Becoming America: Thinking through Identity, Culture, and Traditions in Early America

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Featured Images
How to Read an Object

Understanding Context: Different Ways to Make Sense of an Object
Unrecorded artist (Mi'kmaq), Quillwork box, Maine or Nova Scotia, Canada, ca. 1850, wood, birchbark, porcupine quills, and aniline dye. Gift of Jonathan and Karin Fielding, 2016.25.27

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J. H. S. (Mohegan), Basket, ca. 1880, ash splint and dye. Gift of Jonathan and Karin Fielding, 2016.25.50

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Unrecorded artist (Northeastern Native American), Basket, New England area, ca. 1832, woven ash. Gift of Jonathan and Karin Fielding, 2016.25.25

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Connecting to People through Portraits

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John Brewster, Jr. (American, 1766-1854), Portrait of Major David Coffin, Newburyport, Massachusetts, 1801, oil on canvas. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection, L2015.41.165

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Unrecorded artist (American, possibly the “Puffy Sleeve Artist”), Portraits of Samuel and Elvira Fish, ca. 1810, watercolor, ink, and applique on paper. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection, L2015.41.148

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Everybody Collects
Unrecorded artist (American), Chip-carved foot warmer, Eastern Massachusetts, ca. 1720, oak and iron. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection, L2015.41.29

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Folk Art, Vernacular Art, or Naïve Art?
Attributed to Joseph Proctor (American, active 1860), Still life with a basket of fruit, flowers, and cornucopia, 19th century, oil on canvas. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection, L2015.41.171

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Unrecorded artist (American), Still life with fruit theorem painting, ca. 1830, stenciled watercolor on paper. Gift of Jonathan and Karin Fielding, 2016.25.100

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Raphaelle Peale (American, 1774-1825), Still life with wine, cake, and nuts, 1819, oil on panel. Gift of the Virginia Steele Scott Foundation, 83.8.36

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L. Prang & Co. (printer and publisher), Tinsmith, 1874, color printed lithograph. | The Jay T. Last Collection of Graphic Arts and Social History, Huntington Digital Library

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How to Read an Object

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Doing Detective Work
Unrecorded artist (American), Jar, probably New Jersey or New York, ca. 1750, stoneware. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection, L2015.41.18

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Unrecorded artist (American), Pair of pockets, ca. 1775, wool, linen, and cotton canvas. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection, L2015.41.64

Featured in: How to Read an Object
Elisabeth Fellows (American), Pocketbook, 1776, wool on linen, cotton trim. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection, L2015.41.68

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Out of Many, One?

The Nature of Historical or National Myths
Charles Hart (1870-1880, printer) and F. Myers & Co (publisher), Our presidents. 1789-1881, 1882, color printed lithograph. | The Jay T. Last Collection of Graphic Arts and Social History, Huntington Digital Library

Featured in: Out of Many, One?
Union Litho. Co. (Calif.), printer, Thanksgiving Brand, Los Angeles, CA, 1920-1930, color printed lithograph. | The Jay T. Last Collection of Graphic Arts and Social History, Huntington Digital Library

Featured in: Out of Many, One?

Featured in: Out of Many, One?
Daniel T. Ames (artist), Ed. W. Welcke & Bro. (printer), James Miller (publisher), Centennial: westward the course of empire takes its way..., 1876, uncolored lithograph. | The Jay T. Last Collection of Graphic Arts and Social History, Huntington Digital Library

Featured in: Out of Many, One?
Alfred R. Waud (American, 1828-1891), America, n.d., pen, brush, black ink and ink wash heightened with white on paper. Purchased with funds from the Virginia Steele Scott Foundation, 91.60

Featured in: Out of Many, One?
Unrecorded artist (American), Carver chair, Maine, ca. 1690, maple, ash, and red stain. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection, L2015.41.98

Featured in: Out of Many, One?
Boston Bank Note Co. (printer), Pilgrim Brand Oranges, 1900-1910, color printed lithograph. | The Jay T. Last Collection of Graphic Arts and Social History, Huntington Digital Library

Featured in: Out of Many, One?
Unrecorded artist (American), Log cabin, light and dark quilt, Boston area, ca. 1870, cotton. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection, L2018.3.4

Featured in: Out of Many, One?

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Out of Many, One?

