Beatrice Cuming was born in Brooklyn, studied art in Paris and lived in Tunisia before settling in New London in 1934. Cuming described her arrival in New London as a sort of accidental love story. One day she was taking the train to Boston and it stopped in New London. During a 15-minute wait, she got off the train and began to explore downtown. Supposedly she was so taken with the area, she never got back on the train! Cuming taught art classes in New London Public Schools and at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum.