

Detail from *Interior: Provincetown III*

ALVIN ROSS

A CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION

September 18–November 1, 2020

Curated by Christine McCarthy and the estate of Alvin Ross



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ALVIN ROSS: A CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION



Alvin Ross, c. 1950s

I first met Pat Shultz in my interview for the job of Executive Director at the Provincetown Art Association and Museum (PAAM) in June of 2001. She was intimidating behind her tortoise shell glasses and drilled me about where I would find housing in Provincetown in the summer if I were to be offered the job. Luckily, I had done my homework and I knew that she owned one of the most successful real estate offices in town. I brazenly told her that since she was a realtor, I expected her to help me find somewhere to live. She paused for what seemed to be a very long time and said, “I like you.” That interaction became the beginning of a very important friendship with Pat and her partner Lenore Ross. Pat and Lenore lived in Provincetown for decades running successful businesses, supporting many non-profits and promoting the arts.

Lenore’s brother, Alvin Ross, taught at Pratt Institute and the New School for Social Research, but spent much of his time in

Provincetown. He served as President of PAAM in the early ‘70s, just before he was diagnosed with cancer—he died at age 55, leaving behind an important body of work that has gained national attention.

It is fitting that PAAM celebrate the centennial of Alvin Ross (1920–1975) by mounting a major exhibition on view from September 18–November 15, 2020. Drawing from PAAM’s permanent collection and over 20 private collections, the show will focus on Ross’ small still lifes, landscapes and figures. The still lifes feature kitchen objects and food, paper bags, etc. Although the subject matter is consistently domestic and recognizable, there is an air of surrealism that emanates from these small, but powerful compositions—nostalgic in nature, yet no sentimental attachment is evident.

James Bakker and Steven Roderick have played a pivotal role in bringing this exhibition to the forefront—I extend my deepest appreciation to them and the private collectors whose generosity in lending these works has brought the project to fruition with beauty and elegance for our audiences. An exhibition of this scale requires many levels of funding, and we are extremely grateful to the funders who enthusiastically helped to support the catalogue, especially Jack Krumholz and Marjorie Jacoby.

Thank you to Jean Wilcox, who produced a beautiful and inventive catalogue design. I would be remiss if I did not thank Pat Shultz and Lenore Ross for gifting over 40 of Alvin’s paintings to PAAM, helping to endow the Lenore Ross Student Curating Program at PAAM, and affording us the opportunity to name the renovated wing after Alvin Ross.

The Alvin Ross exhibition, along with its publication and accompanying programs, has also benefited greatly from the dedication of the PAAM staff. To them, I would like to extend my warmest thanks, especially Seth Abrahamson, Bill Rigby, and James Zimmerman.

-Christine McCarthy, Curator and CEO, PAAM



Detail from *A&P*

A&P, 1961
Oil on canvas, 27" x 34"
PAAM Collection, gift of Pat Shultz and
Lenore Ross, 2006

Accountrements, 1964
Oil on canvas, 13" x 18"
Courtesy of a private collection

American Coffee and Danish, 1968
Oil on canvas, 16" x 20"
PAAM Collection, gift from
the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

American Sunday in Florence, 1951
Oil on board, 14.75" x 19.75"
Courtesy of a private collection

Anagram Players, 1958
Oil on canvas, 13" x 18"
PAAM Collection, gift from
the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

Angel Food Cake and Mixmaster, 1973
Oil on canvas, 15" x 20"
Courtesy of a private collection

Apples and Paper Bag, 1973
Oil on canvas, 14" x 22"
From the collection of
Jamie Gorelick and Richard Waldhorn

Bags and Oranges, 1968
Oil on canvas, 25" x 30"
From the collection of
Lucas Garofalo and Jeff Swanson

Bay, Provincetown, 1963
Oil on canvas, 13" x 18"
From the collection of
The Ross Family

Blueberry Muffins, 1975
Oil on canvas, 11" x 9"
From the collection of
Lucas Garofalo and Jeff Swanson

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Detail from *Boy Reading Map*

Boy Reading Map, 1968
Oil on canvas, 30" x 20"
From the collection of
The Ross Family

Brioches, 1971
Oil on board, 14" x 18"
From the collection of
Steven Roderick

Broken Flower Pot, 1971
Oil on canvas, 15" x 20"
Courtesy of a private collection

Broken Glass and Cup, 1968
Oil on panel, 10" x 7"
From the collection of
Lucas Garofalo and Jeff Swanson

Cat's Cradle, 1945
Oil on canvas, 35" x 27"
Courtesy of Bakker Gallery

Study for Cat's Cradle, 1945
Oil on board, 8.5" x 9"
PAAM Collection, gift from
the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

Cauliflower, 1968
Oil on panel, 6" x 7.875"
Courtesy of a private collection

Compotier and Box, 1975
Oil on canvas, 21" x 25"
PAAM Collection, gift from
the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

Chocolate and Vanilla Cupcakes, 1971
Oil on masonite, 6" x 7.875"
Courtesy of a private collection

Coconut Layer Cake, 1972
Oil on canvas, 15" x 20"
From the collection of
Mark Lee Goldberg

Dartboard, 1946
Oil on canvas, 26" x 20"
PAAM Collection,
Gift from the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

Departure, 1949
Oil on board, 25" x 30"
PAAM Collection,
Gift from the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013