The Common Good
Unrecorded artist (American), Pair of fire buckets, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, ca. 1839, leather and paint. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection, L2015.41.189

Featured in: Out of Many, One?
McLellan & Green Armstrong (printer), 3rd size steam fire engine built by the Silsby Manufacturing Co. Seneca Falls, N.Y., approximately 1871, color printed lithograph. | The Jay T. Last Collection of Graphic Arts and Social History, Huntington Digital Library

Featured in: Out of Many, One?
Louis Maurer (1832-1932), Nathaniel Currier (1813-1888), and N. Currier (publisher), The life of a fireman. The fire. "Now then with a will-shake her up boys!" 1854. color printed and hand colored lithograph. | Prints and Ephemera, Huntington Digital Library.

Featured in: Out of Many, One?
Attributed to John Hilling (American, 1822-1894), Before the burning of Old South Church in Bath, Maine, ca. 1854, oil on canvas. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection, L2015.41.177.1

Featured in: Out of Many, One?
John Hilling (American, 1822-1894), The burning of Old South Church in Bath, Maine, ca. 1854, oil on canvas. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection, L2015.41.177.2

Featured in: Out of Many, One?
H. Wilcox (American), Acrostic “Portrait dedicated to Winthrop Eager,” Massachusetts, 1811, watercolor and ink on paper. Gift of Jonathan and Karin Fielding, 2016.25.103

Featured in: Out of Many, One?
Out of Many, One?

Identity on Display
Unrecorded artist (Haudenosaunee (Iroquois)), Niagara beadwork hat, ca. 1870, beadwork on black cloth and velvet. Gift of Jonathan and Karin Fielding, 2016.25.5

Featured in: Out of Many, One?
Unrecorded artist (American), Oval Shaker box, probably New Lebanon, New York, ca. 1820-1840, pine and maple, tacks, chrome yellow finish. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection, L2015.41.27

Featured in: Out of Many, One?
Unrecorded artist (American, 18th century), Painted schrank, Berks County, Pennsylvania, 1775, painted wood. Purchased with funds from Jonathan and Karin Fielding, 2018.10

Featured in: Out of Many, One?
Blumer, Busch & Co., printer, Geburts-und Tauf-Schein, 1853, hand colored woodcut. | The Jay T. Last Collection of Graphic Arts and Social History, Huntington Digital Library

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Prosperity for All?

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Americans Create a Social Hierarchy
Winthrop Chandler (American, 1747-1790), Landscape with riding and walking figures, a river, and a village (overmantel), ca. 1770-1780, oil on pine panel. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection, L2015.41.159

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Jacob Maentel (American, 1763-1863), Portrait of hatter John Mays of Schaefferstown, Pennsylvania, ca. 1830, watercolor, gouache, ink and pencil on paper. Gift of Jonathan and Karin Fielding, 2016.25.102

Featured in: Prosperity for All?
Aaron F. Saguezs (American, 19th century), Report of the present fashions by A. F. Saguezs, New-York., approximately 1832, uncolored lithograph. | The Jay T. Last Collection of Graphic Arts and Social History, Huntington Digital Library

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Prosperity for All?

Climbing the Ladder of Success through Education
G. & W. Endicott (printer) and Justus Starr Redfield (publisher), The American youths' diploma, 1845-1848, uncolored lithograph. | The Jay T. Last Collection of Graphic Arts and Social History, Huntington Digital Library

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Eunice Hooper (American, 1781-1866), Sampler, Marblehead, Massachusetts, ca. 1790, silk on linen. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection, L2015.41.65

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Prosperity for All?

A Seat at the Table
Attributed to Ebenezer Tracy, Sr. (American, 1744-1803), High-back Windsor armchair with writing arm, Lisbon, Connecticut, late 18th century, wood and green paint. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection, L2015.41.112

Featured in: Prosperity for All?
The Price of Progress

Quilting: A Living Tradition
Allen & Rowell, Portrait of Ralph Waldo Emerson, ca. 1860, albumen print. | Photographs, Huntington Digital Library

Featured in: The Price of Progress
Attributed to Mary Seeds Moon (American, born ca. 1806), "Lone Star" appliqued chintz and pieced quilt, Baltimore, ca. 1840, cotton. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection, L2018.3.1

