NEW BRITAIN MUSEUM
OF AMERICAN ART

Lure of the Sea

Masterworks of American Coastal Art

For centuries, the coastal landscape has served as a vibrant realm in which American life, industry, and creativity have flourished.

Lure of the Sea: Masterworks of American Coastal Art features nearly one hundred paintings, works on paper, and sculptures that reflect the profound impact of coastal environments on the nation's artistic and cultural development, as well as its collective imagination and identity.

Lure of the Sea explores broad themes, including the evolution of American marine art, from its traditional depictions of historical maritime vessels, events, and locales, to emotionally imbued expressions of nature's power, beauty, and allure. The exhibition considers the coast's relationship to industry, leisure, and the emergence of artist colonies that coalesced along the shoreline, inspired by the interplay of land and sea.

Spanning 150 years of creative output by leading American artists, including William Bradford, Alfred Thompson Bricher, Frederick Judd Waugh, William Partridge Burpee, Childe Hassam, Rockwell Kent, and N.C. Wyeth, *Lure of the Sea* offers invaluable insights into American life as it has unfolded along the maritime frontier, inviting viewers to engage deeply with the artistic legacy shaped by the sea.

Henry Wolcott Boss

Sailing off a Rocky Coast (detail), 1890
Oil on canvas
Image: 24 ¼ × 26 in.

New Britain Museum of American Art, Gift of Charles J. and Irene Hamm

Drawn exclusively from the NBMAA's collection, *Lure of the Sea* commemorates the tenth anniversary of the Museum's landmark gift of coastal and marine art by collectors and long-standing supporters, Charles J. and Irene Hamm.

EXHIBITION DETAILS

PARTICIPATION FEE

Inquire for fee

CHECKLIST

95 paintings, prints and drawings

AVAILABILITY

Starting Winter 2026

SIZE

Approximately 3,500 square feet

QUESTIONS AND MORE INFORMATION

For more information about this exhibition and the tour, please contact:

JESSICA DANIEL
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CHECKLIST SELECTIONS

Henry Wolcott Boss

Sailing off a Rocky Coast, 1890
Oil on canvas
Image: 24 ¼ × 26 in.

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Frederick Judd Waugh

Deluge, n.d.
Oil on artist board
Image: 48 × 60 in.

New Britain Museum of American Art, Gift of Charles J. and Irene Hamm

Rockwell Kent

Toilers of the Sea, 1907
Oil on canvas
Image: 38 ⅛ × 44 ⅛ in.

New Britain Museum of American Art, Charles F. Smith Fund

William Bradford

Fishing Fleet off Labrador, 1884
Oil on canvas
Image: 18 × 29 ⅝ in.

New Britain Museum of American Art, John Butler Talcott Fund

Antonio Nicolo Gasparo Jacobsen

Steam Ship Manhattan, 1891
Oil on canvas
Image: 22 × 36 in.

New Britain Museum of American Art, Bequest of Richard L. White

Fitz Henry Lane

Wreck of the Roma, 1846
Oil on canvas
Image: 23 × 32 ¼ in.

New Britain Museum of American Art, Lehman Foundation, A. W. Stanley Fund, Stephen B. Lawrence Fund, and Mr. Richard Weed

Alfred Thompson Bricher

Sunrise, c. 1870
Oil on canvas
Image: 22 × 32 in.

New Britain Museum of American Art, Gift of Howard H. Bristol, Jr.

Donald Demers

On the Morning Tide, Somes Sound, Maine, 2005
Oil on canvas
Image: 24 × 36 in.

New Britain Museum of American Art, Gift of Charles J. and Irene Hamm

William Partridge Burpee

Sisters by the Beach - Lynn/Swampscott (Massachusetts), c. 1888
Oil on embossed paper mounted on mahogany panel
Image: 9 × 9 ⅜ in.

New Britain Museum of American Art, Gift of Charles J. and Irene Hamm

William Partridge Burpee

Swampscott Dory, 1891
Oil on canvas
Image: 18 × 24 in.

New Britain Museum of American Art, Gift of Charles J. and Irene Hamm

John Mecray

Atlantic, 1979
Oil on canvas
Image: 22 × 50 in.

New Britain Museum of American Art, Gift of Charles J. and Irene Hamm

George Emerick Essig

The Voyage Nearly Ended, 1877
Oil on canvas
Image: 29 × 50 in.

New Britain Museum of American Art, Gift of Charles J. and Irene Hamm

Thomas Maclay Hoyne III

White Menace-Schooner Arethusa, Gloucester, 1980
Oil on Masonite
Image: 24 × 30 in.

New Britain Museum of American Art, Gift of Charles J. and Irene Hamm

N.C. Wyeth

"One more step, Mr. Hands," said I, "and I'll blow your brains out!", 1911
Oil on canvas
Image: 47 × 38 ⅜ in.

New Britain Museum of American Art, Harriet Russell Stanley Fund

Tony De Los Reyes

Pequod (3), 2012
Ink wash on paper
Image: 59 × 42 ½ in.

New Britain Museum of American Art, General Purchase Fund

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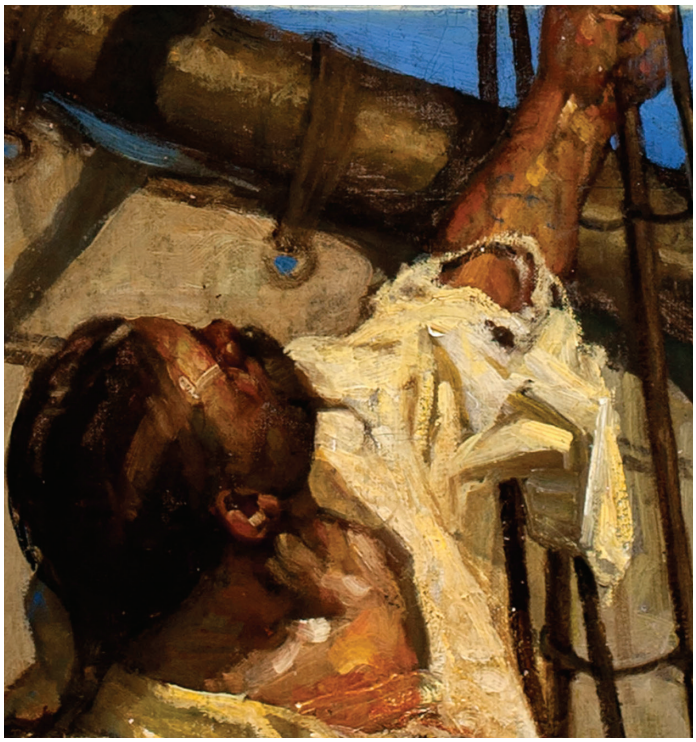
ARTWORK DETAILS