Detail from *Hi*

Dougie, 1945

Oil on canvas, 24" x 20"

From the collection of Eric R. Hipp

Fat Lady, 1961

Oil on canvas, 21.5" x 20.5"

PAAM Collection, gift from
the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

Firewood, 1964

Oil on canvas, 15" x 20"

PAAM Collection, gift from
the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

Follow the Leader, 1949

Oil on canvas, 40" x 32"

Courtesy of Bakker Gallery

Study for Follow the Leader, 1949

Oil on canvas, 14" x 18"

Courtesy of Bakker Gallery

Gherkins and Glass Jar, 1968

Oil on panel, 7.25" x 7.125"

Courtesy of a private collection

Haircut, 1958

Oil on canvas, 22" x 20"

From the collection of
Lucas Garofalo and Jeff Swanson

Heather and Chrysanthemum, 1949

Oil on canvas, 18" x 16"

Courtesy of a private collection

Hi, 1957

Oil on canvas, 24" x 34"

Courtesy of a private collection

Interior: Provincetown, 1964

Oil on canvas, 30" x 24"

PAAM Collection, gift of
Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Berk, 2014

Interior, Provincetown II, 1965

Oil on canvas, 35.5" x 25.5"

From the collection of
Michael F. Fernon

Interior: Provincetown III, 1965

Oil on canvas, 30" x 20"

PAAM Collection, gift from
the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

Laundry Count, 1963

Oil on canvas, 26" x 36"

PAAM Collection, gift from
the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

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Detail from *Old Toaster*

Lobster, 1963

Oil on canvas, 20" x 24"

From the collection of Joy McNulty

Male with Drill (Antony Lazarek), 1965

Oil on canvas, 30" x 20"

PAAM Collection, gift from
the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

Mexican Hat, 1974

Oil on board, 6" x 8"

Courtesy of a private collection

My Studio, 1945

Oil on canvas, 24" x 28"

From the collection of
Steven Roderick

Nude Ladies on the Beach, 1953

Oil on pane, 13" x 10.5"

Courtesy of Bakker Gallery

Old Toaster, 1965

Oil on canvas, 13" x 18"

PAAM Collection, gift from
the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

Orange Squeezer, 1960

Oil on canvas, 19" x 17"

From the collection of
Ken Fulk and Kurt Wooton

Outdoor Restaurant in Florence, 1960

Oil on canvas, 51" x 32.5"

PAAM Collection, gift of Pat Shultz, 2005

Paper Towels with Lemon, 1973

Oil on panel, 8" x 6"

Courtesy of a private collection

Portrait of Gary, 1969

Oil on canvas, 20" x 16"

PAAM Collection, gift from
the estate of Selma Dubrin, 1997

Self Portrait, 1964

Oil on board, 8" x 6"

PAAM Collection, gift from
the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

Portrait of My Father (Isaac), 1969

Oil on board, 8" x 6"

PAAM Collection, gift from
the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

Portrait of My Mother (Sonia), 1969

Oil on board, 8" x 6"

PAAM Collection, gift from
the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

Portrait of My Sister (Lenore), 19750

Oil on board, 8" x 6"

PAAM Collection, gift from
the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

Provincetown Bay Before a Storm, 1969

Oil on canvas, 20" x 30"

From the collection of Seamen's Bank,
Provincetown. Displayed on Alvin Ross' easel,
courtesy of Sky Power

Raspberries and Lemon, 1971

Oil on masonite, 5.875" x 7.875"

Courtesy of a private collection

Rehearsal, 1960

Oil on canvas, 32" x 40"

PAAM Collection, gift from
the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

Study for Sandcastle, 1948

Oil on canvas, 8" x 10"

Courtesy of a private collection

Serenade, 1958

Oil on canvas, 13" x 20"

PAAM Collection, gift from
the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

Self Portrait in Bathrobe, 1964

Oil on canvas, 24" x 19"

PAAM Collection, gift from
the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

Spring Indoors, 1950

Oil on canvas, 32" x 46"

From the collection of
Lucas Garofalo and Jeff Swanson

Sunday Ennui II, 1958

Oil on canvas, 24" x 30"

PAAM Collection, gift from
the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

Tea and Toast, 1965

Oil on panel, 10" x 12"

Courtesy of a private collection

Three Onions, 1965

Oil on panel, 6" x 8"

From the collection of
Jamie Gorelick and Richard Waldhorn

Tourist at the Window with Nude, n.d.

Oil on canvas, 16" x 20"

PAAM Collection, gift of
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Berk, 2018

Two Mackerel, 19613

Oil on canvas, 16" x 20"

PAAM Collection, gift from
the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

Vanitas, 1958

Oil on canvas, 16" x 24"

PAAM Collection, gift of
Pat Shultz and Lenore Ross, 2006

Waring Blender, 1960

Oil on canvas, 20" x 24"

From the collection of
The Ross Family

Washed Idahoes, 1965

Oil on canvas, 11" x 14"

Courtesy of a private collection

Wastepaper Basket, 1960

Oil on canvas, 19" x 17"

PAAM Collection, gift from
the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

White Crock and Vegetables, 1975

Oil on canvas, 14" x 22"

PAAM Collection, gift from
the Lenore Ross Trust, 2013

PROVINCETOWN ART ASSOCIATION AND MUSEUM



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This project was supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which receives support from the State of Massachusetts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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