

OUR FAB FIVES: LOCAL EATERIES  
southern new england

PREMIERE  
ISSUE

# LIVING

EXPERIENCE BOSTON, NEWPORT, PROVIDENCE, CAPE COD

## The Senator's Wife Gail Huff Goes to Washington

**EXCITING  
EXCURSIONS**

**Style Watch:**  
*Regional Couture*

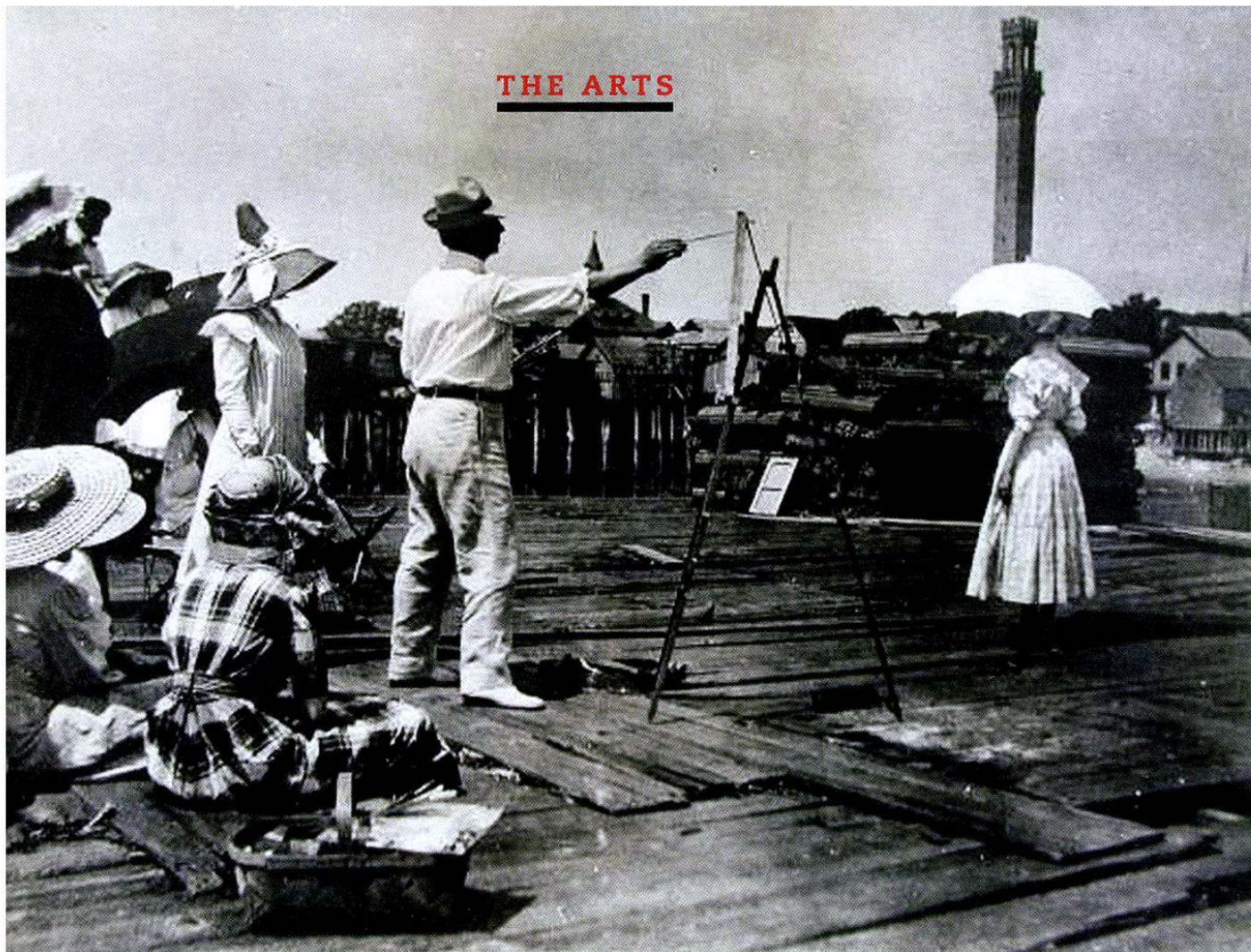
**HORSEPLAY**  
Newport Polo Club

COMPLIMENTARY COPY

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## THE ARTS



Provincetown's historic legacy as  
an artists' haven lives on.

