



## Explore Works From The Noyes Museum's Permanent Collections

### Exhibitions Display a Rich Glimpse into the History and Culture of The Noyes Museum

The Noyes Museum of Art presents two exhibitions displaying pieces from the holdings. *On Lily Lake, Decoys from the Permanent Collection*, January 22 - May 15, 2009 & *Contemporary Prints from the Permanent Collection*, February 5 - June 21, 2009 feature a unique range of works. These shows will be open to the public Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday 12 noon to 5 p.m. at The Noyes Museum of Art in Oceanville, N.J. An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, March 6 from 5 to 8 p.m. For more information call (609) 652-8848 or visit [www.noyesmuseum.org](http://www.noyesmuseum.org).

*On Lily Lake, Decoys from the Permanent Collection* is a special exhibition celebrating the Noyes Museum of Art's superb decoy collection. Rare, old hunting decoys, primitive decoys, and elegantly carved shore birds fill the gallery with treasures from the mid 1800s and 1900s. Fred Noyes' greatest inspiration was the outdoors. From a young man Fred began gathering an outstanding decoy collection, which would become the largest on the East Coast. The Noyes Museum today houses a portion of the Noyes' massive collection



of working decoys originally over 3,500. In envisioning their museum, Fred and Ethel saw the tradition of American decoy carving as a natural part of the artistic heritage of the area of southern New Jersey.

The art of making decoys has long been a part of New Jersey's history. The rich tidal bays, salt marshes, crystal-clear streams, and flowing rivers of southern New Jersey serve as a haven for all kinds of wildfowl. New Jersey's earliest form of tourism began with the guiding of hunting parties in these areas with their abundant bird populations. Along the direct line of the Atlantic flyway, the NJ coast is home to more species of wildfowl than any other areas in the country, and thus more types of decoys are found in this region than any other. Wild celery and eel grass grew abundantly in the brackish coastal waters and attracted huge flocks of black ducks, bluebills, brant, geese and other species. Many residents of these tidewater villages made a living off the bounty of the land by hunting, fishing, boatbuilding and guiding as early as the 1850s.

The Noyes Museum is proud to celebrate the region's long tradition of decoy carving with the fine works of Harry V. Shourds, Daniel Lake Leeds, Sam Perrine, and Steve and Lem Ward. The centerpiece of this exhibit, a Victorian duck house dating back to the 1880s, is a rare and charming treasure.

*Contemporary Prints from the Permanent Collection* offers a rare look at lithographs, collagraphs and clay monoprints from internationally exhibited contemporary artists. Prints from



the abstract expressionist Robert Motherwell are among the highlights of the exhibition. A prolific printmaker, teacher and writer he was known to frequently cite Mallarme's imperative that one must paint not the thing, but the effect that it produces. *Elegy*, included in the exhibition, contains dramatic energy, the feeling of a tragic narrative in dense blacks and white. His works remain abstract, yet contains a strongly human essence. Equally compelling is Leon Golub's *Interrogation*. Considered a figurative painter and a political artist, his lifelong work shows a concern for the violence humans inflict on one another. Not easily forgotten, and at times disturbing, his works reference imprisonment and war. American abstract artist Helen Frankenthaler brings strong emotive color to her lithograph titled *Cameo*. For Frankenthaler, the work of Jackson Pollock was a catalyst to the development of her style. She experimented with pouring paint directly onto raw unprimed canvas, creating richly fused color as is reflected in her work presented in this exhibition. Other notable artists included in this fine selection of *Prints from the*

*Permanent Collection* are: Man Ray, Bisa Washington, and Eugene Feldman.

The Noyes Museum of Art was founded in 1983 to collect, preserve and exhibit American fine art, crafts and folk art. An emphasis is on New Jersey artists and folk art forms, reflecting the area's long history, traditions, landscape and culture. General funding for The Noyes Museum of Art is provided by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Arts; the Mr. and Mrs. Fred Winslow Noyes Foundation; the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation; the Odessa F. and Henry D. Kahrs Charitable Trust. The Museum is open Thursday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5:00 p.m. The Noyes Museum of Art is located one and a half miles south of Historic Smithville Village, off Route 9, on Lily Lake Road in Oceanville, New Jersey.

Admission fees are \$4 for adults and \$3 for seniors and students. For more information, please call (609) 652-8848 or visit [www.noyesmuseum.org](http://www.noyesmuseum.org).



## You won't be disappointed!

**THE NOYES**  
MUSEUM OF ART

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