

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lyman Allyn Art Museum

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LYMAN ALLYN EXHIBITION SHOWCASES **ARTIST'S PORTRAITS FROM NEW LONDON'S WHALING ERA**

New London – The Lyman Allyn Art Museum is pleased to announce the opening of *Isaac Sheffield: Portraits from New London's Whaling Era*, on view Sept. 12 through Jan. 3, 2027.

This exhibition, the first to focus on the work of regional artist Isaac Sheffield, Jr., examines his portraits and portrait miniatures of the 1830s and 1840s, a time of growth, innovation and change at the height of New London's whaling era.

Born in Guilford, Conn., at the turn of the 19th century, Sheffield painted portraits and portrait miniatures until his death in 1845, documenting New London whaling captains and their families along with other members of the community. The show features local landscape and maritime views, which hold intriguing clues to his sitters' professions, education and accomplishments, as well as their values and familial connections.



Isaac Sheffield, "Portrait of Capt. Benjamin R. Latham," oil on canvas, ca. 1840. Museum purchase. 1964.246.

Portraits from New London's Whaling Era, which was researched and curated by Dr. Tanya Pohrt, Curator at the Lyman Allyn, brings together paintings from various regional public and private collections. The show illuminates this long-overlooked artist's contributions to regional art and history and to American portraiture more broadly.

The opening reception is Friday, Sept. 18, 5 - 7 p.m. Museum members are free, and non-members are \$10. To register, call 860.443.2545 ext. 2129 or email us at info@lymanallyn.org.

For more information or to request images, please contact Rebecca Dawson by email at dawson@lymanallyn.org.

This exhibition is made possible with support from an anonymous foundation; the Frank Loomis Palmer Fund, Bank of America, Trustee; and by the Connecticut State Legislature, administered by the DECD, Office of the Arts.

About Lyman Allyn Art Museum

Lyman Allyn Art Museum welcomes visitors from New London, southeastern Connecticut and all over the world. Established in 1926 with a gift from Harriet Allyn in memory of her seafaring father, the Museum opened the doors of its beautiful neoclassical building surrounded by 12 acres of green space in 1932. Today it presents several changing exhibitions each year and houses a fascinating collection of over 20,000 objects from ancient times to the present, including art from Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe, with particularly strong collections of American paintings, decorative arts and Victorian toys and doll houses.

The museum is located at 625 Williams Street, New London, Connecticut, exit 83 off I-95. It is open **Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 - 5 p.m.**, and closed on Mondays and major holidays. For more information call 860.443.2545, ext. 2129 or visit www.lymanallyn.org.