



PRESERVATION LONG ISLAND

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 4, 2025**

New Exhibition at Preservation Long Island Focuses on the Work of F. Edwin Church, a Celebrated 20th-century Portrait and Landscape Artist with Ties to Long Island's North Shore

*“Making a Name for Himself: The Life & Art of F. Edwin Church, 1876–1975”* showcases a range of artworks, photographs, and ephemera spanning Church’s career, including works from his life abroad and on Long Island.



**“MAKING A NAME FOR HIMSELF: THE LIFE & ART OF F. EDWIN CHURCH, 1876–1975” on View at the Preservation Long Island Exhibition Gallery in Cold Spring Harbor, New York  
September 19 – December 21, 2025**

Cold Spring Harbor, NY— Preservation Long Island presents *Making a Name for Himself: The Life & Art of F. Edwin Church, 1876–1975*, a new exhibition highlighting the work of celebrated 20th-century portrait and landscape artist F. Edwin Church, who had strong ties to Long Island’s North Shore. On view from September 19 to December 21, 2025, at Preservation Long Island’s Exhibition Gallery in Cold Spring Harbor, the exhibition features a wide array of artworks, photographs, and personal ephemera

spanning Church's prolific career—framed within the larger narrative of his life both abroad and on Long Island.

Despite sharing a name with the famous American landscape painter, Frederic Edwin Church (1876-1975) became a celebrated artist in his own right. Born in Brooklyn in 1876, he briefly studied architecture before realizing his true passion for painting. He enrolled in art classes in New York and Paris, studying with notable artists and exhibiting his art. He chose to sign his paintings "F. Edwin Church" to distinguish himself professionally and endeavored to create his own artistic identity.

Rooted in the traditions of Impressionism and Japonisme, Church's work nevertheless reflects modern life in the twentieth century. He found inspiration in the world around him, filling his canvases with vibrant flowers, birds, and urban and natural landscapes. Critics praised his opulent portraits featuring women in contemporary fashions blended with elements of Japanese art and design.

Church's ties to Long Island include his family's construction of two homes in Locust Valley, both designed in 1928 by renowned architect Harrie T. Lindeberg. At his primary residence, which he named *Laurelwood* and occupied for the rest of his life, Church painted bird frescoes on the loggia walls — preserved by the current owners. During this period, Church established the Charles T. Church Northshore Bird Sanctuary on part of the adjoining family properties in Locust Valley, in memory of his brother. The Church's were founding members of [North Shore Wildlife Sanctuary](#) and donated a significant portion of the land that is now known as the [Shu Swamp Preserve](#).

"We are thrilled to celebrate the extraordinary artistic legacy of F. Edwin Church, a painter who chose to spend the latter part of his life on Long Island's North Shore, which is also the home of Preservation Long Island," said Jackie Powers, Executive Director of Preservation Long Island. "This exhibition reflects our commitment to exploring the intersection of art, culture, and place. By highlighting Church's

work and his contributions to the local community, we hope visitors will gain a renewed appreciation for the North Shore's cultural and artistic heritage at the turn of the last century."

"On display are several works Church created while living on Long Island, including paintings of scenes from his Locust Valley residence and the exhibition's only woodblock print, which depicts ice skaters at the Beaver Dam Club in Mill Neck," said Emily Werner, Guest Curator. "*Montauk Beach* and *The Cow Path* capture the diversity of Long Island's natural landscapes, while *Oyster Bay House* serves as a valuable record of a North Shore vernacular home that was later lost to the waves of suburbanization that reshaped the region in the mid-20th century."

"Thanks to the work of dedicated scholars and the opportunity to exhibit the artist's work here on Long Island, Church's nearly forgotten legacy and contributions to American art are now gaining recognition in the community he once called home," noted Lauren Brincat, Preservation Long Island's Chief Curator and Director of Collections.

### **Exhibition Location, Hours and Admission**

#### **Location:**

Preservation Long Island Exhibition Gallery  
161 Main Street  
Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724

**Suggested Admission:** \$5.00 or pay what you wish

**Dates:** September 19 – December 21, 2025

#### **Hours:**

Friday-Sunday from 11:00 am.– 4:00 pm

Visit the [Exhibition](#) page for additional opening hours that may be scheduled during the exhibition.

### **Public Programs**

Related programs and events will take place throughout the run of the exhibition and include:

[Paint and Sip](#): Recreate Church's painting of Montauk Beach under the guidance of artists from The Village Artist studio in Huntington. - **October 04, 2025**

*[Shu Swamp Preserve Nature Walk](#)*: Experience the beauty that inspired F. Edwin Church to preserve the streams, ponds, and forests of Shu Swamp. - **November 01, 2025**

*[F. Edwin Church Exhibition Curator Tour](#)*: Join Guest Curator Emily Werner as she guides visitors through the techniques, travels, and artistic influences that shaped Church's journey as a painter working on Long Island in the early 20th century. – **November 22, 2025**

*[Family Program - Portraits and Patterns with F. Edwin Church](#)*: Bring the whole family for a fun and creative afternoon inspired by the colorful world of artist F. Edwin Church. - **December 06, 2025**

Visit Preservation Long Island's [website](#) for more information about exhibition programs and events.

### **Lenders to the Exhibition**

Paintings on loan from the following collections:

- [The F. Edwin Church Catalogue Raisonné Project](#)
- [The Oyster Bay Historical Society](#)
- Private Collectors

### **About Preservation Long Island**

Preservation Long Island is a not-for-profit organization with a mission to celebrate and preserve Long Island's diverse cultural and architectural heritage through advocacy, education, and stewardship of historic sites and collections.

<http://preservationlongisland.org>

Preservation Long Island maintains and interprets four historic sites, including the collections housed within each, that embody various aspects of Long Island's history:

Joseph Lloyd Manor, Lloyd Harbor <http://preservationlongisland.org/joseph-lloyd-manor/>  
Custom House, Sag Harbor <http://preservationlongisland.org/custom-house/>  
Sherwood-Jayne Farm, Setauket <http://preservationlongisland.org/sherwood-jayne-farm/>  
Old Methodist Church and Exhibition Gallery <http://preservationlongisland.org/methodist-church/>

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### ***Image credit:***

*F. Edwin Church (1876–1975), "Girl in Yellow", ca. 1920. Oil on canvas, 60.25 x 40 in. (image).  
Courtesy of The F. Edwin Church Catalogue Raisonné Project.*

Additional images available.

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