Featured in: The Price of Progress
Unrecorded artist (American), Diamond Amish Quilt, ca. 1896, cotton. Gift of Jonathan and Karin Fielding, 2016.25.60

Featured in: The Price of Progress
Unrecorded artist (American), Amish bar pattern quilt, probably Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, or Homes County, Ohio, early 20th century, cotton. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection, L2018.3.3

Featured in: The Price of Progress
Loretta Pettway (American, born 1942), Remember Me, 2007, color softground and hardground etching with aquatint. Purchased with funds from the Art Collectors’ Council and Virginia Steel Scott Foundation Acquisition Fund, 2019.8.31

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Louisiana Bendolph (American, born 1960), American Housetop for the Arnetts, 2005, color softground etching with aquatint. Purchased with funds from the Art Collectors’ Council and the Virginia Steel Scott Foundation Acquisition Fund for American Art, 201

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Unrecorded artist (American), Red friendship quilt, 1855, cotton. Gift of Jonathan and Karin Fielding, 2016.25.54

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The Industrial Revolution: Embrace It or Stick With What You Know?
Cosack & Co. (printer), The Corliss Engine, Geo H. Corliss, Providence, R.I., approximately 1876, color printed lithograph. | The Jay T. Last Collection of Graphic Arts and Social History, Huntington Digital Library

Featured in: The Price of Progress
James Bard (American, 1815-1897), The Steamboat “Peter Crary,” 1858, oil on canvas. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection, L2015.41.175

Featured in: The Price of Progress
Franklin Square Lithographic Company (printer), Bird’s-eye view of the great suspension bridge, connecting the cities of New York and Brooklyn - from New York looking south-east, 1883, color printed lithograph. | The Jay T. Last Collection of Graphic Arts and Social History, Huntington Digital Library

Featured in: The Price of Progress
Robert Scott Duncanson (American, 1821-1872), Landscape with Ruin, 1853, oil on canvas. Gift of Sandra and Bram Dijkstra, 2014.14

Featured in: The Price of Progress
Riley Whiting (American, 1785–1835), Federal Tall Case Clock, Clock movement, Winchester, Connecticut, ca. 1820; Unknown, Painted case, probably Maine, 1820, spine, glass, wood, and paint. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection, L2015.41.23

Featured in: The Price of Progress
The Price of Progress

Innovation and Artificial Light

Featured in: The Price of Progress
Boston & Sandwich Glass Co. (American, founded 1825), Toy lamp, Sandwich, Massachusetts, ca. 1828, free-blown glass and tin. Gift of Jonathan and Karin Fielding, 2016.25.88.1

Featured in: The Price of Progress
Boston & Sandwich Glass Co. (American, founded 1825), Toy lamp, Sandwich, Massachusetts, ca. 1828, free-blown glass and tin. Gift of Jonathan and Karin Fielding, 2016.25.88.1

Featured in: The Price of Progress
Boston & Sandwich Glass Co. (American, founded 1825), Toy lamp, Sandwich, Massachusetts, ca. 1828, free-blown glass and tin. Gift of Jonathan and Karin Fielding, 2016.25.88.1

Featured in: The Price of Progress
William John Huggins (artist and publisher), Edward Duncan (engraver) South Sea Whale Fishery, 1834, hand colored engraving. | Prints and Ephemera, Huntington Digital Library

Featured in: The Price of Progress
Louis Garneray (artist), Frederic Martens (engraver), Goupil & Vibert (printer and publisher), Pêche de la Baleine. Whale-Fishery, approximately 1835, hand colored mezzotint. | Prints and Ephemera, Huntington Digital Library

Featured in: The Price of Progress
Unrecorded artist (American), Adjustable candle lamp, ca. 1810, tin and sand. Gift of Jonathan and Karin Fielding, 2016.25.82

Featured in: The Price of Progress
Unrecorded artist (American), Betty lamp, ca. 1820-1840, tin. Gift of Jonathan and Karin Fielding, 2016.25.84

Featured in: The Price of Progress
Unrecorded artist (American), Rush holder, 18th century, wood and wrought iron. Gift of Jonathan and Karin Fielding, 2016.25.85

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Featured in: The Price of Progress
Unrecorded artist (American), Candlestick, 1710, brass. Gift of Jonathan and Karin Fielding, 2016.25.91

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