

An abstract painting with a harbor scene. The composition is dominated by vertical and diagonal brushstrokes in shades of blue, green, brown, and white. The background is a mix of these colors, with some areas appearing more saturated than others. The overall effect is one of dynamic movement and layered textures.

Detail from *Abstract Harbor Scene* by Morris Davidson

HARBOR TO BAY

FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

July 6–September 13, 2020
Curated by Christine McCarthy



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HARBOR TO BAY



Detail from *Boats in the Harbor* by John Whorf

For over a century, the bodies of water that surround Provincetown have been a source of inspiration for artists and visitors alike. This exhibition brings together approximately 30 artworks in all media spanning decades that depict Provincetown Harbor or Provincetown Bay. In concert with the 400th anniversary of the first landing of the Pilgrims, below is a brief history of Provincetown Harbor culled from Wikipedia, the US Census and the Town of Provincetown.

On November 9, 1620, the Pilgrims aboard the *Mayflower* sighted Cape Cod while en route to the Colony of Virginia. After two days of failed attempts to sail south against the strong winter seas, they returned to the safety of the harbor, known today as Provincetown Harbor, and set anchor. It was here that the *Mayflower Compact* was drawn up and signed. They agreed to settle and build a self-governing community, and came ashore in the West End. Though the Pilgrims chose to settle across the

bay in Plymouth, Cape Cod enjoyed an early reputation for its valuable fishing grounds, and for its harbor: a naturally deep, protected basin that was considered the best along the coast. In 1654, the Governor of the Plymouth Colony purchased this land from the Chief of the Nausets, for a selling price of two brass kettles, six coats, 12 hoes, 12 axes, 12 knives and a box.

That land, which spanned from East Harbor (formerly, Pilgrim Lake)—near the present-day border between Provincetown and Truro—to Long Point, was kept for the benefit of Plymouth Colony, which began leasing fishing rights to roving fishermen. The collected fees were used to defray the costs of schools and other projects throughout the colony. In 1678, the fishing grounds were opened up to allow the inclusion of fishermen from the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

In 1692, a new Royal Charter combined the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies



Detail from *Ebb Tide, Ghosts of Lost Ships and Vanished Portuguese Children, Provincetown* by Howard Mitcham

into the Province of Massachusetts Bay. “Cape Cod” was thus officially renamed the “Province Lands”.

The first record of a municipal government with jurisdiction over the Province Lands was in 1714, with an Act that declared it the “Precinct of Cape Cod”, annexed under control of Truro.

On June 14, 1727, after harboring ships for more than a century, the Precinct of Cape Cod was incorporated as a township. The name chosen by its inhabitants was “Herrington”, which was rejected by the Massachusetts General Court in favor of “Provincetown”. The act of incorporation provided that inhabitants of Provincetown could be land holders, but not land owners. They received a quit claim to their property, but the Province retained the title. The land was to be used as it had been from the beginning of the colony—a place for the making of fish. All resources, including the trees, could be used for that purpose. In 1893

the Massachusetts General Court changed the Town’s charter, giving the townspeople deeds to the properties they held, while still reserving unoccupied areas.

The town was affected by the American Revolution the same way most of Cape Cod was: the effective British blockade shut down most fish production and shipping and the town dwindled. It was, by happenstance, the location of the wreck of a British warship, HMS Somerset at the Peaked Hill Bars off the Atlantic Coast of Provincetown in 1778.

Following the American Revolution, Provincetown grew rapidly as a fishing and whaling center. The population was bolstered by numerous Portuguese sailors, many of whom were from the Azores, and settled in Provincetown after being hired to work on US ships.

HARBOR TO BAY



Detail from *Bay at Night* by Milton Avery

Milton Avery (1885–1965)

Bay at Night, 1961

Oil on canvas, 36" x 28"

Gift of Robert C. Duffy, 2013

Janice Biala (1903–2000)

untitled (view of the bay,

Provincetown), c. 1965

Oil, collage on canvas, 15" x 18"

Gift from the estate of Jack Tworok, 2014

James Floyd Clymer (1893–1982)

Harbor in Winter, 1963

Oil on canvas, 22" x 28"

Anonymous gift

Morris Davidson (1898–1979)

Abstract Harbor Scene, 1947

Oil on canvas, 25" x 30"

Gift of the Barbara C. Murchison Living Trust,
2016, restoration funded by Daniel Squire, 2017

Richard DeQuattro (b. 1946)

untitled (harbor view from interior), n.d.

