A painting of a pelican feeding its young in a nest. The pelican is on the left, with its head bowed and its long, yellow beak reaching towards the nest. The nest is on the right, with a young bird visible. The background is a textured, blue and white wash, suggesting a sky or water. The painting is done in a style that uses thick, expressive brushstrokes.

The Roosevelts... It Wasn't All Politics!

OYSTER BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OCTOBER 24, 2008 TO DECEMBER 21, 2008

EARLE-WIGHTMAN HOUSE, 20 SUMMIT STREET
THEODORE ROOSEVELT ASSOCIATION, 20 AUDREY AVENUE
OYSTER BAY, NEW YORK 11771

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Cover illustration: Michael A. Roosevelt
Heron - State II

The Roosevelts... It Wasn't All Politics!

Yvonne Noonan-Cifarelli, Exhibition Curator



The Oyster Bay Historical Society is proud to present an art exhibit featuring generations of Roosevelts. Elizabeth Roosevelt has brought together her family for one exclusive exhibit of a family not always embedded in politics.

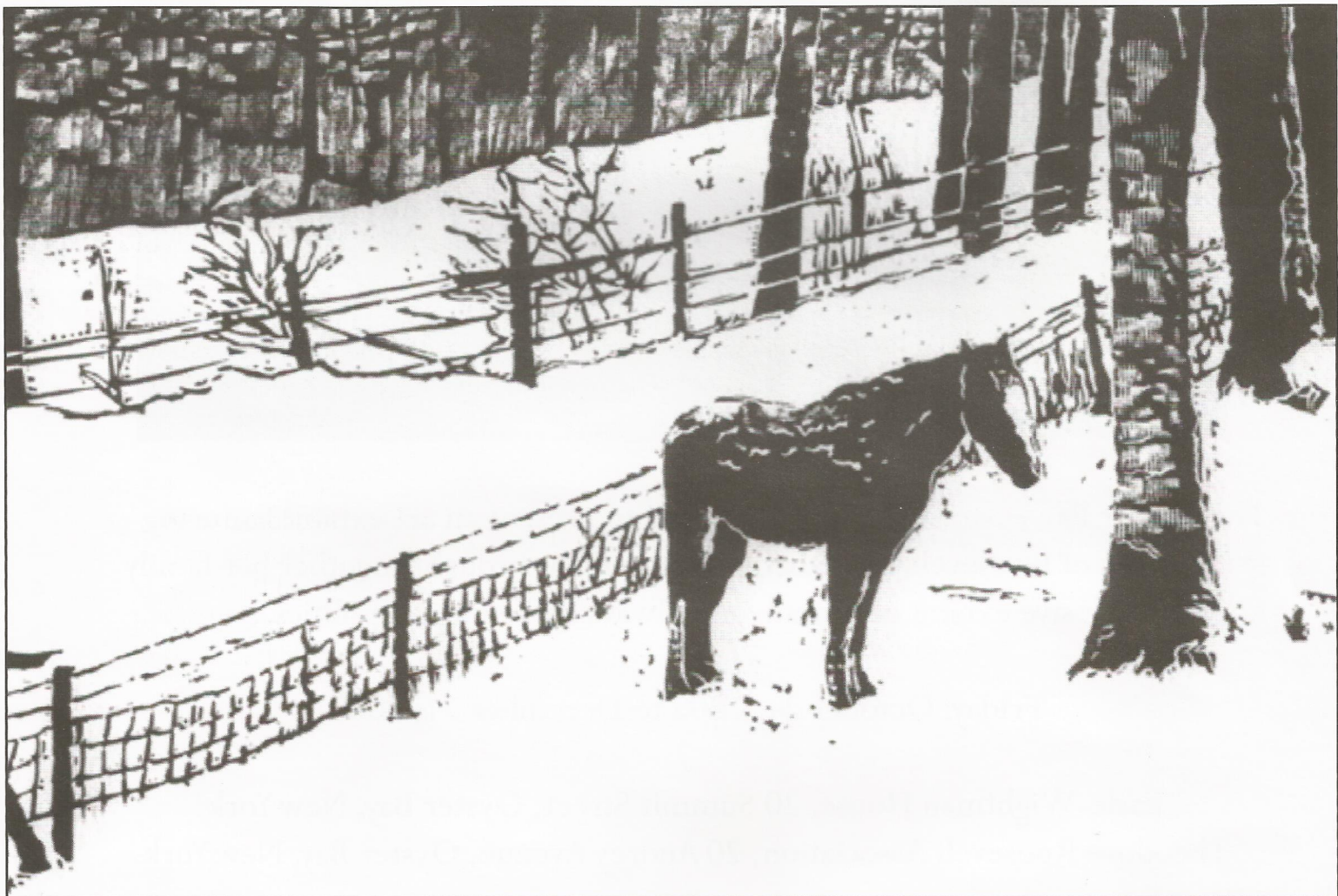
Friday, October 24, 2008 to December 21, 2008

