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Many thanks to the following sponsors for their support. Many more thanks to the volunteers and artists who helped to make this a successful and wonderful event.



This program is supported in part by a grant from the Fitchburg Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



and by the  
Fitchburg  
Economic Development Office

Discover  
*Fitchburg*



*A City for All Seasons*  
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# 2008 Fitchburg Downtown Paint-In

*Preserving a Sense of Place  
"H. M. Francis Architecture Through  
the Eyes of the Artist"*

Formal Exhibition & Celebration  
July 10, 2008  
Rollstone Studios  
633 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA

# Tonight's Program

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Artist's Recognition Ceremony  
and

Announcement and Recognition

H. M. Francis Art Plaque Design Winner  
Anne Giancola

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Public Viewing

Entertainment:

Eddy Troxler, Guitarist

Glen Winchell, Violinist

Refreshments will be served.



*Congratulations to Anne Giancola for her winning design  
in the H.M. Francis Art Plaque Design Contest.*

Artist	Title of Artwork	Price
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Ann Capodagli	Museum Entrance	\$900
Andrienne Clark	Rosette from the Front Entrance to the Phoenix Building	NFS
Robert Cole	Rollstone Congregational Church	\$200
Robert Cole	Rollstone Boulder	\$75
Mary Nicholson Durkee	347-349 Main Street	\$225
Dawn Gardetto	Faith United	\$300
Anne Giancola	Francis Facades (cornerstone NFS)	\$750
Tom Kellner	H. M. Francis after Monet	\$225
Sharon Koski	Stairway to Knowledge	\$300
Sharon Koski	Through the Years	\$300
Linda Lapham	347-349 Main Street, Fitchburg	\$500
Erick Lulimachi	A Christian in the City	\$250
Debra Hughes Luoma	Memory Bank	\$250
Debra Hughes Luoma	Rock Solid	\$125
Elaine Membrino	The New Method	\$650
Helen Obermeyer Simmons	The Phoenix	\$200
Helen Obermeyer Simmons	H.M Francis Doll	\$50
Lisa Regopoulos	Entrance of Art Museum	\$300
Lionel Reinford	The Three Pyramids	\$1,000
Gary Ruuska	Sunlit Balcony	\$600
Kathryn Swantee	Old High School Annex	\$800

*A contact list for the above artists is available at Rollstone Studios, 633 Main Street, Fitchburg.*

# Welcome

H. M. Francis Architecture  
Through the Eyes of the Artist

The Place: Downtown Fitchburg  
The Time: Spring 2008

“Once you commence to see things, then you really commence to feel things.”

Edward Steichen (1879-1973)  
Artist & Photographer

The artists who participated in the 2007 and 2008 Downtown Paint-Ins have captured on canvas the abundance of beauty, culture and richness in Downtown Fitchburg. Their paintings invite us to see clearly the assets that we often miss, as we go about our daily lives. As we see these assets through the eyes of the Downtown Paint-In artists, we *“commence to feel things,”* as Edward Steichen so aptly stated.

Working in partnership, the Fitchburg Economic Development Office and the Fitchburg Cultural Alliance, with funding from the Fitchburg Cultural Council, issued a “Call to Artists.” Seventeen juried artists responded and set up their easels and painted outstanding examples of architecture designed by H.M. Francis. Francis’s work symbolizes a period in the history of Fitchburg that saw extraordinary population growth and entrepreneurial endeavors that brought great prosperity to the City.

The paintings and written expressions by the artists offer us an opportunity to market the Downtown area, as a place where beauty, culture and richness reside in abundance.

We celebrate the talent shared by the artists, as they capture the architecture of H. M. Francis in the Spring of 2008.

