

The Noble Maritime Collection

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Noble Maritime Collection presents Tugboats Night & Day

STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK, January 29, 2008-- The Noble Maritime Collection, a maritime museum on the grounds of the famous old sailors' retirement home, Sailors' Snug Harbor, will present *Tugboats Night & Day*, an exhibition inspired by those beloved icons of New York Harbor, the tugboats.

The exhibition will open with a formal reception on Saturday, March 1, 2008 at 8 PM. The museum will host a free public reception on Sunday, March 2 from one until 5 PM; a parade of tugboats on the Kill van Kull passes by the museum at about 2 PM.

The centerpiece of the exhibition is a replica of a 19th century tugboat wheelhouse. Constructed by master craftsman Russell Powell and his Island Housewrights staff, Don Defillo and Ron Grossberndt, the replica is based on photographs as well as existing tug wheelhouses. Named the *Susan A. Noble*, the wheelhouse hearkens back to the days when tugboats were the mainstay workhorses of New York Harbor.

George Matteson, a former tugboat captain and the author of *Tugboats of New York*, curated *As Tugs Go By*, the section of the exhibition devoted to the history of the towing industry.

Several New York Harbor towing companies have lent their support to the exhibition. They include Reinauer Transportation Companies, which is celebrating its 85 year in the maritime industry this year; Moran Towing & Transportation; McAllister Brothers Towing; K-Sea Transportation Partners, LP; Thornton Towing & Transportation, LLC ; and Penn Maritime Transportation Company.

In addition, the Marine Society of the City of New York and the Richmond County Savings Foundation have lent support to the exhibition.

Twelve contemporary artists will contribute their tug interpretations in paintings, photographs, fine prints, and murals to the show. They include the *plein air* painters Steve Cryan, known as "the tugboat artist;" Griselda Healy and Patricia Melvin.

John Stobart, R.A., will contribute an original oil painting as well as a print of tugboats in New York Harbor, which will be available for sale in the museum shop for the benefit of the museum.

Photographer David Plowden is contributing several of his photographs of tugboats, especially those from his popular book *Tugboat*, published in 1976.

Printmaker Alan Petrusis is contributing three original etchings. Jonathan Atkin and Eric Holmes are contributing photographs of tugboats by day. Jin Lee, and Michael McWeeney, who

have been out on Reinauer tugs at night, are working with muralists Chris Protas and Jason Williamson to transform one of the museum's galleries into a setting reminiscent of the Harbor by night.

Sean Noyce is contributing a cross-sectional drawing of a modern AT/B, or articulated tug and barge, the modern tugboat that locks into the tanker it is pushing.

Scholar Daniel Adams is contributing maps of New York Harbor showing the loading and unloading facilities of New York Harbor tugboat companies.

The exhibition will also feature the tugboat *Pegasus*, which is currently being restored an historic education vessel that will take students out into the Harbor to learn about the maritime industry under the watchful eye of its captain, Pamela Hepburn.

Hepburn captained tugboats in New York Harbor for over 20 years and has been restoring her tug for the past 10 years while planning school programs for the metropolitan area.

The *Pegasus*, built in 1907, has had a long career. She joined the fleet of McAllister Brothers Towing in 1953; they converted her to diesel power and renamed her the *John E. McAllister*. In 1987 Hepburn bought her and renamed her *Pegasus*. She continued actively towing for another 10 years.

Upstairs in the John A. Noble Maritime Library, the museum will offer a selection of works called *Noble's Tugs* that features rarely exhibited prints and drawings of tugboats by John A. Noble (1913-83).

The Noble Maritime Collection's permanent exhibitions include Noble's *Houseboat Studio*, where he created paintings, drawings and lithographs for over 40 years. *A Dormitory Room* is a recreation of a typical mariners' bedroom from 1900, and the *Writing Room*, a recreation of the room where Sailors' Snug Harbor residents gathered to read and write.

Museum hours at the Noble Maritime Collection are Thursday through Sunday from one until five PM, or by appointment. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for seniors, educators and students, and free to children 10 years and younger. Admission is free on Sundays.

For further information please call the museum at 718-447-6490.

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PHOTO: Jin Lee, *Night Running, the tug Janice Ann Reinauer*, 2008