# Arts Alive

## IN 1916

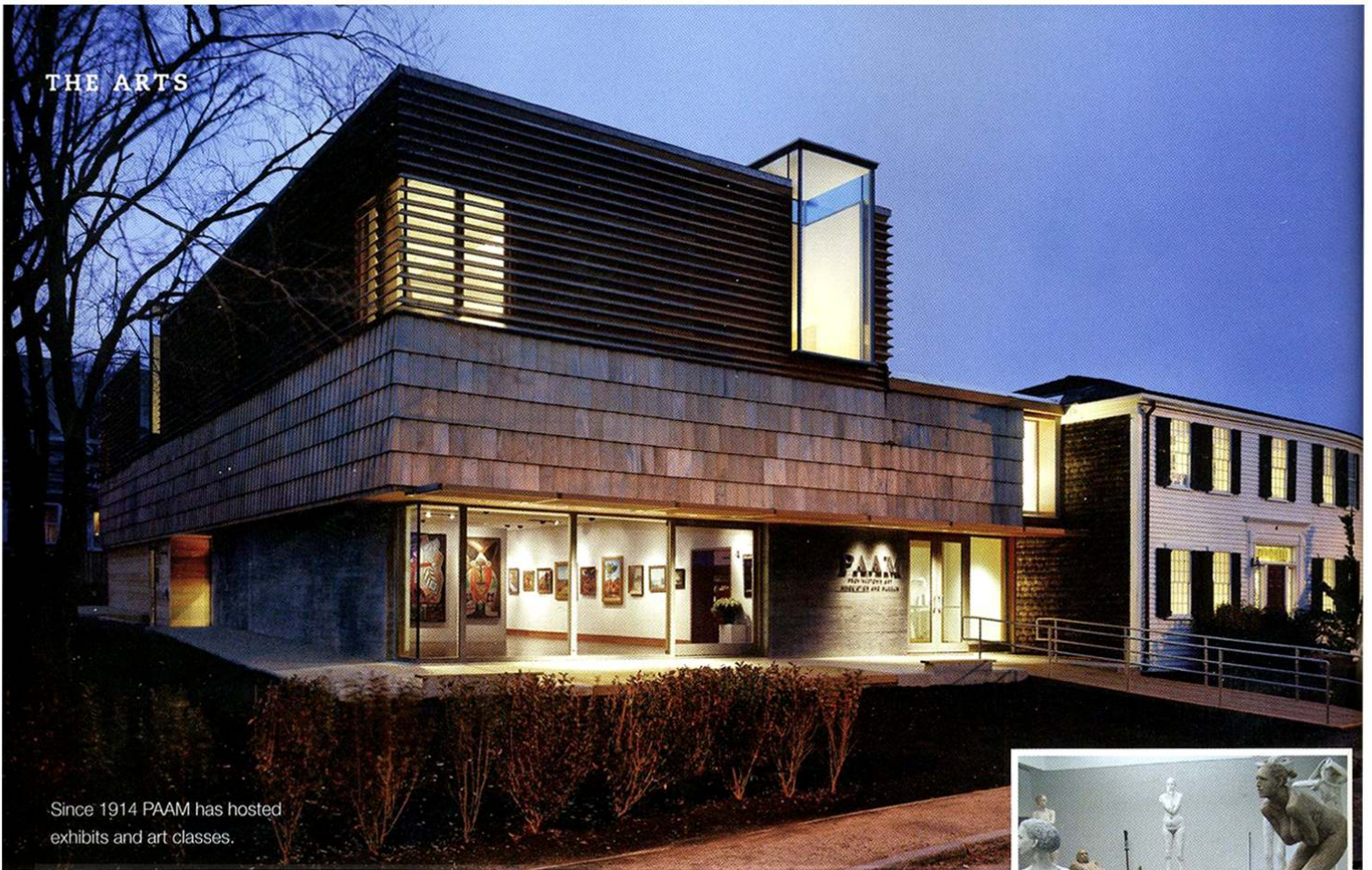
*The Boston Globe* proclaimed Provincetown's art colony the biggest in the world. The tiny Cape Cod village's—the whole town measures a scant ten square miles—renowned art colony started with the opening of Charles W. Hawthorne's Cape Cod School of Art in the summer of 1899.

