

Artist Captures Montauk 74 Years Ago

By Eugenia Bartell

The works of Heinz Emil Salloch from the years 1938 and 1939 were recently on exhibit at the Montauk Point Lighthouse Museum. If you didn't get a chance to see these outstanding paintings, they are on view at the Montauk Library through September 6. A public reception will be held on Saturday, August 13, from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

Seventy-four years ago, Salloch visited Montauk during the month of July. He was born in Berlin, Germany in 1908 and fled Germany in 1937 because of the Nazi persecution. He settled in America, and during his visit to Montauk painted dozens of works. Those who have seen them, like Joe Gaviola, a member of the Lighthouse Committee, are astounded. "They are fantastic!" he said, and everyone who views them tries to figure out the location in Montauk of each painting, he added.

What is also astounding is the story behind how these paintings found their way back to the East End. The curator, Karen Dorothee Peters, who was born in Ohio and moved with her family when she was 3 years old to Germany, where she was raised, had a serendipitous meeting that led to the discovery of Salloch's Montauk paintings.

As a young woman Karen traveled between Germany and France and studied for her Master's degree in Berlin. She majored in psychology and



Montauk Village by Heinz Emil Salloch

minored in art history and philosophy. In 2004, she was on a trans-Atlantic flight from Paris to New York and sitting next to her was a man named Roger Salloch. The two chatted, and Roger told her about several paintings he had that were done by his father, an artist, who died in 1985. They were in boxes and he had no idea what to do with them. He asked her for her advice. Karen was intrigued, but

wondered, "Would I connect with the work of Heinz Emil Salloch?"

Arrangements were made for her to view them. Upon seeing the paintings, she said, "I was blown away."

Karen is an art adviser and consultant, focusing on placing estate art that hasn't been in public venues and creating avenues for estate collections to be recognized. She also advises individuals on how to build their collections and how to buy and sell art. She was a research and development consultant with the Ford Foundation.

Peters spent time working with Roger on her father's German paintings. She then turned her attention to the work he did in America.

In looking at the Montauk paintings, one can see that "Salloch painted with his 'German eye,' which reflects the northern European misty light," she said. It was a daunting task, she said, matching the paintings to locations, as Salloch also traveled and painted in several places, including Cape Cod, Nova Scotia and Cuba.

The long, uncanny journey of Salloch's Montauk paintings returning to where they were created is over. Now it is Karen's hope as well as Roger Salloch's that Heinz Emil Salloch's watercolors will find a permanent home in Montauk, where they belong, or perhaps, that a resident may want to purchase them.

Please go to kdpprojects.blogspot.com for further information and to view the paintings.