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Public Program Announcement:

An American Impressionist in Stratham: Childe Hassam's Pastoral Views

The Stratham Heritage Commission is pleased to announce our 2025 public program will be held on Friday, February 7th at the Stratham Firehouse, 4 Winnicutt Road in Stratham, N.H. American art specialist Monica Reuss and Heritage Commission chair Nathan Merrill will co-present "An American Impressionist in Stratham: Childe Hassam's Pastoral Views."

Childe Hassam (1859-1935) was a Boston-born artist who became friends with Charles and Marie Whitcomb, then-owners of today's Stuart Farm. While well known for depictions of the Isles of Shoals, it is largely unknown that Hassam was a frequent summertime guest at the Whitcomb farm in Stratham between 1900 and 1918.

Recent research has identified over thirty of Hassam's art works created in Stratham, many of which depict scenes that had previously been unidentified. These early 20th century works are held by museums and private collections across the country. The program will show images of Hassam's works along with historical and contemporary photographs of the views depicted in Hassam's art. The locales include Stratham Hill, the old Winnicutt mill pond, the Squamscott River drawbridge, and multiple scenes around Stuart Farm, including several riverside views of Newfields village.

While Hassam's 1906 watercolor of Newfields is well-known at Manchester's Currier Museum of Art, only recent research has uncovered the full extent of the works he created while vacationing in Stratham. These include dry point etchings, oil paintings, and watercolors, most of which have never been shown locally.

According to H. Barbara Weinberg, former Curator of American Paintings at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, "Childe Hassam was a pioneer of American Impressionism and perhaps its most devoted, prolific, and successful practitioner."

Almost a decade ago Seacoast residents enjoyed the Peabody Essex Museum's exhibit 'Childe Hassam and the Isles of Shoals.' The Stratham Heritage Commission program brings Hassam even closer to home. Of interest to local residents and art lovers, as well as art historians, the illustrated program will allow time for questions and discussion.

In the event of winter weather, a storm date of February 21st at 7:00 pm has been reserved.

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