

Heidi Howard: Maker & Painter.

April 24-July 3, 2014



Tavern Signs and Paintings by Heidi Howard, Maker & Painter

Heidi Howard began to paint historic reproductions of trade and tavern signs when her interest in early American country painted signs collided with her artistic background. Her attraction to weathered surfaces and crusty paint began early, having spent her childhood in rural Vermont, surrounded by barns, rusty farm equipment and other glimpses of history. After graduating from Rhode Island School of Design, Ms. Howard went through a natural progression of waitress, seamstress, hatter, mother, and, ultimately, historic trade and tavern sign maker and painter.

Tavern keepers in early America were required to display a sign large enough for travelers in a passing coach to see. The licensee's name was generally placed on the sign in addition to an image, which often reflected the political climate. Painted and lettered on hand-planed 100-200 year old boards, and finished with an antiqued patina, Heidi Howard's tavern signs closely resemble their 18th and 19th century inspirations.



Wilton Historical Society

wiltonhistorical.org

Works in the Exhibition

Miss Cole, 2008

Oil on wood
20 x 15 inches
Collection of Michelle and William Cole

Good Dog, 2009

Oil on wood
20 x 20 inches
Collection of Jane and Edwin Bescherer

Owl's Nest, 2009

Oil on Wood
18 x 23 inches
Collection of Katherine Bescherer

P. Green (Interpretation of The Owl and the Pussycat, Edward Lear), 2010

Oil on wood
33.5 x 38 inches
Collection of Jane and Edwin Bescherer

Douty the Hatter, 2012

A three-dimensional trade sign made in memoriam for Jerome Nichols Douty, Hatter, Putnam, CT, c. 1880s, the artist's great, great grandfather-in-law, a hatter in Putnam, CT, late 19th century.
Oil on wood, iron, leather, canvas
21 x 17 inches
Collection of Jill and George Rakotci

Anonymous Photographer

Jerome Nichols Douty, Hatter, Putnam, CT, c. 1880s
Silver gelatin print
10 x 9 inches
Collection of Heidi and Peter Howard

Anonymous

Douty the Hatter, c. 1880s
Broadside advertisement
24 x 17 inches
Collection of Heidi and Peter Howard

The Beehive, 2013

Oil on wood
37 x 40 inches
Collection of the artist

Hats, 2013

Oil, wood, iron, mid 20th century tobacco cans
31 x 20 x 9 inches
Collection of the artist



Asa Bird, 2014

Oil on wood
10 x 12 inches
Collection of the artist

Edward Hall, Hatter (reproduction, attributed to Rufus Porter), 2014

Oil on wood
24 x 60 inches
Collection of the artist

Land Baron, 2014

Oil on wood
24 x 15 inches
Collection of the artist

Land Baroness, 2014

Oil on wood
24 x 15 inches
Collection of the artist

Swan, 2014

Oil on wood
35 x 26 inches
Collection of the artist

Untitled, 2014

Oil on wood
32 x 43 inches
Collection of the artist

Wayside Inn, 2014

Iron, oil on wood
24 x 15 inches
Collection of the artist

Photography: Takeshi Sergel