

Samuel de Champlain (French, 1567-1635), Voyages de la Nouvelle France occidentale... (Paris: Chez Pierre Le-Mer, 1632.) (detail). Special Collections, Bailey/Howe Library

A Beckoning Country: Art and Objects from the Lake Champlain Valley
APRIL 14 – SEPTEMBER 20, 2009

For thousands of years, the Lake Champlain Valley has drawn people to its shores and to the lands it nourishes. A Beckoning Country examines the features of the Champlain Valley landscape through the art and objects created from and inspired by them. The exhibition includes stone tools, maps, furniture, textiles, and baskets, as well as paintings, drawings, and prints that celebrate the region's beauty.

Organized around a geologic and natural history framework—earth, water, flora, and fauna—this exhibition includes materials spanning thousands of years from Native American, French-Canadian, American, and European inhabitants, as well as visitors to the area. Collectively, these objects communicate how people navigated, cultivated, explored, mapped, used, and celebrated the resources of the Champlain Valley region.

Objects and artwork are drawn from the Fleming Museum's permanent collections, the University of Vermont's Special Collections at Bailey/Howe Library and the Pringle Herbarium, as well as museums in New England, and local private collectors.

Beginning in July, selected objects and stories from members of the community will be displayed throughout this exhibition. This component of the exhibition, titled Treasures and Tales: Personal Connections to the Lake, invites the public to respond to the question "What does Lake Champlain mean to you?" by sharing items of personal importance (objects, pictures, mementoes, etc.) that relate to your own experience of Lake Champlain. Please see our website at www.flemingmuseum.org for more information.



Doll (Moretown, Vermont) c. 1830. Corn cob, wood, cotton. Gift of William Heuman, 1940.42.1

DIRECTOR'S NOTES



The Fleming Museum is proud to announce that the Museum has achieved re-accreditation from the American Association of Museums (AAM). The Fleming was first accredited by the AAM in 1997. Accreditation is the highest national recognition within the Museum field; it involves a rigorous assessment process and signals a commitment to excellence in all areas of operation. Only 775 of the nation's estimated 17,500 museums are accredited. The Fleming Museum is one of five accredited museums in Vermont, and the only one in Chittenden County. We are gratified to have confirmation from the AAM that the museum experience we offer our public reflects the highest standards of the field.

Many of you reading our Summer 2009 newsletter have already visited our current exhibition *A Beckoning Country: Art and Objects from the Champlain Valley*, which opened April 14. For those who have not yet seen it, don't miss one of the Fleming Museum's most acclaimed exhibitions, celebrating the history of Lake Champlain and presenting a spectacular array of art and artifacts. Beginning July 7, the exhibition undergoes a transformation, incorporating objects and stories solicited from community members that reflect their own experiences with Lake Champlain. Join us for the opening reception for this unusual exhibition component, *Treasures and Tales*, on the evening of July 29.

Also on view this summer are two other important exhibitions with roots in Vermont: *Elizabeth Billings: The Ties that Bind*, presenting, among other works by this Vermont artist, a series of ikat weavings that includes phrases from a 19th-century Vermont diary; and *Buffalo Soldiers in Vermont*, an exhibition documenting and celebrating the centennial of the 10th Cavalry Unit of African-American regiments in the U.S. Army, which served at Fort Ethan Allen in Colchester, Vermont, early in the 20th century.

Please join us this summer, and check out our exhibition tours throughout July and August. Bring visiting friends and family to share in the best of Vermont's museum experiences!