Earle-Wightman House, 20 Summit Street, Oyster Bay, New York
Theodore Roosevelt Association, 20 Audrey Avenue, Oyster Bay, New York



Peter Roosevelt
*Long's Peak -
Rocky Mountain National Park*

Michael A. Roosevelt
Horse



HISTORY

This first, historic exhibition will feature the art of Oyster Bay Roosevelts from past and present generations. When one thinks of the name Roosevelt, it immediately conjures up associations with our former presidents, Theodore and Franklin Delano. But the Roosevelt family is of course a large one, beginning with the first immigrant who appeared in New Amsterdam in 1648. They have married widely and produced an average of five children per couple. So the numbers have grown, and many family members and their spouses have had a wide range of personal and professional interests, including writing, education, music, finance, film and in one case the flying trapeze.

So it shouldn't surprise us that the Roosevelts have produced a wide array of talented artists. Most have been professionals in the visual arts, starting with Nicholas Roosevelt (1715-1769), a goldsmith whose work is represented in the collections of the Museum of the City of New York, and continuing with Samuel Montgomery Roosevelt (1858-1920), whose portraits included his famous cousin TR. It's clear that the artistic gene runs deep in the Roosevelt family.

The visionary concepts of Theodore Roosevelt were inspired by nature and

the raw reality of life; this is the exact formula that engenders the life of an artist. How we use this creativity is what separates the politician from the artist, poet from speaker, and businessman from inventor. Art in essence is a personal expression of how we see the world. Some may lay that vision down on canvas; others may write that vision into law, but all in all life itself is art.

The concept to present a collaborative Roosevelt family exhibit has been a vision of Elizabeth Roosevelt. The exhibit is a significant statement of the brilliance and diversity of the Roosevelt family. Ms. Roosevelt, a professional photographer, is exhibiting her work along with that of her brother Peter Kean Roosevelt, her niece Christine Roosevelt, and her nephew Michael A. Roosevelt. The exhibit features works in oil, lithography, photography, silver and other metals, as well as jewelry designed by Elizabeth's mother Elise Roosevelt. The exhibit gives us a glimpse into the intimate side of this historic and powerful family. The works are on exhibit beginning October 24, 2008, in conjunction with Theodore Roosevelt's 150th birthday. The celebration of America's most beloved President is a perfect tribute to the generations of Roosevelts and their amazing journey through life and art.

THE ROOSEVELT ARTISTS

- One of President Theodore Roosevelt's first cousins, **John Ellis Roosevelt** (1853-1939), was a lawyer who turned to marine painting after he retired.
- His daughter **Gladys** (1889-1926) also took up painting. Her work generally shows the influence of contemporary painters, with horses a frequent subject.
- One of Theodore Roosevelt's grandsons, Quentin Roosevelt (1919-1948) married **Frances Blanche Webb** (1917-1995), who studied art in Kansas City before beginning her career as a professional painter. She lived over forty years in Oyster Bay, where she painted most of her landscapes.
- A third cousin of President Theodore Roosevelt, John Kean Roosevelt (1880-1974) married **Elise Annette Weinach** (1896-1972), an accomplished needleworker who also designed new settings for family jewelry, some of which were produced by Olga Tridd Inc. of New York.
- Elise's eldest sister **Gertrude** (1896-1978) studied at the Parsons School of Design, worked in ceramics, and taught art.

LIVING ROOSEVELT ARTISTS

- **Elise Albright** (1920-), a pianist, studied at the Mannes School of Music in New York and has worked as a painter.
- **Michael A. Roosevelt** is a lithographer living in Vermont.
- **Elizabeth Roosevelt** (1931-) is a self-taught professional photographer living in Oyster Bay.
- Painter **Peter K. Roosevelt** (1939-) of Denver, CO, has a number of successful shows to his credit.
- **Christine Roosevelt**, who studied at the Kansas City Art Institute, has been a professional artist for twenty-five years. Her father Peter K. Roosevelt has been an important influence on her painting.

