

PRESS RELEASE

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Adventures in Art & History
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Mattatuck Museum Announces September 2026 Programming

WATERBURY, CT – Throughout September, the Mattatuck Museum invites visitors of all ages to discover art, history, culture, and community through engaging exhibitions, public programs, workshops, wellness activities, and special events.

Highlight:

Annual Orton P. Camp Jr. Lecture & Free Admission Day

September 16, 2026

Free Admission: 11 AM–5 PM | Lecture: 3:30–4:30 PM

Join the Mattatuck Museum for its annual Orton P. Camp Jr. Lecture and a special day of free admission in memory of Orton P. Camp Jr. The lecture, *Afterlife of an Artifact: The Journey of One Waterburian's Congressional Medal of Honor*, will be presented by Museum Registrar and Civil War enthusiast Wayne Eldred. Through primary sources including maps, documents, and an artifact from the 1800s, Eldred will explore the story of one Waterburian's service in the Union Army and the journey of his Congressional Medal of Honor. *The free admission day and lecture are sponsored by the Mattatuck Museum Board of Directors in memory of Orton P. Camp Jr.*

Community Program Highlights:

Lunch & Learn – A Culture of the Caribbean: Taíno Tribes Lesson

September 9, 2026 | 11:00–11:45 AM (Español) | 12:00–12:45 PM (English)

Price: Non-Members \$10 | Members \$5

Explore the history and culture of the Taíno people through this engaging Lunch & Learn program connected to *Caribbean Indigenous Resistance / Resistencia indígena del Caribe: ¡Taíno Vive!* exhibition. Visitors can choose from a Spanish-language or English-language session. *Sponsored by Christine & Eugene Shugrue.*

Narrative Storytelling Through Photography Workshop

September 13 & 20 | 1–4 PM

\$10 Members | \$15 Non-Members

Led by teaching artist Peter Glass, this two-session workshop explores how to tell a powerful narrative primarily through photographs, drawing inspiration from the evocative, atmospheric work of Ming Smith. Participants will learn essential composition skills, camera techniques, and narrative sequence planning to create their own visual photo essay. Participants may use a traditional 35mm camera or smartphone; bring your own photography device.

Sponsored by Art Bridges.

Cocktails & Conversations – Caribbean Indigenous Resistance / Resistencia indígena del Caribe: ¡Taíno Vive!

September 17, 2026 | 5:30–7 PM

Price: Adult \$15 | Sober Adult \$10 | Members \$10

Join us for an evening conversation inspired by *Caribbean Indigenous Resistance / Resistencia indígena del Caribe: ¡Taíno Vive!* exhibition and explore the history, culture, and continuing resistance of Indigenous communities in the Caribbean. This program offers an opportunity to connect with the exhibition through conversation and community. *Support provided by Linford & Mildred White Charitable Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee and George A. & Grace L. Long Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee, and Litchfield Distillery.*

Adult Art Workshop – Cemi Sculpture Workshop with Kasike Atunwa Jorge Baracutay Estevez

September 19, 2026 | 3–4:30 PM

Price: Free

Create and explore traditional and contemporary Indigenous artistic practices during this hands-on sculpture workshop with Kasike (Chief) Atunwa Jorge Baracutay Estevez. This workshop is presented in connection with *¡Taíno Vive!* and is supported by Art Bridges.

Booked and Framed: *Sunflowers*

September 20 | 1–2 PM

Price: \$5

Join us for a discussion of *Sunflowers: A Historical Romance of Vincent van Gogh, A Tormented Artist, and the Woman Who Loved Him* by Sheramy Bundrick. Set in Arles, the novel follows Rachel, who becomes the muse of Vincent van Gogh and is drawn into his world of extraordinary creativity, passion, and emotional turmoil. The discussion will explore the novel's themes of love, resilience, art, and the cost of genius.

Sponsored by Christine Mancuso Shugrue.