Janie Cohen
Janie Cohen, Director

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OPENING
RECEPTION

Treasures and Tales:
Personal Connections to the Lake

For Fleming Museum Members
and the Public

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29
5:30 – 7:00 PM

FREE ADMISSION



Vermont State Militia Uniform, 1836
Wool, felt, cotton, metal
Gift of John E. Wadsworth, 1953.32.4

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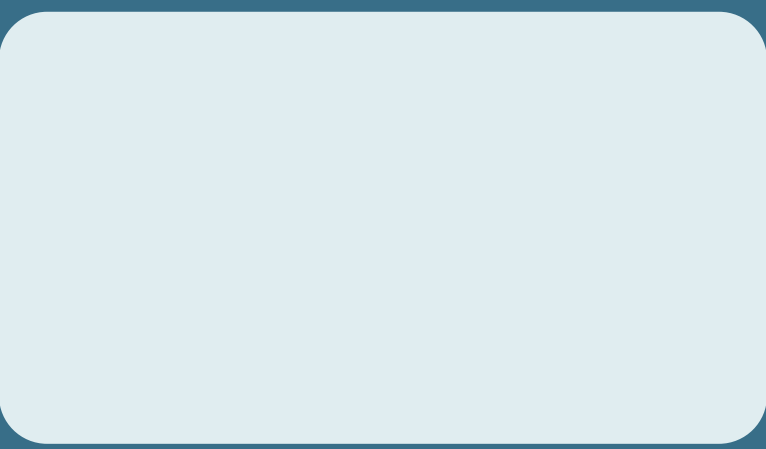
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Cover: Jerrold B. Thompson (American, 1814-1886), Mount Mansfield, 1861 (detail), Oil on canvas, Private collection, Burlington, Vermont



ONVIEW

Exhibitions and Events | Summer 2009

The UNIVERSITY of VERMONT'S
**FLEMING
MUSEUM**

NEW EXHIBITIONS

Buffalo Soldiers in Vermont

JUNE 2 – SEPTEMBER 13, 2009



Unknown(American, 20th century), 10th Cavalry Soldiers, Vermont, 1911. Gelatin Silver Print, Private Collection.

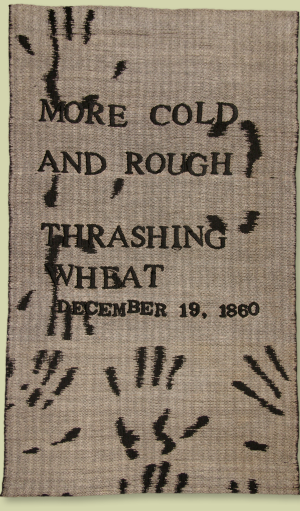
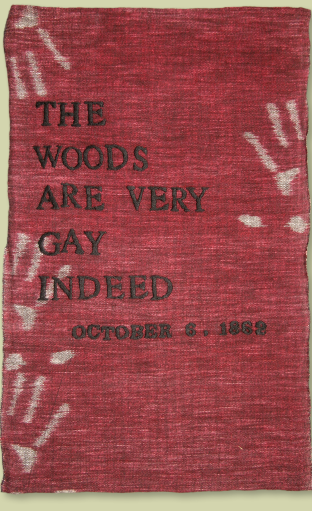
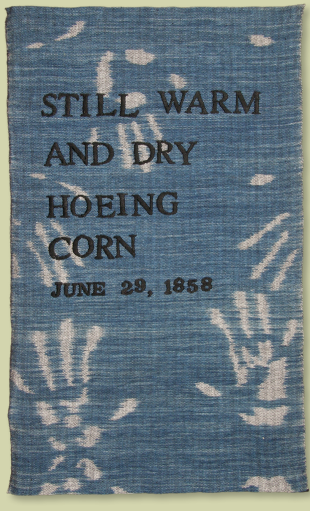
view is a collection of artifacts including everyday items used by the Buffalo Soldiers.

In July of 1909, seven-hundred and fifty soldiers from the 10th Cavalry Unit of Buffalo Soldiers marched into Vermont for their assignment at Fort Ethan Allen, Colchester, Vermont. This year marks the centennial celebration of this march, and the Fleming Museum is honored to celebrate this historic event.

In commemoration of the reunion of the Buffalo Soldiers in Vermont, admission to the Museum will be free for all members of the military community from July 28 - August 2, 2009.

