © LENA HERZOG

galactic – challenging our perception of perspective, relative size and proportion. Featured works include miniatures, sculptures, photography and installations loaned from regional, national and international contemporary artists, as well as works from PEM's collection. Interactives enable audiences to experiment with visual scale and to explore the role scale plays in art and our perception of the world around us.

**Native Fashion Now**



Thomas Hart Benton. Self-Portrait with Rita, 1922. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution/Art Resource, NY. Works of Art by Thomas Hart Benton are © T.H. Benton and R.P. Benton Testamentary Trusts/UMB Bank Trustee/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY

December 5, 2015 to March 6, 2016

From vibrant street clothing to exquisite haute couture, this exhibition celebrates the visual range, creative expression and political nuance of Native American fashion. Nearly 100 works spanning the last 50 years explore the vitality of Native fashion designers and artists from pioneering Native style-makers to today's maverick designers making their mark in today's world of fashion. Also examined is how non-Native designers adopt and translate traditional Native American design motifs in their own work, including Isaac Mizrahi's now iconic Totem Pole Dress.

Featuring contemporary garments, accessories and footwear

of dress and beauty, which are inextricably bound to identity and tradition in a rapidly changing world.

HOURS: Open Tuesday-Sunday, 10 am–5 pm and the third Thursday of every month until 9 pm. Closed Mondays (except holidays), Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. ADMISSION: Adults \$18; seniors \$15; students \$10. Additional admission to Yin Yu Tang: \$5. Members, youth 17 and under and residents of Salem enjoy free general admission and free admission to Yin Yu Tang. INFO: Call 866-745-1876 or visit our Web site at [www.pem.org](http://www.pem.org)

Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem, MA 01970 United States

## Jonathan Edwards Returns to Peterborough January 24th

Peterborough Folk Music Society presents Jonathan Edwards Saturday, Jan. 24 at 8pm at the Peterborough Players Theater.

Kerry Powers opening.

PETERBOROUGH – Warm as summer sunshine, real as the truth, intimate as a long overdue visit between old friends ... such is a Jonathan Edwards concert. Four decades into a stellar career of uncompromising musical integrity, the man simply delivers, night after night – songs of passion, songs of insight, songs of humor, all rendered in that pure and powerful tenor which, like fine wine, has only grown sweeter with age.

This is one veteran performer who is neither grizzled nor nostalgic. These days Jonathan is likely to be found on the road. I've been... doing what I do best, which is playing live in front of people. I've been concentrating on that and loving it," he says.

An artist who measures his success by his ability to attract and take good care of an audience for four

decades, Jonathan maintains that it is the feedback he receives after his shows that keeps him going. "It is really gratifying to hear [someone say], 'Your stuff has meant a lot to me over the years.'"

Since 1971, Jonathan has released 15 albums, including Blue Ridge, his standard-setting collaboration with bluegrass favorites the Seldom Scene, and Little Hands, his collection of children's songs, which was honored with a National Library Association award.

Web site for PFMS is [www.pfm-concerts.org](http://www.pfm-concerts.org)

Tickets \$22 advance and \$25 day of concert. at the Toadstool Bookshops in Keene, Milford of Peterborough. With credit card at ticket-stage.com

At door if not sold out with cash or check only.

## Exhibition "Simultaneous Perspectives" Hargate Art Center at St. Paul's School

CONCORD – On view January 9 - February 21 at the Hargate Art Center at St. Paul's School, the exhibition Simultaneous Perspectives, featuring the sculptures, paintings and digital works of Concord's Thomas Devaney.

Simultaneous Perspectives is an exhibition of Thomas Devaney's works created by utilizing a variety of traditional methods and modern

techniques. Devaney's work is influenced by love, zealotry, capitalism, and religion and conveys some of the struggles faced in culture and society. Join the artist and the SPS Community for an opening reception on Friday, January 9th from 6-8 pm. Always free admission. Regular gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.

## Poems: In a Larger Frame

JAFFREY – The Visual Poetry Collective will present an exhibit of poems and art on display in the first floor Auditorium Gallery of the Jaffrey Civic Center. The show will run January 9th through February 7, and a poetry reading of the featured work on Friday, January 23rd at 7p.m.