Michael A. Roosevelt
Bull (Scottish)



Peter Roosevelt
Wheat and Fallow Ground



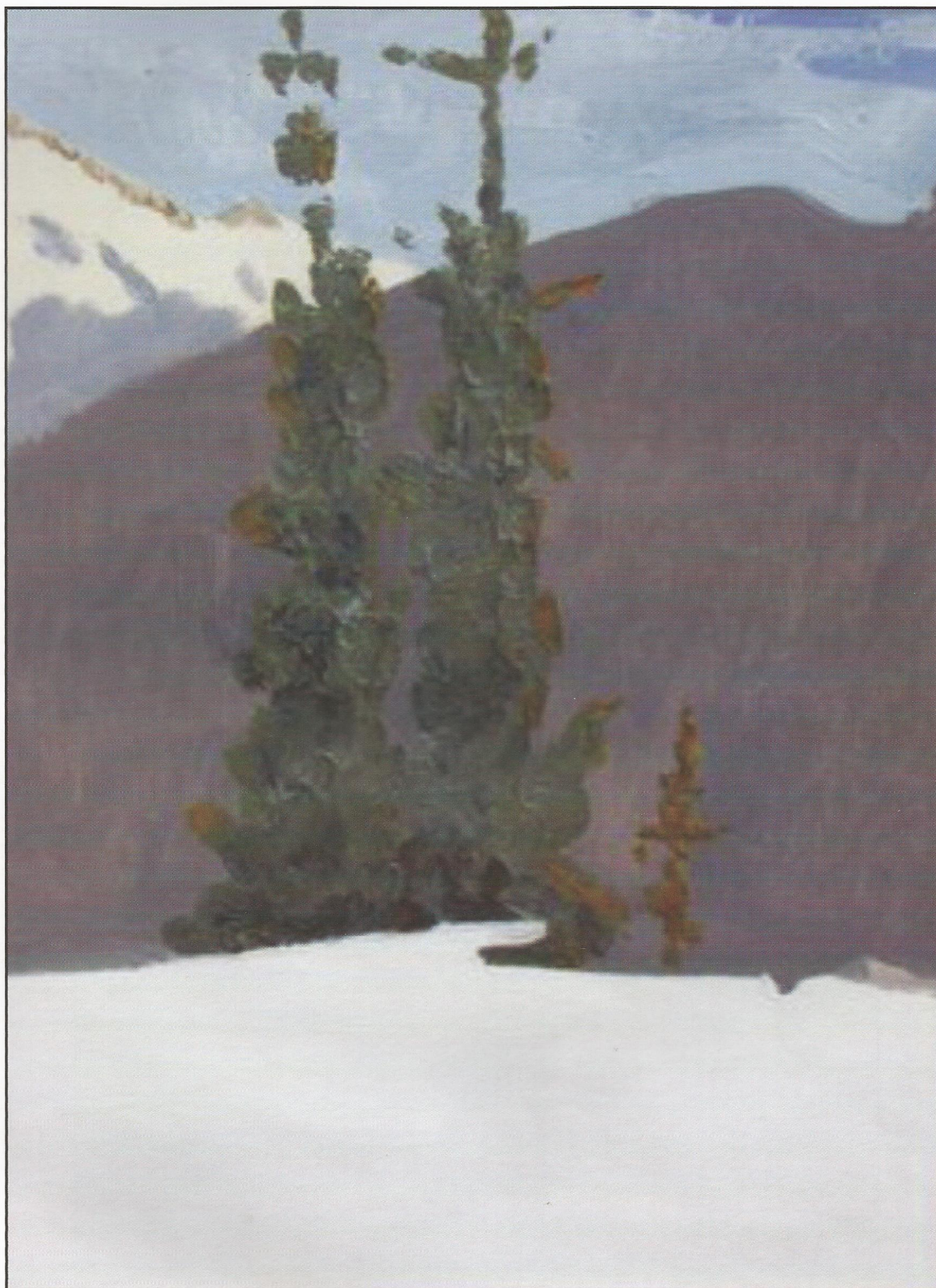


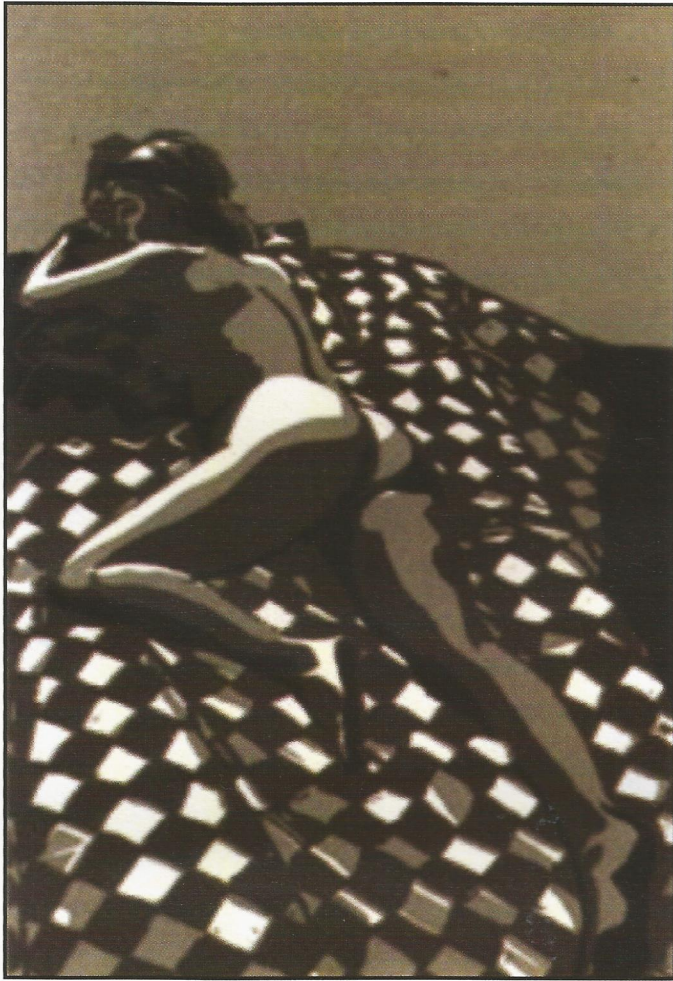
Elizabeth Roosevelt
Planting Fields

Christine Roosevelt
The Cranberry Bog



Peter Roosevelt
*Summer Snow -
Rockies*



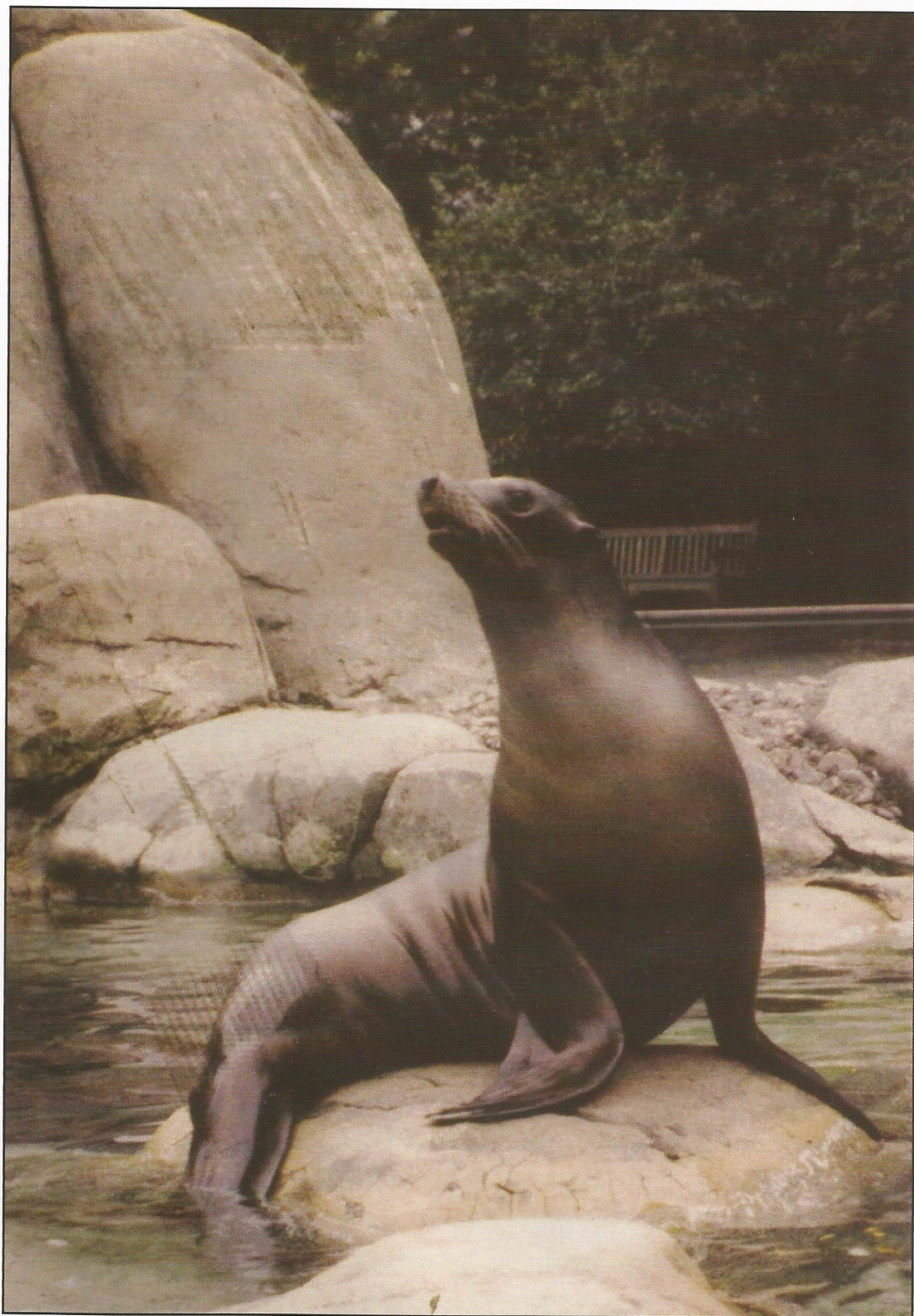


Michael A. Roosevelt
Check 617

Elizabeth Roosevelt
Huntington Light House



Elizabeth Roosevelt
*Sea Lion at
Central Park Zoo*
(detail)





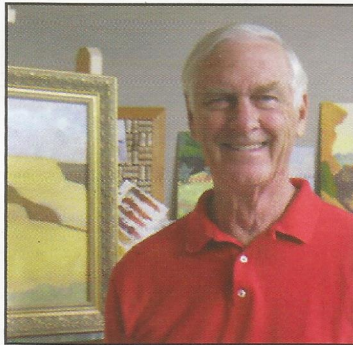
Elizabeth Roosevelt Oyster Bay, NY



Elizabeth Roosevelt was born in New York City and raised in Oyster Bay, Long Island.

Her great grandfather was the brother of Theodore Roosevelt's father. Ms. Roosevelt is a life-long resident of Oyster Bay. She is a self-taught photographer and has used her camera and talent while traveling to every continent in the world except Antarctica. Her activities have ranged from cattle ranching to sailing, gardening, and the teaching of history. Her extensive traveling and her close relationship with the raw reality of nature are evident in her photography. Ms. Roosevelt's photographs are straightforward, honest and intelligent with strong composition and authentic colors.

