



“They Also Faced The Sea”

“They Also Faced The Sea” ~ Provincetown Harbor 2003-2005

The installation of five larger-than-life black and white photographs of Provincetown women of Portuguese descent, mounted on a building at the end of Fisherman’s Wharf in Provincetown Harbor, is conceived as a tribute to the Portuguese community and its fishing heritage.

Norma’s Holt beautiful photographs of Almeda Segura, Eva Silva, Mary Jason, Bea Cabral and Frances Raymond, are meant to represent all of the women of Provincetown who over the years have been the backbone of this vital fishing village.

They came from a long line of hard-working people, immigrating mostly from the Azores and mainland Portugal. Their families fished the waters off Cape Cod for over 200 years, built a major fish packing and distribution industry and made an important contribution to the history and culture of Provincetown.

Portuguese women faced the sea in many

ways: as mothers, wives, sisters, friends and family of fishermen, as cooks, laundresses, nurses, teachers and telephone operators. They kept the culture alive, sang the songs, danced the dances, buried the dead, gave birth, cooked the kale soup and the codfish and kept the church at the center of their lives. Above all, they were resilient through good times and bad, their strength and courage easily matching and supporting that of their male seafaring counterparts.

In the last several decades, Provincetown, like other fishing communities, has weathered government restrictions which aim to restore sustainable fishing of New England’s most valuable species. Unfortunately, these conservation measures have made it increasingly difficult for traditional fishing families to earn a living from the sea. Economic uncertainty combined with the pressures of an inflated real estate market has

pushed much of the native population to other towns and job markets. This shift in the demographics is a threat to the rich Portuguese heritage and its contribution to the history and culture of Provincetown.

“They Also Faced The Sea” installation was designed to help keep the spirit and the presence of this culture alive by **Norma Holt**, photographer, and **Ewa Nogiec**, artist and publisher of iamprovincetown.com, with help from Richard DiFrummolo and Donald Winter, The Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, and The Provincetown Portuguese Festival.

If you would like to contribute to “They Also Faced The Sea,” please send your check made to:
FAWC, 24 Pearl Street, Provincetown, MA 02657
with a notation that it is for “Portuguese Women.”
All donations are tax deductible.



NORMA HOLT, PHOTO: MARIAN ROTH

For more information about “They Also Faced The Sea,” visit www.iamprovincetown.com