Elizabeth Billings: The Ties that Bind

MAY 26 – OCTOBER 4, 2009



Elizabeth Billings, Handprint Series, 2002-2003. Natural dyed ikat on cotton. Gift of the artist, 2006.13.1,7,5

In her *Handprint Series*, Vermont artist Elizabeth Billings combines the traditional method of ikat weaving with embroidered text drawn from the diary of a 19th-century Vermonter, Harriet Warren Vail, a distant relative of the artist, who wrote one line each day from 1858-1864 noting her observations on nature and work. Ikat is a style of weaving that uses a resist-dyeing process to create a pattern or design. In the Malay language, the word ikat suggests “to tie” or “to bind”; thus, Billings' Series suggests the threads that connect or bind generations together.

Also included in the exhibition is a large weaving of twigs from local apple trees, which Billings views as the very essence of ikat. In this piece, the threads, or twigs, speak individually, and connect us to the earth and to a particular place, whereas in her ikat weavings, they speak as a whole, binding us to traditions of diverse cultures and peoples, to the past and to the present.

Elizabeth Billings was trained in Vermont by master weaver Norman Kennedy and subsequently apprenticed to ikat weaver Keiko Shindo in Morioka, Japan. She received an M.F.A. from Cranbrook Academy of Art. In 2002, Billings was selected by the National Museum of Women in the Arts, in Washington DC, to represent Vermont in their From

the States exhibition program.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Curator's Tour and Music at Reunion 2009

SUNDAY, JUNE 6,

2:30 PM

Join us for an intimate look at A Beckoning Country by touring the gallery with Aimee Marcereau DeGalan, Curator of Collections and Exhibitions, and Margaret Tamulonis, Manager of Collections and Exhibitions, at the Fleming Museum.

3:30-4:15 PM

Enjoy the amazing acoustics of the Museum's Marble Court filled with the sounds of live organ music. University Organist and Professor of Music David Neiwem plays music from the period of Samuel de Champlain on UVM's portable pipe organ: a replica of an early 1600s Dutch instrument, built by organ builder Henk Klop.

MUSEUM AT NOON

The Museum opens at noon; programs begin at 12:15 pm.

JULY 15

Gallery Tour: *A Beckoning Country*

JULY 22

Artist's Talk: *Elizabeth Billings*

JULY 29

Gallery Tour: *A Beckoning Country*

AUGUST 5

Gallery Tour: *James B. Petersen*

Gallery Tour: *Native American Cultures*

AUGUST 12

Gallery Tour: *A Beckoning Country*

AUGUST 19

Gallery Tour: *Buffalo Soldiers in Vermont*

FAMILIES

Spark your kid's curiosity and imagination by visiting our exciting summer exhibitions. At the Reception Desk, you can check out an Art Box for the exhibition Elizabeth Billings: The Ties that Bind, containing conversation starters, a description of ikat weaving, and writing and art activities. You can also pick up Family Guides to A Beckoning Country and other exhibitions at the Reception Desk.

Museum Hours:

May 1 – Sept. 4: Tues. – Fri., Noon – 4 PM / Sat. & Sun., 1 – 5 PM

Sept. 8 – May 2: Tues., Thurs. & Fri., 9 AM – 4 PM / Wed., 9 AM – 8 PM / Sat. & Sun., 1 – 5 PM

MUSEUM GALLERIES CLOSED MONDAYS AND MAJOR HOLIDAY WEEKENDS:

Memorial Day Weekend, May 23-25; July 3-5; and Labor Day Weekend, September 5-7

Admission:

\$5 adults, \$10 family, \$3 students and seniors. Free to Museum members; UVM, Burlington College, Champlain College, Community College of Vermont, and St. Michael's College faculty, staff, and students; and children 6 and under.

Directions and Parking:

Parking is available in the visitor lot located between the Museum and Fletcher Allen Health Care.

Additional parking information is available on our web site or at 656-2090.



The Fleming Museum is wheelchair accessible and provides reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities. Please contact us in advance to arrange accommodations.



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May 1, 2008 - April 30, 2009

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