Kids Art Workshop – Taíno Symbols & Myths

September 26, 2026 | 12–1 PM

Price: Free

Young artists are invited to explore Taíno symbols, stories, and myths through a fun, hands-on art experience inspired by *Caribbean Indigenous Resistance / Resistencia indígena del Caribe: ¡Taíno Vive!* exhibition. *Support provided by the Afro Caribbean Cultural Center, American Savings Foundation, and Post University.*

Intermediate Art Workshop – Taíno Symbols & Indigenous Identity

September 26, 2026 | 2–3:30 PM

Price: Free

Young artists will explore Taíno symbols and ideas of Indigenous identity through art and conversation in this intermediate-level workshop connected to *Caribbean Indigenous Resistance / Resistencia indígena del Caribe: ¡Taíno Vive!* exhibition. *Support provided by the Afro Caribbean Cultural Center, American Savings Foundation, and Post University.*

Annual Julia Q. Keggi Lecture – Island Display: Documenting Material Legacies of Museum Collecting in and Curation of Puerto Rico

September 27, 2026 | 1–2 PM

Price: Non-Members \$10 | Members \$5

Explore the complex histories behind museum collecting and the representation of Puerto Rico in this special lecture examining material legacies, collecting practices, and curation. *Sponsored by the Keggi Family.*

Schools OUT! Living Traditions

September 30 | 9:30 AM–3:30 PM

Early drop-off: 8–9:30 AM | Late pick-up: 3:30–5 PM

Price: \$50 General | \$35 Members | \$25 Kids Adventure Pass

Drop off your child daily for this day-long experience. Children will be immersed in the Museum's galleries while learning about history and developing their art skills with unique materials and techniques. Through hands-on art, storytelling, music, and games, campers will connect with the roots of the land we share and discover how Indigenous communities have shaped and continue to shape our world.

Support provided by MacDermid Alpha, Ion Bank, and American Savings Foundation.

Wellness Programs:

FREE | *Sponsored by the Connecticut Community Foundation.*

Food For Life – Power Foods for the Brain

September 13, 2026 | 12–2 PM

Discover the connection between nutrition, brain health, and overall well-being in this Food For Life program.

Memories at the MATT

September 24, 2026 | 11:30 AM–1 PM

Connect with others through conversation, memories, and the Museum's art and history collections.

History Hike – Black Rock State Park

September 28, 2026 | 10 AM–12 PM | Depart Museum at 9:30 AM

Enjoy the outdoors while exploring local history on a guided hike at Black Rock State Park.

Participants will depart from the Museum at 9:30 AM.

Ongoing Weekly Programs:

FREE | *Sponsored by the Connecticut Community Foundation.*

Tai Chi - Wednesdays at 9 AM

Senior Mornings - Wednesdays at 9:30 AM

Chess- Saturdays at 10:30 AM

Free Admission Days:

Museums on Us - Bank of America offers cardholders free general admission during the first full weekend of every month to cultural institutions across the United States.

FREE Admission - Access for All September 12, 2026, 11:00 AM-5:00 PM Free admission and programming on the Second Saturday of each month. *Support provided by the Art Bridges Foundation*

Annual Orton P. Camp Jr. Free Admission Day

September 16, 2026 | 11 AM–5 PM | Free

Enjoy free general admission to the Mattatuck Museum throughout the day in memory of Orton P. Camp Jr. Visitors are invited to explore the Museum's galleries and exhibitions before attending the

annual Orton P. Camp Jr. Lecture. *Sponsored by the Mattatuck Museum Board of Directors in memory of Orton P. Camp Jr.*

Closing Exhibition – Last Chance to See:

Psychedelic Splendor: The Concert Art of AJ Masthay & Helen Kennedy

Munger Gallery | Closing September 20, 2026

Don't miss your final opportunity to experience *Psychedelic Splendor*, featuring concert art by AJ Masthay and Helen Kennedy. The exhibition celebrates the imaginative, colorful world of contemporary concert posters and the artists who transform music into visual experiences.

Exhibition Support is provided by Keith & Jane Mahler, Manic Presents, and Premium Concerts.

