

The Longmeadow News

Dane to exhibit at Hosmer Gallery

by The Longmeadow Newsroom on June 11, 2013 in News



Amy S. Dane, will be on view at the Hosmer Gallery, Forbes Library, Northampton, MA from July 2-30.

The photographer, a world traveler, started to notice the interesting ways and objects that people carry around the world and thought it would make an interesting theme for an exhibition: who carries what, why and how. She culled through her archives for interesting material and now makes a point of observing people carrying things as she continues her travels.

It seems so simple. After all, we all carry things, but people from different cultures carry different things in different ways. People carry with their hands, shoulders, backs and heads. Starting with pregnancy, women carry other people. When a child is born, he/she rises up to the arms, back, or shoulders. In most cultures women carry children, but Dane noticed that in Madagascar men were often seen carrying their children. People carry animals, both for food and as pets. They carry umbrellas, packages and wares they buy or sell. The homeless around the globe carry everything they own. On the opposite end of the spectrum, well-off people carry objects for recreation. Dane notices a lot less of this in third world countries whose inhabitants don't have much time for leisure.

In our society we carry our groceries in plastic, brown paper, or nowadays "green" bags. We carry backpacks, pocket books and consumer purchases placed in smart, colorful shopping bags sporting a store or brand's logo. In third world countries Dane notices that the head is often used for carrying – mostly women's heads. She realized that she could design an entire exhibit around people carrying things on their heads. At a train station in rural India she watched how coal was loaded into the engine. Men would supervise the women and load the heavy coal into a basket on the women's heads. The women would then carry those heavy baskets to the engine, walk up a few stairs and tip their heads to spill the contents in the appropriate place and then walk back to the men to be loaded up for more. In another Indian work site she watched the same situation, this time with stone for building material.

The layout of the Hosmer Gallery enticed Dane to group her pictures into different themes. She organizes 5 themes: people carrying food; carrying for work; people carrying other people; carrying for religion/religious festivals; and finally a section she calls OMG. She hopes to further develop these themes and explore the theme of carrying for leisure.

Amy S. Dane, a native of Longmeadow, suffers from a lifelong travel addiction that has brought her to over 90 countries so far. She enjoys sharing her experiences by giving culturally informative presentations about her travels and exhibiting her photography at libraries, hospitals and galleries. Her entry won "Best in Show" in February, 2012 at the Friends of the Agawam Public Library 2nd Open Juried Photography Show. Dane won second place in photography at the Monson Arts Council's 2013 art show.

Visit her website at www.amydaneadventures.com for newspaper articles, cable television shows, photographs and upcoming events.

Dane is a travel agent for Great Dane Travel, a Travel Companion affiliate. She is a contributing photographer to the Longmeadow News; a docent for the Michele and Donald D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts, Springfield, MA.; and a member of the Agawam Community Artists & Artisans. She received her B.A. (Smith College) and M.A. (Williams College) in Art History. She served as Education Coordinator at the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum for 11 years developing museum tours and school outreach programs.

The Hosmer Gallery is on the second floor of Forbes Library, 20 West Street, Northampton, MA. Gallery hours are Monday and Wednesdays from 9-9; Tuesdays and Thursday from 1-5, and Fridays from 9-5. There are no weekend summer hours. For more info people call 413-587-1011 x4529.