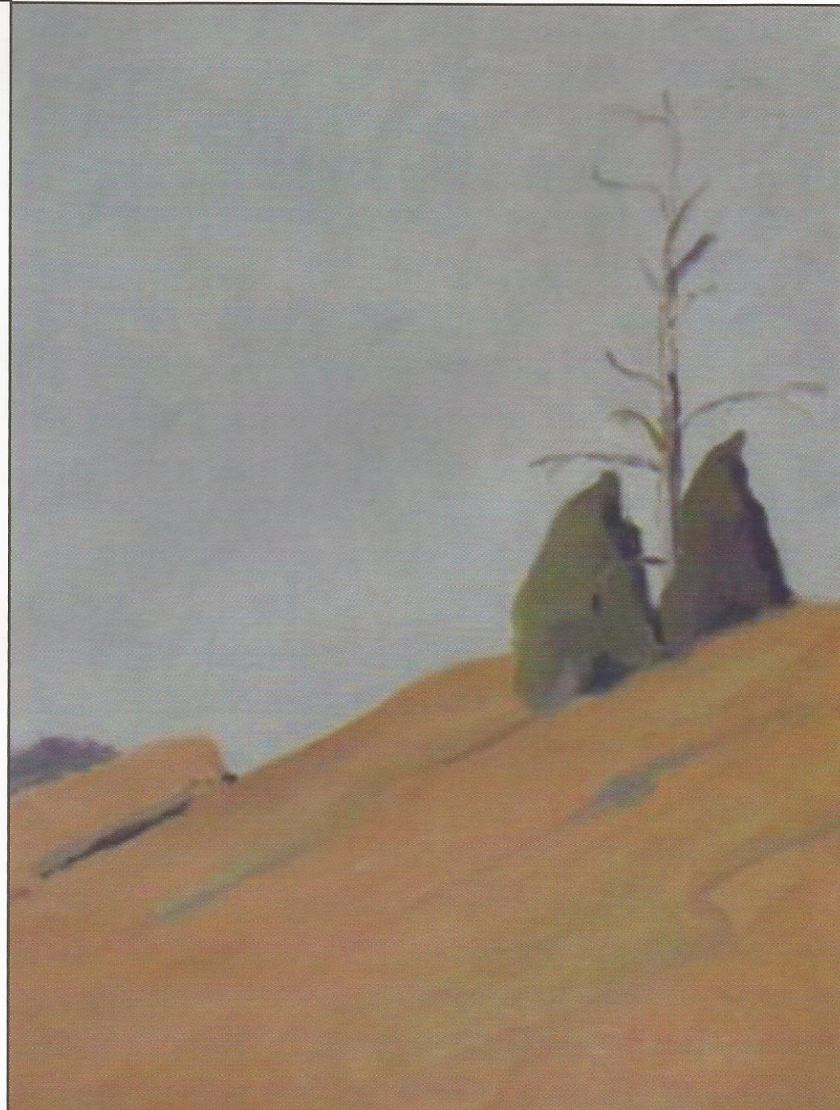
Peter K. Roosevelt Denver, CO



Peter K. Roosevelt was born in 1933 in New York City and grew up in Oyster Bay, Long Island. Peter became interested in drawing in preparatory school. He began studying at the Denver Art Students League in 1980 and continued there until 1992. It was during this time that Mr. Roosevelt began studying under the tutelage of Ned Jacob. Peter remained under Mr. Jacob's direction until 1992.

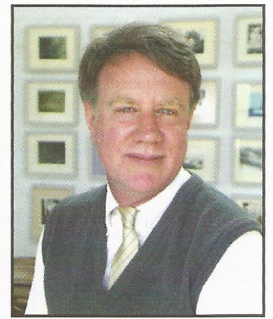
The first one-man show of Peter's work debuted in 1990 at the Elizabeth Schlosser Gallery in Denver.

Mr. Roosevelt believes in the importance of painting outdoors in real-time and stresses composition as one of the hallmarks of his art.





