

Upcoming exhibitions

Current
Upcoming
Recently off the Wall

William Partridge Burpee, Swampscott Dory, detail, 1891, Oil on canvas, 18 x 24 in., Collection of Charles J. and Irene Hamm

Over Life's Waters: The Coastal Art Collection of Charles and Irene Hamm

Saturday, Jan. 31—Sunday, Apr. 12, 2015
Opening Reception

2-3:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015

Remarks at 2:30 p.m.

This winter, the New Britain Museum of American Art proudly showcases the Hamm's labor of love in the exhibition, *Over Life's Waters: The Coastal Art Collection of Charles and Irene Hamm*. Ninety-three of the Hamm's American coastal collection will be on view, including works by noted artists Thomas Hart Benton (1889–1975), William Braford (1823–1892), William Partridge Burpee (1846–1940), Sears Gallagher (1869–1955), Rockwell Kent (1882–1971), and Paul Pollaro (b. 1921). The exhibition will highlight several scenic seascapes including Old Mystic, Connecticut, Swampscott, Massachusetts, Monhegan, Maine, and New York Harbor.

As avid sailors and marine enthusiasts, each coastal work in the collection and exhibition has been handpicked by the Hamms. When forming their collection, the couple opted to collect works by American painters, alive or dead, in any medium that attracted their eyes and emotions. Together, the Hamms have sailed along several continents and have enjoyed cruising the New England and Northwest coasts. Their Connecticut residence on the Long Island Sound has been designed to display their coastal art collection and maximize their views and sense of the water.

Over Life's Waters: The Coastal Art Collection of Charles and Irene Hamm will allow visitors an opportunity to grasp the fundamental significance of coastal waters and how the Atlantic has shaped America. The Hamms have generously gifted the Museum their entire coastal art collection, consisting of 165 paintings, and \$1 million to the Art and Education Expansion Project. The Charles and Irene Hamm Gallery will be constructed in the new wing, set to open in the fall of 2015, and paintings from the Hamm Collection will be installed throughout the galleries. The Museum is profoundly thankful to Charles and Irene Hamm for their extreme generosity and thoughtfulness.

A still from Catherine Ross's *Laugh Track*.

New Media: Catherine Ross: *Laugh Track*

Saturday, Feb. 14–Sunday, August 15, 2015

Opening Reception

5:30-7 p.m., Thursday, Mar. 12, 2015

6 p.m. Artist Remarks

New Media artist Catherine Ross frames instances on video that often go unnoticed in their original context. Isolating the movements of humans and/or objects, her videos create new sequences that reveal an inseparable relationship between motion and sound. In *Laugh Track* (2013), she recontextualizes film clips of both men and women laughing. The result is a mini overture in which laughter reveals an inherent awkwardness, a humor that echoes our own vulnerabilities.

Catherine Ross's video works have been presented in exhibitions and festivals internationally, including venues in Brazil, Finland, France, Ireland, England, Canada and the United States. She was awarded at the 2006 Darklight Festival (Dublin, Ireland).

Karl Lund, *His Lasers Ripped Through Tentacle Flesh Like Butter*, detail, 2014, Acrylic paint and paint marker on Masonite, 48 x 96 in., Collection of the artist

NEW/NOW: Karl Lund

Saturday, Feb. 28–Sunday, May 31, 2015

Opening Reception

2-3:30 pm, Sunday, Mar. 1, 2015

2:30 p.m. Artist Remarks

Lund's exhibition, *Angry Robots Liquefied My Brain*, features narrative paintings that depict a world where robots fight giant squids and exterminate countless enemies with powerful laser beams.

Lund's early career as a stop-motion animator often involved the process of creating unique characters for animated short films. Character design is still a passion that has carried over into his paintings. Each painting features an angry robot involved in a battle. In some works, the viewer can see the enemy they are fighting while in others the action takes place beyond the picture plane and one is left to imagine the charred remains of whatever the robot has annihilated. Lund's earliest influences for his drawings and animations were comics, science fiction, and fantasy books of the 1970s. It is easy to recognize these influences as well as aspects of animation in his work. These brightly colored, action-packed paintings are charged with energy and appear to almost jump off the page.

Early on, Lund was encouraged to create. His mother, also an artist, would let him into her home studio where he would draw and paint as well as fashion works out of cardboard and random odds and ends. "Most of my work originates out of a spark of an idea that I then roll over in my mind. Once I sketch it on paper or my iPad, it starts to grow and develop," Lund explains. "My goal is to tell intriguing stories that are visually and thematically dynamic. I want to capture worlds and events that currently only exist in theory or within the possibility of science fiction."