This idea is not new, of course. Poems as public art have been finding their way onto the sides of buses, subway walls, parks, and closer to home, have appeared in windows in the Monadnock region when shops and cafes displayed poems by New Hampshire poets as part of the Keene Literary Festival, Sept, 2012.

The six members of the Visual Poetry Collective, (Candace Bergstrom, Stoddard; Alice Fogel, Acworth; Kate Gleason, Keene; Rodger Martin, Hancock; Patrice Pinette, Wilton; and Becky Sakellariou, Peterborough) have taken a further step by pairing their poems with visual arts such as pastels, photographs, paintings, pen and ink, collage, graphite, and assemblage.

The poets reflect on their works-in-progress: Kate Gleason describes her interest in braided poems that "weave together the strands of many different topics in an attempt to create a simultaneous sense of fragmentation and wholeness, multiplicity and oneness, reflective of the contradictory nature of our post-modern times." Her poem for the exhibit, "After My Father Died in His Hospital Room" is a long meditation that includes such diverse topics as her father's death, Darwin, human genetics, "opera-bots" (opera-singing robots), and dying languages. Her assemblages, inspired by Joseph Cornell's boxes, are a natural choice for a medium to complement her poem. "Each assemblage is a small Orphic quest to put the lost and scattered beauty of the world back together, the fragments hinting toward what Charles Simic called an unutterable whole."

"When I was invited to participate in this 'visual poetry' project," Alice Fogel adds, "I was thrilled, partly because of the company I'd be in, and partly because the theme

of it fits right in to what I've been doing this past year. I've been writing what I think of as abstract expressionist poems. Each one is based on a specific piece of Abstract Expressionist art. Although I might include a reference to a color or texture or other feature, the poems don't describe the paintings that inspire them, but are more a kind of response to their emotional or material tones as I perceive them. Mostly, these poems strive to mimic what happens when we are (or at least I am) in the presence of expressionist art. In this sense, the poems are about consciousness." Alice asks herself, and therefore her readers and viewers, "Can language put us in that realm of pure experience, however unsettling, inexplicable or thrilling, that abstract art does?"

In some cases artwork has inspired the poems, and in others, the poem has prompted the artwork, as for example, with Rodger Martin's pieces. Chad Gowey's pen and ink creations were inspired by the historical poems of Martin, and then elaborated by his own vision. "History means little if we cannot make that metaphorical leap which gives it value to a contemporary, makes it relevant and personal," Martin says about the content of both art and text.

Becky Sakellariou, who discovered subtle and otherwise hidden elements when pairing her poems and photographs, spoke of this link as a marriage between words and images. She refers to the creative process, as well as the power of the blended art form, to add an element of surprise, and to change the way we read when she says, "The experience of the poem will be exponentially expanded and something very different and unexpected will happen—to all of us because of this."

The Jaffrey Civic Center is located at 40 Main Street, Jaffrey, New Hampshire, next to Library, parking in rear. Hours are Tues: 10-6, Wed-Fri 1-5. Admission is always free. For more information about us, call 532-6527, e-mail us at [jaffreycvcctr@aol.com](mailto:jaffreycvcctr@aol.com), find our website, [www.jaffreycvcccenter.com](http://www.jaffreycvcccenter.com), or "Like" us on Facebook.



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## "Red-Bellied Woodpecker"

BY SHERIE DOWSETT, AMHERST

This is a female red-bellied woodpecker that appeared in my yard last winter. I captured this image in the spring, when she and her mate were courting (they went on to raise a little one here also). I find red-bellied woodpeckers beautiful birds, with the dash of red on their bellies and faces, as well as the stunning red mane (particularly on the male). When I am photographing wildlife, I pay very close attention to the background. I use camera settings and positioning to ensure that it is not distracting in anyway. I want the viewer to feel like they are up close and personal with the

animal, just as I feel. This particular image is currently on display as a large print at the Center for the Arts Juried Show (Nov 7 to Jan 30) at the New London Inn in New London, NH. It also won first place in the Fall Art Festival at the Beaver Brook Association (a nature conservation organization) in Hollis this year. It was "Print of the Month for December, 2014" at Merrimack Valley Camera Club.

Sherie's website: [sheriadowsettphotography.com](http://sheriadowsettphotography.com)

For more information: Merrimack Valley Camera Club <http://www.mvcameraclub.org>