New Exhibition:

Ming Smith: Jazz Requiem - Notations in Blue Whittemore and Noonan Galleries August 29, 2026 - January 17, 2027

Photographer Ming Smith's groundbreaking practice embraces spontaneous rhythms, experimentation, and the influences of dance and music. *Ming Smith: Jazz Requiem - Notations in Blue* traces her groundbreaking practice from the 1970s to the present, including her formative years traveling throughout Europe, examining how these experiences shape her practice. The photographs on view - many printed for the first time - aim to capture the intricacies of Black experience, within and beyond specific places, and demonstrate her elusive yet poignant depictions of soon-vanishing qualities of a moment in movement. Throughout her artwork, the artist embodies a central tenet of the Black Arts Movement: "owning the images that we saw of ourselves." Smith's practice extends beyond realism and documentation: she actively confronts notions of the gaze and power inherent to photography. Through experimentation and visual meditations, Smith positions herself as a vanguard, pursuing image-making as a way to remember, share, and deeply feel the world around her. *Ming Smith: Jazz Requiem - Notations in Blue* is curated by Daisy Desrosiers, David and Francie Horvitz Family Foundation Director and Chief Curator of The Gund at Kenyon College.

Generous support is provided by Art Bridges. This exhibition was made possible through support from the Terra Foundation for American Art.

On View Exhibitions:

Psychedelic Splendor: The Concert Art of AJ Masthay & Helen Kennedy Munger Gallery | On view through September 20, 2026.

Caribbean Indigenous Resistance / Resistencia indigena del Caribe Taíno Vive! Baker Gallery | On view through October 4, 2026.

Caribbean Indigenous Resistance / Resistencia indigena del Caribe ;Taíno Vive! is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in collaboration with the National Museum of the American Indian and the National Museum of the American Latino.

This exhibition received federal support from the Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the National Museum of the American Latino.

The exhibition is co-presented by the Mattatuck Museum and the Afro Caribbean Cultural Center. The Mattatuck thanks the Yale Peabody Museum and cultural consultants Stephanie Bailey (Indigenous Caribbean descent from Boriken) and Sanakori (Taíno from Boriken) for lending additional expertise and objects to our presentation.

Ted Williams: The Splendid Splinter in Waterbury History Gallery | On view through November 1, 2026

Theodate Pope's Highfield: A History History Gallery | On view through November 1, 2026

Ongoing Exhibitions:

Orton P. Camp History Exhibition - Orton P. Camp Gallery Permanent Collections - Upson Gallery
Waterbury Button Museum Exhibition - Waterbury Button Museum

For a full schedule and registration information, visit mattmuseum.org.

ABOUT THE MATTATUCK MUSEUM

Located in the heart of downtown Waterbury's architectural district, the Mattatuck Museum is a vibrant destination, known locally and regionally as a community-centered institution of American art and history. The collections at The MATT span the history of American art from the colonial era to the present day with special strengths in Naugatuck Valley history and Connecticut artists, as well as artists from around the world representing the diversity of our community. The collection includes more than 8,000 objects including paintings, unique works on paper, photography and sculpture. In February 2021, The Mattatuck reopened after a \$9 million renovation project to reimagine the Museum while continuing to be a welcoming, inclusive, stimulating, and enriching community anchor. The "new" Mattatuck Museum, designed by Ann Beha Architects, includes an extensive 14,000 square foot renovation to the existing space and an addition of almost 7,000 square feet to enhance public access, educational programming, collections storage, and exhibitions.

The Museum is operated with support from the Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development/CT Office of the Arts, which also receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The Museum is a founding member of the Consortium of Connecticut Art Museums and is a member of the Connecticut Art Trail, a group of 29 world-class museums and historic sites (ctarttrail.org).

The Mattatuck Museum is located on the Green in Waterbury, CT at 144 West Main Street. The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The Museum is closed on Mondays. The Museum offers free, convenient off-street parking directly behind the Museum and in additional lots on Park Place. The Mattatuck Museum website (mattmuseum.org) outlines the Museum's updated guidelines for visitors, including what to expect on your visit, cleaning and safety protocols, and frequently asked questions. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for more updates and content.

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