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March 22, 2007

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***A BRUSH WITH HISTORY EXHIBITION OPENS AT BRICK STORE MUSEUM***

KENNEBUNK, MAINE – From March 27 through April 28, 2007, The Brick Store Museum is pleased to present its newest exhibition, *A Brush with History: Artistic Interpretations of Archival Images from The Brick Store Museum*. Thirty-five regional artists have found inspiration in the Museum's vast archival collections, interpreting vintage photographs and classic postcards to create new works of art.

The Museum's archives center is housed in the 1814 salmon-colored building that anchors the southern end of the Museum's block on Main Street in Kennebunk. The archives center contains a diverse and ever-growing collection of more than 3,000 vintage images in a variety of forms: stereopticon cards, daguerreotypes, cartes de visite, glass plate negatives, newspaper photos, postcards and snapshots. *A Brush with History* is an opportunity for the archival images to enjoy the spotlight. "What is truly exciting is that this exhibition allows us to showcase not one but two community treasures: our archives but also the considerable talent of the region's arts community," said the Museum's executive director, Tracy Baetz.

Kennebunk artist Tina Ambrose of The Oak – An Art Gallery helped the Museum coordinate the exhibition. Area artists first visited the museum in January to select images from the archives to serve as their inspiration. There was a broad range of images from which to choose—town and country settings and of people at work and at play throughout the centuries. The artists were given complete freedom for their interpretations and approached the exhibition with incredible creativity. Some faithfully reproduced the archival scenes to the tiniest detail while others incorporated modern-day twists. In the process of bringing these faded photographs to life in color through their palettes, many of the artists tracked down additional details about their subject matter—investigating things like the actual site of an old building or what might have been the hue of a lady's dress at the turn of the century.

The fascinating results are 35 original, interpretive works in watercolor, oil, pastels, gouache, acrylic, fabric, pen & ink, and even digital rendering. Visitors to the exhibition will see the vintage images paired with their contemporary counterparts, so they can enjoy their own "brush with history."

Artists' original works from the exhibition are available for purchase, with prices ranging from \$165 to \$2800. Artists represented in the exhibition are the following: Geraldine Aikman, Anne Gable Allaire, E. F. Tina Ambrose, S. Patricia Benson, Paul Bonneau, Dee Smart Burdick, Bonnie Collins, Jean Colquhoun, Danie Connolly, Nancy Cooper Funk, Marilyn Corey, Patrick DeSantis, Claudette Gamache, Mary Gannon, Ruth E. Goldsmith, Hara Harding, DeWitt Hardy, Steve Hrehovcik, Susan Inoue, Elizabeth Kelley, Bruce King, Janet Ledoux, Ann Legg, Ann Livermore, Nahdia Lorden, Gillet T. Page, Suzanne M. Payne, Ellen Pelletier, Carol Santora, Nadine Schoepfle, Shirley Sotir, Virginia Souza, Russel Whitten, Richard Parker Winslow, and Tina Winslow.

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*The Brick Store Museum is located at 117 Main Street in Kennebunk's historic district. For more than 70 years, the Museum has been dedicated to preserving and exhibiting the region's rich cultural heritage. Its galleries and research archives are open to the public year-round: Tuesdays – Fridays, 10 – 4:30 and Saturdays, 10 – 1. Museum admission is by donation, suggested \$5 per person. Visit [www.brickstoremuseum.org](http://www.brickstoremuseum.org) or call 207.985.4802 for further information.*

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