(Omaha, NE) – In 2016, ConAgra Foods, Inc. (now Conagra Brands) donated nearly 600 Currier & Ives lithographs to Joslyn Art Museum. Now home to one of the largest public collections of these popular and historically significant images, Joslyn has organized this exhibition that sheds new light on the artistic and commercial practices of the famous firm Currier & Ives. Revisiting America: The Prints of Currier & Ives explores how the largest printmaking company in nineteenth-century America visualized the nation’s social, political, and industrial fabric. The exhibition is on view at Joslyn November 21, 2020, through April 11, 2021.

Known today for its lush, hand-colored lithographs that nostalgically depicted a republic of pioneer homesteads, sporting camps, and bucolic pastimes, these sentimental images comprised only one aspect of Currier & Ives’s production. The company’s inexpensive and popular prints were a ubiquitous presence for decades, and just as frequently touched on pressing social and political issues. Addressing economic development, western expansion, the Civil War, and controversies of racial and class politics, Currier & Ives portrayed scenes of urbanization, nation building, naval battles, catastrophic disasters, and current events that were far from idyllic.

Revisiting America is organized into themed sections—Sails, Steam, and Speed; Urban Experiences; Domestic Visions; Sporting Life; The Frontier; The Civil War and the American South; America in War and Peace; and Humor. The exhibition reveals the surprising modernity of the firm’s prints, offering a complex and conflicted vision of America that embraced the possibilities of an emerging urban and industrial society while nostalgically celebrating the social stability of a rural ideal.

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Joslyn Art Museum Presents Revisiting America: The Prints of Currier & Ives

Revisiting America: The Prints of Currier & Ives is organized by Joslyn Art Museum. Following its presentation at Joslyn, Revisiting America will travel to the Shelburne Museum (Shelburne, VT; May 1–August 29, 2021) and Florence Griswold Museum (Old Lyme, CT; October 2, 2021–January 24, 2022).


Exhibition Tickets, Hours, & Visitor Information
Revisiting America: The Prints of Currier & Ives is a ticketed exhibition. Advance reservations are required for a visit to the Museum; choose the timed ticket that includes the special exhibition when you make your reservation online in advance. Complete visitor guidelines and ticket reservation information at https://bit.ly/JoslynVisitorInfo.

Timed tickets that include a visit to the special exhibition are as follows:
- $10 for general public adults [select: Special Exhibition and General Admission – Adult]
- FREE for youth ages 17 and younger [select: Special Exhibition and General Admission – Child]
- FREE for Joslyn Members [members must sign in to their account to ensure ticket discount is applied]

Special instructions for college student tickets:
- $5 college students with ID [these paid tickets are handled at the entrance desk upon presentation of a valid student ID]. Students should reserve a free timed General Admission Adult ticket in advance. Upon arrival at the Museum, a student Currier & Ives ticket may be added, payable at the entrance desk.
- FREE for those with a UNMC student ID [UNMC students should reserve a free timed General Admission Adult ticket in advance. Upon arrival at the Museum, a UNMC student Currier & Ives ticket may be added, free of charge].

All guests: Upon arrival at the Museum, please show proof of your timed visit and Revisiting America: The Prints of Currier & Ives reservation(s).

Exhibition Hours:
The Currier & Ives exhibition is open during all current regular Museum hours (Wednesday–Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm)

Visiting the Museum but not the special exhibition:
Timed tickets for the permanent collection galleries only are free [select: General Admission (adult or child) when making reservations].

Exhibition Mobile Tour
Free Wi-Fi is available in all Joslyn galleries. Guests may use their own mobile device to access the dual language Revisiting America: The Prints of Currier & Ives mobile tour (transcript available in the website options). Dial (402) 881-3601 for English or (402) 972-4031 for Spanish or visit joslyn.org > Mobile Tours. Virtual tour: from afar, using your computer, visit joslyn.org > Education > Multimedia. Presented by Joslyn and OnCell.

Exhibition Catalogue
Revisiting America: The Prints of Currier & Ives is accompanied by a beautifully illustrated catalogue featuring 100 of the finest prints produced by Currier & Ives. Published by Joslyn Art Museum, the catalogue includes a foreword by Joslyn Art Museum Executive Director & CEO Jack Becker, Ph.D., and essays by contributors. Funding for this publication was provided by Henry Luce Foundation. $39.95 softcover. Purchase the catalogue online at https://www.joslyn.org/shop > New Items > Books or in person at the Hitchcock Museum Shop beginning November 21 (temporary Shop hours: Friday–Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm).

Exhibition Programs & Events
Thursday, November 19 @ 7 pm
Members–Only Virtual Lecture
On Thursday evening, November 19, members are invited to a virtual lecture celebrating Revisiting America: The Prints of Currier & Ives. Emma Westbrook, 2018–2019 Weitz Fellow and Curatorial Assistant at Joslyn Art Museum, will review the history of the Museum’s Currier & Ives collection and lithography’s place in nineteenth-century visual culture. The talk will include a closer look at some of the most popular Currier & Ives prints—those featuring modes of transportation such as boats, ships, and trains; sporting competitions (like baseball, shown above), and historical fires, such as the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Joslyn members receive invitations. To join Joslyn, visit www.joslyn.org.

Friday, November 20 @ 5–8 pm
Members–Only Preview
Joslyn members may preview the exhibition of prints by Currier & Ives. Timed tickets are available and advanced reservations are required. On-site reservations are not available; members must be registered for a timed-ticket slot in advance in order to visit the Museum and preview the exhibition. The Hitchcock Museum Shop will be open during this event (a maximum of eight shoppers may access the Shop at a time). Joslyn members receive invitations. To join Joslyn, visit www.joslyn.org.

Tuesday, December 8 @ 10:30 am
VIRTUAL Visualizing Literature
The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West by David McCullough. Join us online to discuss the book and to discover connections to images in the exhibition Revisiting America: The Prints of Currier & Ives. Visualizing Literature—for now, a virtual program—explores connections between the literary and visual arts through moderated book discussions and virtual tours led by experienced Joslyn docents.

Presented in partnership with UNMC’s Passport Partners program, Visualizing Literature is open to anyone interested in art and literature. Book discussions are free to Joslyn Members and Passport Partner (UNMC) members; $10 for general public. Participants will need a computer or tablet with a webcam, microphone, and speakers, and should feel comfortable using Zoom, a web-based cloud platform. Questions? Contact Nancy Round, Director of Education and Outreach, at (402) 661-3859 or nround@joslyn.org. The Pioneers is available for purchase through Joslyn’s Hitchcock Museum shop: $18 softcover; member discounts apply.
Our Mission — Joslyn Art Museum collects, preserves, and interprets the visual arts of the highest quality, fostering appreciation and enjoyment of art for the benefit of a diverse audience.

Our Vision — To be cherished and respected as a premier art museum.

Joslyn Art Museum showcases art from ancient times to the present. The Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George, who made his fortune as president of the Western Newspaper Union. The Museum’s original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation, with 38 types of marble from seven countries. The Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, a 58,000-square-foot addition built in 1994, was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster as his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000-seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, sculpture garden, café, shop, and Art Works, an interactive space for art exploration.


General Museum Admission: Free timed tickets and masks are required; reserve in advance at www.joslyn.org.

Special Exhibition Admission: Additional charge for Revisiting America: The Prints of Currier & Ives tickets for general public adults and college students (see details above). Exhibition tickets for members and youth are free.

Current Regular Museum Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am–4 pm; closed Monday, Tuesday, and major holidays.

www.joslyn.org  |  (402) 342-3300  |  2200 Dodge Street  |  Omaha, NE 68102