



## This is a Print

### A survey of the history of printmaking

Our latest exhibition of fine art, *This is a Print*, was inspired by John A. Noble's preference for printmaking. To Noble, lithography was "a democratic art form" that enabled him to make his art available not only to wealthy collectors but to the general populace. "I'm with factory people, industrial people, the immigrants, the sons of immigrants," he asserted. "It gives life to it." Prints were affordable and therefore accessible to a mass audience.

Noble was proud of that fact that the same lithograph could be in both the collection of large institutions such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and that of a barkeep, butcher, or sailor. In fact he once joked, "say the Metropolitan owns a print and [so does] a Bayonne butcher and I'm having an exhibition. Am I going to borrow it from the butcher and underneath it'll say 'Joe Smith, Bayonne butcher?' No it'll say 'lent by the Metropolitan.' That's dirty, you know. Really dirty."

*This is a Print* surveys the history of prints and the differences amongst various mediums, including etchings, engravings, lithographs, mezzotints, and photogravures, and features pieces from the newly acquired collection of Staten Island historian Barnett Shepherd.

Shepherd has been collecting lithographs, etchings, aquatints, monoprints, wood and linoleum block prints, and engravings for over 50 years. His collection includes works dating from the sixteenth through the twentieth century. "My collecting has been eclectic," Shepherd commented. "I bought what I liked, and I have enjoyed living with these remarkable prints. I am pleased to see them find a wider audience and to know they will be cared for."

*This is a Print* incorporates more than a dozen pieces from the Shepherd Collection including *Woman with a Bowed Head*, a 1905 soft-ground etching by Käthe Kollwitz (1867-1945), the German printmaker who recorded her experiences in World War I; a serigraph by surrealist Salvador Dalí (1904-89) from his 1961 portfolio *The Divine Comedy: Inferno*; *Nimrod*, a 1960 color lithograph of the biblical figure by renowned French-Russian-Jewish artist Marc Chagall (1887-1985); and an 18<sup>th</sup> century mezzotint of British peer and naval officer George, Lord Edgcumbe by Edward Fisher (1722-1781) after the original portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds (1723-1792).

The exhibition also presents several pieces from the museum's collection, including a lithograph and lithography stone by Noble for his 1952 print *Dressing the Diver*, part of the rarely seen series, *The Pipe Lithographs*. Noble is also represented by an early untitled etching which prefigures his important 1961 composition, *Soul of Sail*. This etching represents a rare foray for Noble into this printmaking technique, and only a few copies are known to exist.

Other selections from the museum's collection include a circa 1925 drypoint etching *Lighthouse Hill, Princess Bay* and the plate from which it was printed by noted Staten Island artist (continued on page 2)



This early, untitled etching by John A. Noble prefigures his important 1961 composition *Soul of Sail*, of which he wrote, "This is the hold that bears the cargo—this is the reason the vessel was built. Here is the keelson that bears the masts; and here are the timbers, stanchions, and knees which stiffen the whole. All this unseen and unsung anatomy is near, not only to the economy, but in a sense to the heart of the vessel: hence the title, *Soul of Sail*." (The Noble Maritime Collection; gift of the Noble Family)

## Kate Walker to be honored



Kate Walker at work, circa 1910

In the summer of 2018, the Mayor's Office announced the She Built NYC initiative, a public-arts campaign to honor pioneering women with statues in the boroughs in which they lived. The mission of the campaign is to address the marked absence of statues of females in New York City and to ensure that the full story of the City's history is told.

Here at the museum we jumped at the opportunity to nominate Katherine Walker (1848-1931), the renowned keeper of Robbins Reef Lighthouse. Since the museum took over stewardship of Kate's light in 2010, the volunteer Noble Crew and the museum staff have worked to preserve her home and honor her legacy by telling her story. As an immigrant and a single, working mother, Kate's story continues to resonate with all those who hear it.

The selections committee for the initiative agreed that she deserved recognition and this spring New York City First Lady Chirlane McCray announced that Kate Walker was selected to be the first Staten Island woman to receive a statue. We want to thank everyone who voted for Kate and helped launch her to the top of the list. Artist selection is underway, but the statue's location was announced—Kate will stand at the Staten Island Ferry Landing in view of her lighthouse.

—Megan Beck

## 100 years ago



September 2019 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John A. Noble's arrival in America. He was born in Paris in 1913 to American Romantic painter John "Wichita Bill" Noble (1874-1934) and his French-German wife, Amelia Peisch. Wichita Bill brought his young family to America from London on the Cunard liner *SS Royal George*, pictured above. They settled in Provincetown, Massachusetts, a coastal art community that helped inspire Noble's dream of becoming a sailor.