Ellen M. DiGeronimo  
Fitchburg Economic Development  
Office

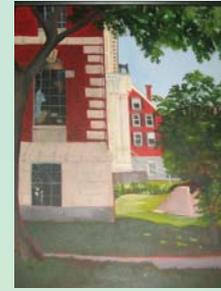
Jennifer Jones  
Fitchburg Cultural  
Alliance



347-349 Main Street, Fitchburg

*"Painting in the street was very interesting. I met many Fitchburg residents and enjoyed their interest and courtesy. They had come to live here from all over the world. Painting the architecture made me really see the details and beauty of the buildings. The modern details were attractive and fun to include."*

*~ Linda M. Lapham*



Rock Solid

*"It was a pleasure to share with curious onlookers information about the H.M. Francis buildings and the important role they played in Fitchburg's history. The buildings are treasures that will give future generations a sense of Fitchburg's foundations and history."*

*~ Debra Hughes Luoma*

*"While I was working outside the building, many people stopped to express interest in my work and to share their interest in Fitchburg's architecture. A few people had never noticed the classical motifs on the building until they saw me drawing sketches."*

*~ Andrienne Clark*



Rosette from the Front Entrance to the Phoenix Building, 781 Main Street

**H:M:FRANCIS.  
ARCHITECT.**



*The second half of the 19th century was a booming period for Fitchburg. Commercial buildings, churches, and a public library were springing up along Main Street and homes and schools along newly-established residential streets.*

*It was within this economic flourishing of Fitchburg that Henry Martyn (H.M.) Francis' (1836-1908) architectural career was established. Born in Lunenburg, Massachusetts in 1836 and educated at Lawrence Academy, Francis first learned the architectural trade as an apprentice (1859-1861) in the Framingham firm of the noted New England architect Alexander R. Estey. Next, Francis applied his new-found knowledge of architecture to the practical arts of carpentry in his home town of Lunenburg. Between 1864 and May of 1868, Francis was employed in the offices of George M. Harding of Portland, Maine, and George Meacham of Boston. In 1868, H. M. Francis opened his architectural firm on Fitchburg's Main Street where he practiced his trade for over forty years, renaming his company "H. M. Francis and Sons" in 1902 when his two sons Frederick L. and Albert F. joined the firm. By the time of his death in 1908, H. M. Francis left a design legacy in Fitchburg and New England which included "30 school buildings, 25 churches, 15 libraries, a large number of public buildings and several hundred residences." His sons continued to practice architecture in the city until 1943, bringing the Francis firm's presence on Main Street through three quarters of a century.*

*Excerpts taken from The Architecture of Henry M. Francis published by REACH FITCHBURG.*



Stairway to Knowledge

*"This year's Paint-In was a wonderful experience of painting 'en plein air'. The City of Fitchburg is a treasure trove of beautiful parks and stunning architecture. I got to meet so many nice people."*

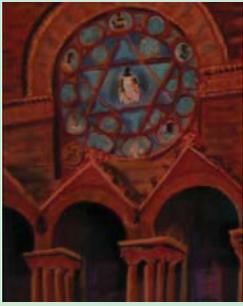
*~ Sharon L. Koski*

*"Every time I think I have seen it all, something new and wonderful appears. Thank you for giving me this great opportunity."*

*~ Sharon L. Koski*



Through the Years



H.M. Francis After Monet

*"I enjoyed the focus on the architecture of H.M. Francis. His use of contrasting types of stone to emphasize the outlines while retaining the Roman scheme and proportion has an appeal I will forever enjoy."*

~ Tom Kellner



Memory Bank

*"Painting on Main Street was a fun challenge. A young girl took my photo with a cell phone and I received many favorable comments about my work. I had an interesting conversation about the YMCA motto -- Body, Mind, Spirit -- with a young man who also admired my choice of buildings."*

~ Debra Hughes Luoma

*"I chose to paint the Old High School Annex because it was a building I have a connection with. I was there two afternoons when the other schools in the area let out. Some of the kids and teachers came over to watch and ask questions. A few thought it might be kind of interesting to become an artist -- maybe the next generation of Paint-In artists?"*

