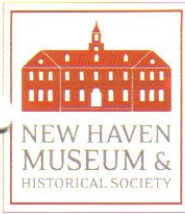


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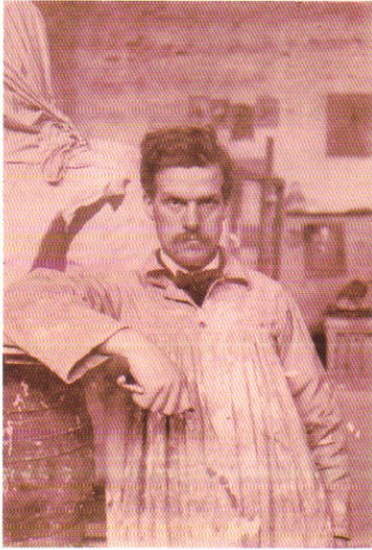


Past to Present

The newsletter of the
New Haven Museum and Historical Society

Rediscovering Historic New Haven

Lucy Lippard's On the Beaten Track: Tourism, Art and Place should be required reading for everyone involved in developing and caring for destinations and attractions. An internationally known writer, Lippard's insights about place-making, localism and art are profound and have much to offer as we strive to make New Haven and the New Haven Museum a more compelling destination and visitor experience - qualities happily consistent with community, sustainability and civic engagement.



Max Dellfant, New Haven impressionist painter

Speaking of the New Mexican village where she lives, Lippard observes that "everything is here: culture, nature, history, art, food, progress and irony." She urges local artists to "lend themselves to making this place a 'destination' rather than a fly-through" and describes "tourism is the apotheosis of looking around, which is the root of regional arts as well as how we know where we are." She concludes that "few towns yearning for business have any idea of the attractions hidden in their back streets."

It is in this spirit that we host our Spring Program Series on *Rediscovering Historic New Haven*.

People rarely see the familiar with fresh eyes and often overlook remarkable things in their own back-yards, either because it will always be there tomorrow (not necessarily) or because they don't want to appear provincial. Frankly, we're all being seduced by a relentless travel industry intent that we abandon our homes, communities and common sense in pursuit of the costly and exotic.

The "new economy" (such as it is) may succeed where common sense has failed, by making backyard tourism, localism and

neighborliness fashionable again. The good news is that no one lives long enough to exhaust the possibilities for adventure, discovery, and life-learning right here in little Connecticut and no place has more to offer than New Haven. We've compiled a list of 21 everyday cultural attractions (see newhaven-museum.org), most with little or no admission charge. The New Haven Museum Facebook page illustrates a growing menu of South-Central Connecticut cultural attractions and only includes places we've seen and can recommend. The list is growing.

The series involves a cast of civic personalities and experts - architects, archivists, planners, professors, foundation heads, museum scholars and our own staff—in a multi-dimensional exploration of little known and familiar treasures that make New Haven the best cultural tourism value in the northeast. I recently challenged a writer for the New York Times to see how far \$25 could go. How does ten nationally-significant cultural attractions within walking distance of Union Station, half a deluxe pizza and a beer sound? Irresistible!

Pencil in the five Wednesdays in April and May as we rediscover New Haven's treasures. If you have a favorite - send along a picture and we may include it in a picture loop that will proceed each program.

Bill Haly
William Hosley

Winter 2009

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Grove Street Cemetery, 1844, by sculptor David Ritter