



**S N O W**  
*Library*  
*Established 1877*

## Marion Craine Gallery at Snow Library Orleans, Massachusetts

Marion Craine was a retired social worker and a regular library user; she liked women's issues, true crime and mysteries. She was originally from Chicago and retired to Orleans owning a house on Beach Road. She and her lifelong friend moved to the Orleans Retirement Center where she died in 1983. After her friend's death, the remainder of her estate (\$200,000) was donated to the Snow Library building fund of 1991 – 1992. The present gallery is named in her honor.

In 2010, the Marion Craine Gallery celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> year. Little did we know when we started that we would have over 100 shows by Cape Cod artists. The original purpose of the Marion Craine Gallery Exhibition Committee, which operates under the authority of the Snow Library Board of Trustees, was to give emerging artists a professional space to show their work. Some of these artists are still showing with us today!

Over the years many improvements to the gallery space have been made, including the Walker Hanging System and the recent installation of gallery lighting.

On the first Saturday in July of 1995, the first show titled, "American Impressionism and the Cape Cod School of Art", featured Lois Griffel, current school Director, and school founder, Charles W. Hawthorne and his successor, Henry Henche. The show also included many other artists including Rosalie Nadeau, Michelle D'Angelo, Kate Nelson, and Peggy Jo Denn, to name a few. An opening reception was held, and the exhibit ran through August. This demonstrates the quality of art the Craine Gallery has presented through the years, which has also included lectures to enhance the learning process.

Another yearly highlight of the Craine Gallery has been the partnership with the Orleans Elementary School and the Cape Cod Museum of Art. This collaboration was originally started by Michelle D'Angelo and Museum Director, Greg Harper. Originally the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and now the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at OES are given a theme and the children then visit the museum and select 31 works to hang in the Marion Craine Gallery. Each student makes remarks about the work they selected. Elizabeth Hunter, present Museum Director has for several years carried on the tradition of working closely with the OES art teacher, and the Craine Gallery Committee.

A new exhibit in the past two years features the Nauset High School art classes. This is highlighted by the display case featuring jewelry and pottery. NRHS teacher, Jody Craven, is the force behind the amazing work done by his students.

Since the late 1990's, the library has exhibited the works of H.K. Cummings photography. This is a museum quality collection of 750 glass plate negatives owned by Snow Library. The work has been extensive in preserving the collection which included a show for the bicentennial and three fall shows in 2004, 2006, and 2008. A catalogue accompanies each show. The last show and book was published in the fall of 2010. The book was dedicated to Theresa Austin Paine Cummings, the wife of H.K. Cummings.

We are hoping the artist community will continue to support the gallery by submitting their work on a regular basis. Each artist is reviewed by the Craine Gallery Committee and notified of his/her acceptance after discussion, which at times includes an interview of the artist. The committee tries to have a wide range of art to include textiles, photography, small sculptures, painting, and mixed media. Application to show art and to volunteer for the Craine Gallery Committee can be picked up at the Snow Library Circulation Desk. Let's make 2012 a banner year!

Bobi Eldridge, Craine Gallery Committee Chair  
[cammipei@verizon.net](mailto:cammipei@verizon.net)