Michael A. Roosevelt
Greensboro Bend, VT



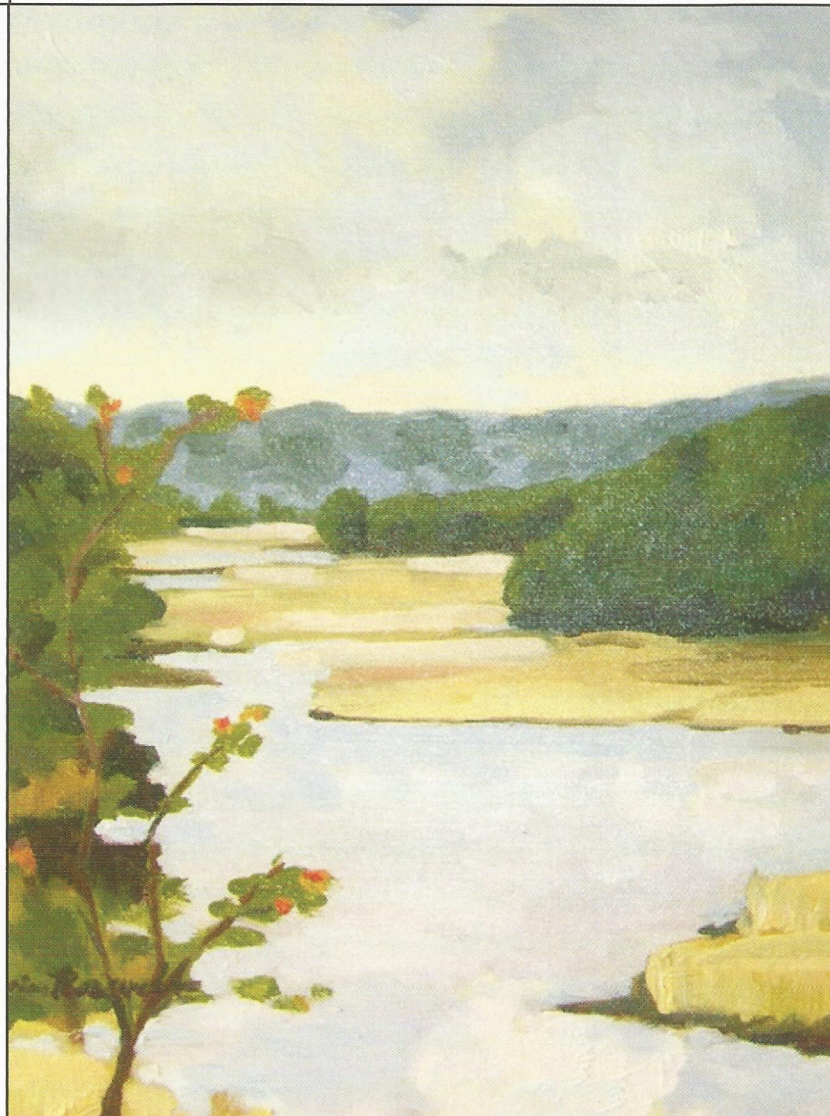
“Even as a small child I was interested in art, perhaps as a result of my father’s practice of architecture or my mother’s interest in the visual and performing arts. Or perhaps as a result of my early contact with the sculptor, Pierre Bourdelle, who lived on Cove Neck. Since my teens I have had a strong interest in printmaking. I am fascinated by both the process and the results.

“I chose whatever subjects please and interest me. Over time these have been skewed toward the figure on the one hand, and architectural subjects on the other. Many other subjects fall in between and are often intertwined. Although much art these days is self-referential and ‘all about the artist,’ I believe individual works must stand on their own and say something to the viewer.”

Christine Roosevelt
Lyme, CT



Christine is a native of Denver, CO where she grew up spending many hours outdoors. This initial love of nature launched her interest in plein air painting. Christine first painted alongside her father, Peter K. Roosevelt, in Nantucket, MA. She attended college in Colorado, then continued studies at the Kansas City Art Institute and the Lyme Academy of Fine Art. Christine participated in workshops under such noted painters as Ned Jacob, Len Chemiel, and Mike Lynch. Throughout her career she has entered and placed in many national contests including the Arts For The Parks National Contest. Christine has had many shows and has sold her work to a national following. She enjoys painting with her father who, along with the works of Vincent Van Gogh, inspired her paintings. With her bright palette, her uncanny ability to compose, and the spiritual essence of nature she cannot help but be a successful painter.



MISSION

Preserving Our Past...Protecting Our Future

The Oyster Bay Historical Society was founded to fulfill a previously unmet need in the community; namely, to create a public interest in, and awareness of, the rich and unique history of the town of Oyster Bay, and to capitalize on that history in order to further current and future dreams and goals.

With the above in mind, the Society's sworn duty is to collect, conserve and preserve documents, genealogical records, artifacts, books and photographs pertinent to the history and development of Oyster Bay.

Further, the Society is charged with stimulating and educating the community through exhibitions, lectures, and publications designed to draw on our past and reflect on our future, with the object of bringing history to life, and creating a sense of local pride and excitement for our generation and generations to come.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Society thanks the following for their assistance in preparing *The Roosevelts...It Wasn't All Politics!* for exhibition:

James Bruns, President of the Theodore Roosevelt Association, for generously offering gallery space in the Association's headquarters.

Harry L. Dickran of Levon Graphics Corporation in East Farmingdale for the printing of the exhibition's catalog and opening invitation.

Staff members of the Society for their contributions in developing and promoting the exhibition.

Sincerely,

Thomas Kuehhas
Director

Oyster Bay Historical Society
20 Summit Street
P.O. Box 297
Oyster Bay, New York 11771
516-922-5032
FAX 516-624-7291

email: tk@oysterbayhistory.org

Website: www.oysterbayhistory.org

