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Provincetown Art Collection

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The Art Collection

The Provincetown Art Collection consists of artwork by local artists, as well as nationally prominent artists who have resided in town over the course of the last century, and includes paintings, sculpture and murals as well as prints and drawings. The Town's collection represents many fine examples from our own "art colony," an art community with the longest continuous history in the United States. The Collection has been amassed through gifts of artists or collectors. The [Art Commission](#) is always ready to consider a gift of art.



Charles Hawthorne is recognized as laying the foundation for art in Provincetown, Massachusetts. In 1899, Hawthorne opened the Cape Cod School of Art and several years later, in 1903, he established the Provincetown Art Association and Museum.

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“Crew of Philomena Manta,” one of Charles Hawthorne’s paintings on view in Provincetown Town Hall or online.

Staff photo by Merrily Lunsford

Modern art

Town places
collection online
for all to view

By Marilyn Miller
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PROVINCETOWN — It's no surprise that the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston has its art collection online, available for anyone with a computer and Internet connection to look at. Or that the Louvre in Paris has its collection on virtual display, too.

But now you don't have to drive to Provincetown and walk through town hall and its various offices, or go to the high school or Cape End Manor, or the Town Hall Annex to see the town's famous collection of art on display.

All you have to do is go to www.provincetowngov.org on the Internet, scroll down the left hand side of the screen and you can leisurely view the 300 paintings in the town's collection of art.

Provincetown is famous as an art colony, and it was former

town clerk Stephan Nofield's idea to put the town's art online for all to admire.

Jim Zimmerman at the Provincetown Art Association and Museum, photographed the entire collection.

"Many museums are doing this now, but it is unusual for a town to have a collection of this size, certainly," said Stephen Borkowski, chairman of the art commission. Nofield started the project, "and we've fine-tuned it," he added.

"We don't have the outdoor sculptures on line, but we have just about everything else."

The artworks were donated to the town, sometimes by the artists themselves.

Jim Bakker, former gallery owner and independent auctioneer, who is a member of the art commission, said there is really no way you could put a price tag on this collection, it is that priceless. "I'm not aware of any other town that has a collection like this online," he said. And, if by chance the Charles Hawthorne paintings, that all the world can see on the walls of the town hall entry way, were to be offered for sale, "they would bring an awful lot of money."