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Designer and editor.....Ciro Galeno, Jr.  
Contributors.....Megan Beck and Dawn Daniels



The Noble Maritime Collection is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with Councilwoman Debi Rose and the City Council.

Visit the museum's galleries Thursday through Sunday, 12-5 PM  
For more information call 718-447-6490 or visit [noblemaritime.org](http://noblemaritime.org)



Right: Salvador Dalí (1904-1989), from the portfolio *The Divine Comedy: Inferno*, serigraph, c. 1960  
Gift of Barnett Shepherd

Below: Johnny Friedlaender (1912-1992), Untitled Aquatint, AP, c. 1960  
Gift of Barnett Shepherd

F.A. Busing (1881-1962); a circa 1945 letterpress portrait and plate of Noble's mother, Amelia "Gloria" Peisch Noble, by Marion Jochimsen (1894-1996); and *Flotsam Jetsam*, a 1989 mezzotint by printmaker Herman Zaage (1927-2008), who was one of the museum's original five trustees and a dedicated member of the volunteer Noble Crew.

The latest additions to the museum's collection are also featured in *This is a Print*. One is *New York, South Street Under a Full Moon in 1882*, a limited edition print from 1993 by Noble's friend and museum Trustee, John Stobart; it is part of a collection donated by Maureen DeVoe in memory of her husband Raymond F. DeVoe, Jr., an avid collector of Stobart prints. Another example is *Summer Crossing II*, a 2013 color lithograph by William Behnken, NA, which shows a view of the Statue of Liberty from the Staten Island Ferry. Behnken—who, once again, generously donated work to our annual art auction this November—also gave us the plate from which he printed the lithograph. It is aluminum, a modern and much lighter material from which to produce lithography compared to the Bavarian limestone used by Noble, and is something of a testament to the ever-evolving, creative techniques used by artists in printmaking.

—Megan Beck, with contributions from *Ciro Galeno, Jr.*



## THIS is a print

Exhibition on view through  
January 2020

*This exhibiton was made possible, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.*

## Upcoming programs and events

### Maritime Art in the Heart of the Sea

Sunday, September 29 at 2 PM

Presented by Staten Island OutLOUD

The National Endowment for the Arts has chosen Staten Island OutLOUD to present The Big Read in our community. This is the group's tenth consecutive award from the NEA, and we here at the Noble Maritime Collection are proud to host a series of their free events. Staten Island OutLOUD opens its autumn series on historian Nathaniel Philbrick's gripping story *In the Heart of the Sea* at the museum with readings and book giveaways. This is also the last day to view the exhibition of four rarely seen oil paintings by John A. Noble. *Free, donations appreciated*

### Melville on Staten Island

Saturday, October 19 at 2 PM

Presented by Staten Island OutLOUD

Professor John Rocco of SUNY Maritime College will tell stories of author Herman Melville's life and work on Staten Island, and on his role in American popular culture. *Free, donations appreciated*



Herman Melville, 1870; oil painting by Joseph Oriel Eaton (1829-1875), the Houghton Library, Harvard University.

### Creature from the Black Lagoon

Friday, October 25 at 7 PM

Part of Halloweekend at Snug Harbor!

The museum will host a screening of Universal's classic 1954 monster movie. It's a take on beauty and the beast—the beast in this case being a monstrous combination of man and fish! Moviegoers are welcome to come in costume. Doors open at 6:30 PM. Rated G.

*Admission \$5 at the door*



"There are many strange legends in the Amazon..."

### Hijinks at Sailors' Snug Harbor

Saturday, October 26 at 1:30 PM

Presented by Staten Island OutLOUD

Join us for a stage reading of *The Nine Mile Swim*, a short memoir by a former resident of Sailors' Snug Harbor who thought he was being chased by a shark. *Free, donations appreciated.*

### The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual John A. Noble Art Auction

Saturday, November 9, 2019 at 6:30 PM

The museum's annual art auction is a Staten Island tradition. Year in and year out, work on the auction block—all of which is donated by artists and art collectors—comprises an exceptional array of artistic mastery, both modern and antique. The event begins with cocktails and a light supper by Catering by Framboise. This is a time to view the art on the block, meet the artists, and compare notes with other guests. The auction that follows is lively and fun, and whether you leave with a work of art or not, you'll help support a good cause and encourage the work of contemporary artists.

