



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Colby-Sawyer College's Marian Graves Mugar Art Gallery Presents:

STILL LIFE PAINTINGS BY NEW LONDON ARTIST LAURIDS LAURIDSEN

NEW LONDON, N.H. – An exhibition of nearly 100 still lifes in oil from the year 1980 to present will be featured in an exhibit by New London, N.H. resident Laurids “Bud” Lauridsen at an opening reception on Thursday, September 27, from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., at the Marian Graves Mugar Art Gallery, Colby-Sawyer College. The opening exhibit, which also will include early examples of his etchings, paintings, sketches, and signs, will continue through October 19. Refreshments will be served, the public is invited, and admission is free.

An American Realist, Lauridsen’s work brings exacting detail and a three-dimensional quality to objects in a still life. So realistic are the objects in his paintings that viewers often feel compelled to reach out and touch what they are convinced is real. There is the immediate recognition of the artist’s devotion to antiques, for his paintings include crockery and furniture, tools and curios of everyday life in the 1700s and 1800s. His attention to shape and color, value and texture, as well as his astonishing ability to make the light and reflection of one object enhance the presence of the next, transforms and ennobles everyday objects in his paintings. A Lauridsen still life works the way a good poem reads—not to blind or startle, but to make us see beauty through simplicity.

A career as a painter is a pursuit that came later in life to Lauridsen. After attending a 1979 exhibit of paintings by the great French still-life painter, Jean-Baptiste-Simèon Chardin, at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, his interest in painting was revived and he became so enthralled he decided to pursue his original career intentions. Recognized at an early age for his natural artistic ability, Lauridsen received a B.F.A. from the Yale School of Fine Arts in 1944. At that time, with the world still in the grip of World War II, he began work as a draftsman in the technical publications department of Chance Vought Aircraft, a defense plant in Stratford, Ct., before moving to New London with his wife Adrienne Lauridsen in 1945. For more than 30 years, he and his wife dealt in antiques. This career paralleled his eclectic endeavors as a sign painter, as director of a ski school and the ski program at Colby-Sawyer College (then Colby Junior College), and as fire chief of New London. For 19 years, Lauridsen was an instructor of mechanical drawing at Proctor Academy in Andover, N.H. He also has been a guiding force in the development of the settlement of ‘Old New London,’ a reconstructed village of the 1830s at the New London Historical Society.

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The Marian Graves Mugar Art Gallery, directed by Professor of Art Martha Andrea, hosts seven major exhibitions and related public events each academic year. The gallery is located on Seamans Road on the west side of campus in the Sawyer Fine Arts Center. Admission is free and open to the public. Hours 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Marian Graves Mugar Gallery and Sawyer Fine Arts Center are fully accessible. For additional information, please call (603) 526-3000. Please visit Colby-Sawyer College on the World Wide Web at <http://www.colby-sawyer.edu>.

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