

**DENNOS
MUSEUM
CENTER**

Fred Petroskey: Paintings

Information for Educators

Dear Educator,

The Dennos Museum Center is proud to present *Fred Petroskey: Paintings*. Included in this packet are: a short biography of Petroskey, online resources, classroom extensions, and select images for use in the classroom. A PDF version of this packet with color images can be found online at www.dennosmuseum.org.

Dennos Museum Center K-12 educational programming aligns with Michigan Content Standards for Arts Education and the National Standards for Arts Education. We especially strive to provide experiences that will fit into a curriculum for the new Michigan Merit Curriculum for the Visual Performing and Applied Arts. To this end, experiences at the Dennos Museum Center highlight aspects of the creative process. In order to make sure that your tour addresses what you are doing in the classroom, please inform the docent (volunteer tour guide) when contacted of any special interests or needs. For details on content standards addressed by educational programming, please go to www.dennosmuseum.org/education/schools/resources/.

Please discuss your field trip goals with your docent prior to arriving at the museum. We are exciting to work with you to create a successful and fun visit to the Dennos Museum Center.

Thank you for visiting the Museum and we look forward to seeing you soon!

The Dennos Museum Center Educational Department

FRED PETROSKEY BIOGRAPHY

Fred Petroskey is a fine, thoroughly professional and admirable artist. His wonderful portraits always discover the soul beneath the skin.

-Jim Harrison, author

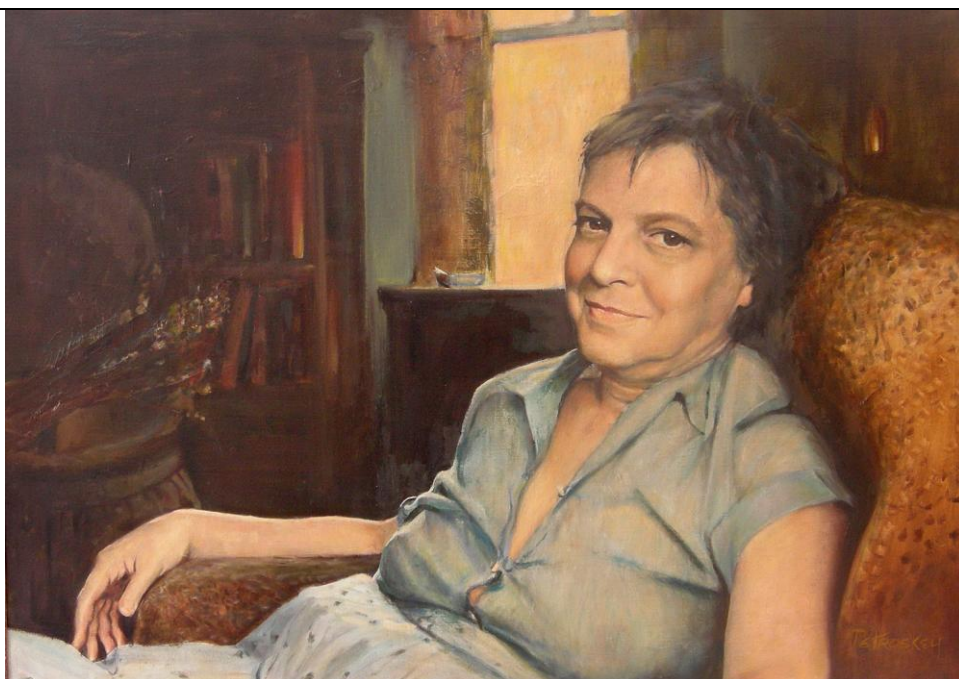
Fred Petroskey's work reflects not just the physical attributes of each of his subjects, but the heart and mystery that exists uniquely in every person. When he began applying his talent to people in and about Leelanau County, the soul of the county itself emerged and took root upon his canvasses.

-Deborah Wyatt Fellows, Editor in Chief, *Traverse Magazine*

Fred T. Petroskey was born in 1933 in the village of Lake Leelanau, Michigan. Growing up in this idyllic and pastoral setting during World War II, he attended St. Mary School where many of his classmates recollected his earliest efforts as remarkable considering that he had received no formal training at that point. Upon graduation from high school, Petroskey spent the next ten years in various life-pursuits before finally entering Western Michigan University as an art major. After completion of his studies, a teaching career would keep him in Kalamazoo, where he established the Art Department at the Delton-Kellogg School. He moved his young family to Boston in 1967 where he accepted an instructor's position at the De Cordova Museum of Art. It was during this period Petroskey further developed his unique style and characterization of subjects. In addition to his teaching responsibilities in Boston, he also established a highly successful private studio where he produced a significant body of work.

In 1984 Petroskey and his wife, Molly, returned to Leelanau County. Petroskey continued to teach, this time at Northwestern Michigan College. In the last 20 years, Petroskey captured and preserved the images of his community, his classmates, teachers, neighbors and friends. More than that, his paintings have documented a disappearing way of life. Within this exhibition of paintings are his visual statements, these portraits are personal, vibrant, they serve as a permanent record of this area's history.

IMAGES



Mimi, n.d., Oil on Canvas



Self Portrait, 1993, Oil on Canvas

ONLINE RESOURCES

- Fred Petroskey at the Old Art Building: <http://www.oldartbuilding.com/blog/fred-petroskey-2007-artist-in-residence/>
- Portrait Painters: <http://www.portraitpainters.net/>
- National Portrait Gallery: <http://www.npg.si.edu/>
- American Society of Portrait Artists: <http://www.asopa.com/>
- American Portraits Site at the Metropolitan Museum of Art: http://www.metmuseum.org/explore/amwing/html/el_amwing_intro.htm

CLASSROOM EXTENSIONS

Classroom Extensions:

Language Arts

- Have students look at an example of a portrait and brainstorm adjectives that describe the person depicted. Create short poems using their words.

Visual Arts

- Have students brainstorm about themselves or a friend. Using their lists, have them create a portrait that incorporates elements from their brainstormed list.

History

- Choose reproductions of portraits of historical figures, such as Abraham Lincoln (go to <http://picturingamerica.neh.gov/> for examples) or Paul Revere. What about the person is exposed through the portrait? Have students research their subjects and write a short report with an analysis of the portrait.