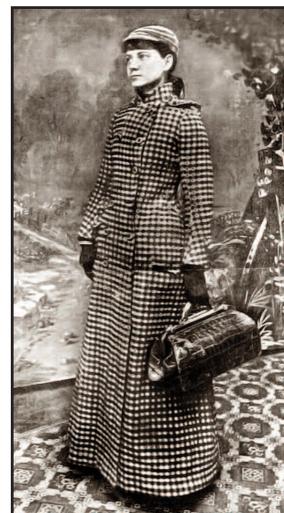
*\$100 per person, \$90 for members; invitations to follow*

### Nellie Bly: Around the World in 72 Days

Thursday, November 14 at 7 PM

History buff Gerard Thornton returns to the museum to present the story of 25-year-old *New York World* reporter Nellie Bly, whose voyage on the luxury ocean liner SS *Augusta Victoria* in 1889 marked the beginning of a 72-day journey around the world. Join us on the 130-year anniversary of the day her journey began, and learn about her life through a lecture, discussion, and photographs.

*Admission \$5 at the door*



The *New York World* newspaper issued this photograph to publicize Nellie Bly's around-the-world voyage in 1889.

### Concert: Alkemie with Elliot Cole *Beautee & Bountee: An Arthurian Refraction*

Saturday, November 23 at 7:30 PM

Presented by Five Boroughs Music Festival

Medieval ensemble Alkemie joins forces with Elliot Cole in a new project of 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century vocal works presented alongside the world premiere of Cole's settings of Middle English texts, which reanimate the ancient tales of King Arthur. *\$25 general admission, \$15 seniors and students. To purchase tickets, visit [www.5bmf.org/alkemie](http://www.5bmf.org/alkemie)*

The Five Boroughs Music Festival comes to Staten Island with a concert by Alkemie, featuring Elliot Cole. (Photo courtesy of the Five Boroughs Music Festival.)

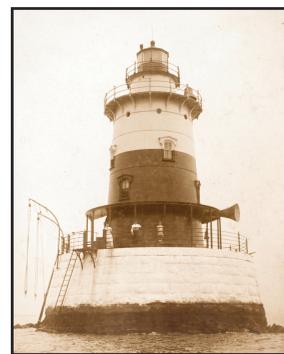


### Staten Island's Woman of the Sea with stories of Kate Walker

Sunday, November 24 at 2 PM

Presented by Staten Island OutLOUD

The finale of Staten Island OutLOUD's autumn series will feature readings that celebrate the life of Staten Island's own Kate Walker, the former keeper of Robbins Reef Lighthouse in Upper New York Bay. *Free, donations appreciated.*



Katherine Walker stands on the promenade of Robbin Reef circa 1910, with her daughter Mae to the left, and her granddaughter Lucille to the right.

### Culture Shop

Saturday, December 7, 11 AM-4 PM

Over twenty local fine artists and craftspeople will once again participate in the museum's annual holiday sale, where you can find an array of unique gifts from the selection of fine art and prints, note cards and bookmarks, handmade candles and soap, pottery, jewelry, textiles, and more!

*Free admission*



Lyrics for "Every Inch a Sailor," published in February 1791; from the American Song Sheets Collection at the Library of Congress

## Ongoing programs

### CloseKnit

Every first Thursday of the month, 2–4 PM

Upcoming dates: October 3, November 7, and December 5

Join this group that provides hats and scarves to mariners, as well as blankets and teddy bears to kids in need. The museum provides yarn, and knitters are happy to teach their craft.

Free, donations appreciated.

### Sea Shanty Sessions

Every third Sunday of the month, 2–5 PM

Upcoming dates: October 20, November 17, and December 15

Led by the Folk Music Society of New York, *Sea Shanty Sessions* are dedicated to William Main Doerflinger (1909-2000), the music scholar who collected traditional sailor's songs from the residents of Sailor's Snug Harbor. Join in or just listen and enjoy! Free, donations appreciated.

## Save the date for our next writing workshop

### Novel Writing with Rob Hart

Wednesdays, February 19 through March 25, 2020, 6 to 8 PM

Rob Hart, author of *The Warehouse*, will lead a six-session writing workshop that will cover the topics of storytelling basics, the writing process, first draft, editing, putting together a query package, and sending the work to agents and editors. *The Warehouse* has sold in 21 countries and has been optioned for a film by Ron Howard. \$150 per person, \$125 museum members



*Fast Junction*

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual John A. Noble

Join us on Saturday, November 9 at 6:30 PM for

Return Service Requested

Staten Island, NY 10301

The Noble Maritime Collection  
1000 Richmond Terrace, Bldg. D

A museum and study center



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