Hawthorne had just returned from studying in Holland under William Merritt Chase, a painter who, in 1878, had been one of the first in the country to open a plein air art school.

Provincetown's natural landscape—the majestic ocean, the rolling dunes and that much-lauded luminous light—intrigued Hawthorne who is now remembered as much for his teaching skills as for his Impressionist-style figurative oil paintings. For 30 years, Hawthorne taught hundreds of artists including Edwin Dickinson, Ross Moffett, Norman Rockwell and Henry Hensche (who later became his assistant and took over teaching after his death) along the waterfront. As time went on, more and more artists began to flock to Provincetown.

The creative atmosphere attracted artists such as Karl Knaths, Hans Hoffman, Robert Motherwell, Judith Rothschild and Blanche Lazzell. The locale also lured poets, novelists, journalists and playwrights. The birth of modern American drama took place on Lewis Wharf in the East End with the performance of Eugene O'Neill's *Bound East of Cardiff*, by the newly formed Provincetown Players in 1916.

For more than a century, Provincetown has carried on the legacy of cultivating the arts. One of the biggest contributors to preserving that legacy is the Provincetown Art Association and Museum, or PAAM, a non-profit organization founded in 1914



Since 1914 PAAM has hosted exhibits and art classes.

WILLIAM DESOUSA-MAUK

**Check out these annual festivals:**

**Provincetown International Film Festival** is a world-class gala event, attracting actors, screenwriters, directors and film enthusiasts from around the world. The five-day event is scheduled for June 15–19. [www.ptownfilmfest.org](http://www.ptownfilmfest.org).

Jazz musicians from the US, Canada, United Kingdom and Europe have performed at the **Provincetown Jazz Festival**. This year it will be held August 12-15. [www.provincetownjazzfestival.org](http://www.provincetownjazzfestival.org).

Prolific writer and playwright Tennessee Williams wrote early drafts of some of his most well-known works in Provincetown, including *The Glass Menagerie* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. **Tennessee Williams Festival** takes place September 22- 25. [www.twptown.org](http://www.twptown.org).

by Charles Hawthorne and a group of peers and business people. About the present-day art colony, PAAM's executive director Christine McCarthy says much is the same: "The groundwork laid by Charles Hawthorne and his contemporaries in the early 1900s is still the basis for artists wanting to come to Provincetown and experience this spit of land that has served as an inspiration for over a century." PAAM's role as the anchor of artistic culture on Cape Cod is stronger than ever, says McCarthy. The museum not only collects and displays notable works of art, it hosts art classes, lively forums, special events, concerts and film showings.

Today, true to tradition, you will still find artists painting on the beach or along the main thoroughfare of Commercial Street, taking in the salty air and basking in the extraordinary light. Artists and art-lovers come from all over the world and will continue to do so because of the naturally beautiful and protected landscape, the camaraderie, ample art galleries and cultural events. Two such notable programs include the Fine Arts Work Center, which provides fellowships to burgeoning writers and visual artists—past recipients have included Michael Cunningham and Jhumpa Lahiri—and the twice annual Playwright's Festival lead by Provincetown Theatre to help playwrights from throughout New England and Canada be seen and heard.

And as for the future? "The legacy that has been built," says McCarthy, "is one that will continue as artists continue to come to Cape Cod." —Rachel Arroyo

