

Waterbury's Mattatuck Museum exhibit explores art of leisure and travel

By Tracey O'Shaughnessy

STAFF WRITER

WATERBURY — The Mattatuck Museum will present "The Art of Leisure" on Sunday through July 6 in its Noonan Gallery.

Spanning more than 125 years of American history, this exhibition explores how artists have captured the joys of leisure — travel, relaxation and recreation — through painting, photography, printmaking and ephemera.

Beginning in the mid-19th century, increased access to public spaces, transportation and recreational activities reshaped the American experience of leisure. The exhibition will include works by American artists, including "Bathers on the Beach" by Edward Henry Potthast, "Slow Time" by Emma Amos and "The SS Normandie in New York Harbor" by Reginald Marsh. Rare ephemera and souvenirs include 19th-century

broadsides, travel posters, souvenir plates and Waterbury postcards.

Works range from impressionist beach scenes to documentary photography and bold contemporary interpretations of leisure. The exhibit will highlight how these changes in travel influenced artists and the public. It will feature works by renowned artists such as James Augustus Van Der Zee and Jane Peterson, as well as those by unknown craftspeople and Waterbury locals. Curators say beyond its celebration of pastimes, the exhibition will examine the social dynamics of leisure, revealing how artists have used scenes of relaxation to explore race, class and gender inequities throughout history.

An opening ceremony for the exhibit will take place Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. at 144 West Main St. during the museum's Family Fun Day. Admission is free.



Contributed/Courtesy of Mattatuck Museum

Edward Henry Potthast (American, 1852 – 1927) "Bathers on a Beach, c. 1910."



Contributed/Courtesy of Mattatuck Museum

Emma Amos (American, 1937 – 2020) "Slow Time," 1983.

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Benefit concert for Ukraine

"Songs for Ukraine II," a benefit concert, is scheduled for Saturday at The Packing House in Willington.

The show features acoustic performances by CT State Troubadours, including Kala Farnham, Kate Callahan, Thomasina Levy, Pierce Campbell and Lara Herscovitch. During the event, artist Jack Brockerick will be creating a live drawing of the performance, which will be given to a raffle winner at the end of the concert.

Saturday's show is a sequel to a 2022 musical event at the venue, which also raised money for

Ukraine relief.

Tickets are \$40 online or at the door. All proceeds go directly to Ukraine relief.

Doors open at 7 p.m.; the performance starts at 8.

The Packing House is at 156 River Road. For information, call 518-791-9474 or visit www.the-packinghouse.us/upcoming.

This week in rock

On this day in 1990, Public Enemy released its third album, "Fear Of A Black Planet," with the lead single "Fight The Power." The album became the first in hip-hop history to sell 1 million copies in its first week of release.

Send your music news and happenings to kellie3lambert@yahoo.com.



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"Niagara Falls," John Ferguson Weir (American, 1824 – 1926) c. 1870. Oil on canvas.

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