Acrylic on canvas, 36" x 36"

Gift of Richard Blair and Josh Liska, 2016

Edwin Walter Dickinson (1891–1978)

Provincetown Harbor, Railroad Wharf in the Rain, 1928

Oil on canvas, 30.5" x 36.25"

Gift of the Daniel W. Dietrich II Trust,

in honor of Helen Dickinson Baldwin, 2007

John Dos Passos (1896–1970)

Harbor at Sunset, n.d.

Watercolor on paper, 15" x 20"

Gift of the Barbara C. Murchison
Living Trust, 2016



Detail from *White Sail* by Robert Henry

John Evans (b. 1945)
White Bay (Joel's House), 1990
Oil on canvas, 36" x 36"
Gift of the artist, 2018

Sam Feinstein (1915–2003)
untitled (abstract harbor view), n.d.
Mixed media on paper, 18" x 24"
Gift from the estate of Ruth Hiebert, 2004

Maurice Freedman (1904–1984)
Provincetown Pier Gear, 1948
Oil on canvas, 20" x 34"
Gift of Philip F. May and Anne L. May, 2015

Chaim Gross (1904–1991)
Provincetown Harbor 1946
Watercolor on paper, 15.5" x 22.25"
Gift of Jack Krumholz and
Marjorie Jacoby, 2012

Lena Gurr (1897–1992)
untitled (harbor scene), n.d.
Oil on board, 8" x 10"
Gift of Helen and Napi van Dereck, 2007

John Cuthbert Hare (1908–1978)
Dusk, Provincetown Harbor, n.d.
Watercolor on paper, 10" x 12"
Gift of Robert Eaton, 2016

Robert Henry (b. 1933)
White Sail, 1998
Oil on canvas, 56" x 42"
Gift of Berta Walker, 1998

Tod Raphael Leroy Lindenmuth (1885–1976)
In Harbor, n.d.
Color woodblock print, 15.5" x 12"
Gift of Helen and Napi van Dereck, 2000

HARBOR TO BAY



Detail from *Harbor View* by Philip C. Malicoat

Philip C. Malicoat (1908–1981)

Harbor View, 1938

Oil on canvas, 25" x 30"

Gift of the Barbara C. Murchison

Living Trust, 2016, restoration funded by
Seanad Dunigan Chang, granddaughter of the
artist, 2017

Provincetown Bay, 1933

Oil on canvas, 20" x 24"

Gift of Robert C. Duffy, 2013

Lily Marx (1887–1970)

Harbor View, n.d.

Oil on panel, 21" x 28.5"

Gift of Lily & Alfred Marx, 1964

Howard Mitcham (1920–1996)

*Ebb Tide, Ghosts of Lost Ships and Vanished
Portuguese Children, Provincetown*, c. 1980s

Woodblock print, 7/50, 8" x 11.5"

Gift of the artist, 1989

Ross E. Moffett (1888–1971)

Ice in Provincetown Harbor, 1935

Monotype print, 12" x 15"

Gift of Josephine and Sal Del Deo, 1983

Robert Motherwell (1915–1991)

Provincetown Bay, 1987–90

Acrylic and charcoal on
canvas board, 16" x 20"

Gift of the Dedalus Foundation in honor of
Lise and Jeannie Motherwell, 2005



Detail from *The Harbor* by Marian Roth

Anne Peretz (b. 1938)

Pilings #4 (Provincetown), n.d.

Oil on canvas, 44" x 34"

Gift of the artist, 2006

Vollian Burr Rann (1897–1956)

The Harbor, n.d.

Oil on canvas board, 16" x 20"

Gift of Dorothy E. Cook, 2000

Paul Resika (b. 1928)

untitled (harbor scene), 1994

Oil on canvas, 10.5" x 15.75"

Gift of David and Kim Salomon, 2017

Marian Roth (b. 1944)

The Harbor, 1994–95

Pinhole photograph, 2.5" x 4.25"

Gift of the artist, 1995

Suzanne Sinaiko (1918–1998)

The Provincetown Bay, n.d.

Watercolor on paper, 24" x 18"

Gift of Helen and Napi van Dereck, 2000

Maurice Sterne (1877–1957)

untitled (harbor scene), n.d.

Oil on canvas, 26" x 32"

Gift of Diane Ackerman, 1983

John Whorf (1903–1959)

Boats in the Harbor, n.d.

Watercolor on paper, 15" x 22"

Gift of Dorothy E. Cook, 2000

George Yater (1910–1993)

On the Bay, n.d.

Oil on board, 19.5" x 15.5"

Gift of Lily and Alfred Marx, 1964

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