

# Show must go on for historical society

## 19 paintings spotlighted in '20 exhibit

BY EMMA MACINTYRE

As the coronavirus continues to mark a significant chapter in the nation's history, the Jamestown Historical Society has adjusted accordingly to the times.

Though the group's museum is closed due to the virus, its website has been updated with a preview of the summer 2020 exhibit, "The Art of Jamestown." Local artist Peter Marcus curated the exhibit, a collection of 19 paintings depicting different areas and aspects of the island.

Some of the areas featured in the assortment include "North End of the Island," "Governor Carr" and "Stonewall Cottage."

Marcus, who has installed exhibitions in the library and done printing for the museum before, said the society had accumulated a wide variety of Jamestown artwork for him to look through for the exhibit. He describes the collection as "depicting the life and history of Jamestown."

The website allows viewers to click through and magnify digital images of the artwork, but there also is hope the exhibit will come to fruition in person next year.

"There is nothing better than seeing the work in person; you get



A painting of the Governor Carr ferryboat by John Doty Sr. The artwork was one of 19 chosen by Peter Marcus for the 2020 summer exhibit at the Jamestown Museum.

a better feel," said Marcus.

Society treasurer Rosemary Enright also hopes to welcome visitors into the museum soon. For now, however, they are taking precautions and remaining closed for the season.

"We are trying not to put anyone at risk right now," Enright said.

The society currently is looking at the possibility of incorporating new technology in the museum to allow for limited contact with the exhibits. Beyond the paintings,

there are more pieces in the complete art collection, which the society would like to have available to look through when the exhibit opens.

"We had bought a touch screen display so that we could put all of the art up and let people look at things that are not up," Enright said.

Beyond the touch screen, she said they are looking into a potential display that would be motion activated so people would

not have to touch any screens and could view multiple images. For the time being, the artwork is viewable on the group's website.

John Doty Sr. was the creator of "Governor Carr," a painting featured in the exhibit. It shows the impressive ship floating on the bay, surrounded by puffy white clouds and a blue sky. The artist's son, John Doty Jr., who lives in his childhood home on Union Street with his sister, Nancy Doty Frade, said his father loved painting.

"He could do most anything."

Doty Sr.'s skillsets certainly were versatile. Born Aug. 11, 1916, in Lynn, Mass., he grew up in North Conway, N.H. There, he learned about mechanics from his aunt and uncle, who owned a garage. Doty Sr. went on to enter the service and started boot camp in Sampson, N.Y., and halfway through, he was moved to Quonset, which introduced him to the beauty of Rhode Island. From 1944-45, he was shipped overseas with the Seabees to serve in Guam. Once he got out of the service, he returned to the Newport area and started working at the torpedo station. Just getting settled in the area, Doty Sr. attended his best friend's wedding, where he met his wife to be.

The two married on the island in March of 1947. They continued to build their life together locally, contributing to the Doty Variety Store, which used to be located downtown, and raising their children.

Doty Sr. continues to be admired as a mechanic, handyman, artist, and great father.

"I miss him greatly," said Doty Jr.

His artwork demonstrates his talent and creativity, a commonality among all of the pieces in this collection. Though the paintings show different fragments of the island's history, there is a unifying beauty created by all of the featured artists demonstrated through the splendor of their works.

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