

# Meet ‘The Manships’ at Flatrocks Gallery in Gloucester

---

**By Keith Powers / Correspondent**

Posted Jul 27, 2017 at 8:57 AM

An extensive exhibition on view now at Flatrocks Gallery in Lanesville brings to light an artistic past that will forever be part of Cape Ann’s legacy: the prodigious work of sculptor Paul Manship, and the fascinating work of his son and of his daughter-in-law, John and Margaret Cassidy Manship.

Paul Manship (1885–1966) looms large over artists with Cape Ann connections: working mainly with classical or mythological subjects, in an era when public monuments were in greater demand, his sculptures are found all over the world.

His enormous gilded bronze “Prometheus” in Rockefeller Center may be the best known example, but it is just one of many. Here, half a dozen casts point to his predominant subject matter — the classical past: “David,” an original cast from 1921; and “Acteon,” from 1924, are the best examples. “Dancing Children,” c. 1927, all posthumous casts, shows a different subject matter, delicately handled.

Another posthumous cast, of the “Lincoln Head, or Hoosier Youth” — whose large bronze version is on view in an insurance company in Fort Wayne, Ind., a well-known attraction in that city — sits modestly on a flat file. A beautiful “Perseus and Andromeda,” completed in 1965 just one year before his death, is a fascinating and emotional work in mixed sculpting media.

John Paul Manship (1927–2000) was primarily a painter, and about three dozen works, primarily oils and spread out over five decades, show his light touch. Many of the views are of downtown Rockport — Front Beach, the Congregational Church, the old Haskins Building (now the Shalin Liu Performance Center) — where he worked at his gallery on Main Street.

Some early paintings from the late 1940s and early 1950s show a different style — more abstract — with subjects from Italy, where he studied for several years. They highlight the connection both he and his future wife, Margaret Cassidy, had to that country.

A small corner of the gallery has a few works of Margaret Manship (d. 2012). The corner includes one small bust of Pope Pius XII — their Catholic faith was important to John and Margaret, and she spent several years working in the Vatican. (She also has a major installation in St. Peter’s Basilica there.) A charming set — an oil painting , and a bronze bust — of Beryl Grimball show Margaret’s facility in multiple media.

The Manship estate is currently working to create an artist’s residency and studio on the Lanesville property where Paul worked for many years. That property would be a beautiful retreat, and this terrific exhibition shows why the work done there was so remarkable.

“The Manships” runs through Aug. 6 at Flatrocks Gallery, 77 Langsford St., Gloucester. For information visit [www.flatrocksgallery.com](http://www.flatrocksgallery.com) or call 978-879-4683.

---

*Keith Powers covers music and the arts for GateHouse Media and WBUR’s ARTery. Follow [@PowersKeith](https://twitter.com/PowersKeith); email to [keithmichaelpowers@gmail.com](mailto:keithmichaelpowers@gmail.com).*

**READ NEXT**

# Meet 'The Manships' at Flatrocks Gallery in Gloucester

---

**By Keith Powers / Correspondent**

Posted Jul 27, 2017 at 8:57 AM

An extensive exhibition on view now at Flatrocks Gallery in Lanesville brings to light an artistic past that will forever be part of Cape Ann's legacy: the prodigious work of sculptor Paul Manship, and the fascinating work of his son and of his daughter-in-law, John and Margaret Cassidy Manship.

Paul Manship (1885–1966) looms large over artists with Cape Ann connections: working mainly with classical or mythological subjects, in an era when public monuments were in greater demand, his sculptures are found all over the world.

His enormous gilded bronze "Prometheus" in Rockefeller Center may be the best known example, but it is just one of many. Here, half a dozen casts point to his predominant subject matter — the classical past: "David," an original cast from 1921; and "Acteon," from 1924, are the best examples. "Dancing Children," c. 1927, all posthumous casts, shows a different subject matter, delicately handled.

Another posthumous cast, of the “Lincoln Head, or Hoosier Youth” — whose large bronze version is on view in an insurance company in Fort Wayne, Ind., a well-known attraction in that city — sits modestly on a flat file. A beautiful “Perseus and Andromeda,” completed in 1965 just one year before his death, is a fascinating and emotional work in mixed sculpting media.

John Paul Manship (1927–2000) was primarily a painter, and about three dozen works, primarily oils and spread out over five decades, show his light touch. Many of the views are of downtown Rockport — Front Beach, the Congregational Church, the old Haskins Building (now the Shalin Liu Performance Center) — where he worked at his gallery on Main Street.

Some early paintings from the late 1940s and early 1950s show a different style — more abstract — with subjects from Italy, where he studied for several years. They highlight the connection both he and his future wife, Margaret Cassidy, had to that country.

A small corner of the gallery has a few works of Margaret Manship (d. 2012). The corner includes one small bust of Pope Pius XII — their Catholic faith was important to John and Margaret, and she spent several years working in the Vatican. (She also has a major installation in St. Peter’s Basilica there.) A charming set — an oil painting, and a bronze bust — of Beryl Grimball show Margaret’s facility in multiple media.

The Manship estate is currently working to create an artist’s residency and studio on the Lanesville property where Paul worked for many years. That property would be a beautiful retreat, and this terrific exhibition shows why the work done there was so remarkable.

“The Manships” runs through Aug. 6 at Flatrocks Gallery, 77 Langsford St., Gloucester. For information visit [www.flatrocksgallery.com](http://www.flatrocksgallery.com) or call 978-879-4683.

---

*Keith Powers covers music and the arts for GateHouse Media and WBUR’s ARTery. Follow [@PowersKeith](https://twitter.com/PowersKeith); email to [keithmichaelpowers@gmail.com](mailto:keithmichaelpowers@gmail.com).*