



# THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM

## *Norma Jean Calderwood Gallery*

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### For Immediate Release

FACES & PLACES: MID-19<sup>th</sup>-CENTURY BOSTON, FEATURED EXHIBITION AT THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM THIS SUMMER, OPENS JUNE 20

(Boston, Massachusetts, May 31, 2011): The Boston Athenæum's featured exhibition in this summer will be Faces & Places: Mid-19<sup>th</sup>-Century Boston, Selections from the Art Collections of the Boston Athenæum. It will be open to the public in the Athenæum's Norma Jean Calderwood Gallery from June 20 through September 17, 2011.



Detail of N. Currier (firm), *View of Boston*, 1848. Hand-colored lithograph. Boston Athenæum.

Faces & Places brings this remarkable era around the American Civil War to vivid life in portraits of great historical interest, aesthetic quality, and technical brilliance by

such leading American artists as Winslow Homer, Daniel Chester French, Chester Harding, Louis Prang, John Sartain, Thomas Sully, and Nathaniel Currier.

Among the images on display will be views of Beacon Hill; the Massachusetts State House; and Boston Harbor; and portraits of Civil War Era Massachusetts Governor John Albion Andrew, a close friend of President Abraham Lincoln and enthusiastic supporter of his *Emancipation Proclamation*; writer, architect, and museum trustee James Elliott Cabot; distinguished politician, orator, and Harvard President Edward Everett; writer, social reformer, and leading literary figure Annie Adams Fields; physician, poet, and essayist Oliver Wendell Holmes; merchant, entrepreneur, and philanthropist Thomas H. Perkins; eminent historian William H. Prescott, and the legendary New England lawyer, statesman, and senator Daniel Webster.

In a final, dedicated section of the installation, Charles Sumner, the great New England senator, abolitionist, and patron of the arts, will be given special attention in acknowledgement of this, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.

*About the Boston Athenæum:*

Located at 10 ½ Beacon Street in the heart of Beacon Hill, the Boston Athenæum occupies a National Historic Landmark building near the Massachusetts State House. It is within walking distance of the Government Center and Park Street MBTA stations. Parking is available in

a commercial lot across from the building and in the Boston Common Parking Garage, under the Boston Common and accessible from Charles Street.

The Boston Athenæum's Norma Jean Calderwood Gallery and part of the first floor are open to the public from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday; from 9:00 am to 7:30 pm on Monday and Wednesday; and from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm on Saturday. Art and Architecture Tours of the entire building, open to the public, are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:00 pm. Tour sizes are limited and reservations are required; to make a reservation, please call 617-227-0270 ext. 279. Many lectures, concerts, readings, and other events at the Boston Athenæum are also open to the public, although seating is limited and reservations are required.

The Calderwood Gallery and the rest of the Boston Athenæum building are closed on major holidays.

New members are always welcome at the Athenæum. For membership and event information, please visit the Boston Athenæum website at [www.bostonathenaeum.org](http://www.bostonathenaeum.org) or call 617-720-7641.

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Founded in 1807, the Boston Athenæum is Boston's first cultural institution. It combines an art museum, with a public exhibition gallery and collections of paintings, sculpture, prints, drawings, photographs, and decorative arts; a leading research and membership library; and a civic forum including lectures, readings, panel discussions, and other events. An

innovator and catalyst for more than two centuries, the Athenæum was one of the three founders of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the inspiration for the Boston Public Library, the first municipally supported library in North America.

The Athenæum's overseers and members have included some of America's greatest literary figures, among them Herman Melville, Henry David Thoreau, Amy Lowell, and Nathaniel Hawthorne, and such leading politicians as Presidents John Quincy Adams and John Fitzgerald Kennedy and Senator Edward M. Kennedy. The Athenæum houses collections of international importance, among them about half of the library of President George Washington.

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