~ Kathryn Swantee



The Old High School Annex

*"Granite, brick, stone. Common materials that are transformed into enduring beauty on the facade of the H.M. Francis buildings. Thank you to the organizers of the Paint-In for the opportunity to participate in this tribute to Fitchburg's premier architect; it has given me a greater appreciation of Francis' influence on Fitchburg's cityscape."*

~ Anne Giancola



Francis Facades



The Three Pyramids

*"I enjoyed participating in the Paint-In. It provides an opportunity for artists to express themselves and to exhibit the beauty of Fitchburg. It was an honor to paint this building, because of its historic contribution to the City of Fitchburg."*

~ Lionel Reinford



Rollstone Congregational Church

*"This project allowed me to sketch some of Francis' work, such as the stairway of the High School, the Boulder and the Rollstone Congregational Church and it went very well for me. Thank you for this opportunity."*

~ Robert Cole

*"The H.M. Francis doll was a last minute inspiration. It is handsewn, made of fabric with beads, lace and paint."*

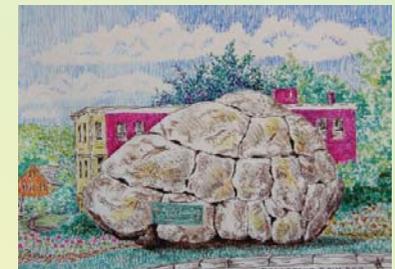
~ Helen Obermeyer-Simmons



Handmade Folk Art Doll of H.M. Francis

*"I was so involved, I forgot about the sun in the afternoon and ended up with a sunburn on my neck! I received a lot of compliments from people on the street and those boarding the school buses."*

~ Robert Cole



Rollstone Boulder



Entrance to Art Museum

*"The beautiful tree in front of the entrance to the Fitchburg Art Museum has always attracted my interest and learning that the entrance was designed by H.M. Francis adds to my appreciation. I love the way the beautiful ivy grows over the bricks and softens their appearance."*

*~ Lisa Regopoulos*



Museum Entrance

*"I have always admired the classic entrance of the Fitchburg Art Museum, with its varying textures of brick, stone, ivy and iron. Its beauty and serenity welcomes all to the world of art."*

*~ Ann M. Capodagli*

*"It was fascinating to watch the light change on the church at different times of the day. I may end up working on a series a la Monet. This church has a beautiful half-moon stained glass window that would make a wonderful close up."*

*~ Dawn Gardetto*



Faith United

*"Despite the hot weather, the experience working downtown was once again so enjoyable. Passersby were curious and helpful critics. Wanting to capture as much of the surrounding area, I altered the perspective providing an abstract arrangement of the block. Thanks to Kit Tucker for the table, chair and much needed water."*

*~ Mary Nicholson Durkee*



347-349 Main Street



The New Method

*"The Joseph Edgerly School, circa 1900, brought heart felt memories that filled my soul. Peter Taylor, warm milk, nature walks, Dean Ross, maple leaves, music with Professor Kent, rooms with large windows pouring in the light, and the granite bird bath with bronze frog. All the wonderment comes back for my grand grammar school."*

*~ Elaine Membrino*



The Phoenix

*"It was inspiring to see artists at work downtown. I enjoyed the experience of being an artist in the Paint-In. I decided to focus on H.M. Francis and his architecture located around the 'Upper Common.' After much study, I then completed the collage in a mixed media inspired by my research and my observations."*

*~ Helen Obermeyer Simmons*

*"Preferring the studio, it was challenging to work on the street. Sitting there in front of my subject, I gained a much greater appreciation of Fitchburg's history, charm, and beauty. I hope I reveal some of that in my painting. I feel privileged to take part and hope to be back next year. The Proctor Building will not be my last to paint."*

*~ Gary Ruuska*



Sunlit Balcony

*"It's wonderful to participate in this, because you can meet other artists and feel the 'art' around Fitchburg. I moved to Fitchburg three years ago and I like it. Now I have another experience for my book. The weather wasn't very good for painting outside, but I hope that people like my work."*

*~ Erick Lulimachi*



A Christian in the City