



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EXHIBIT OPENING: EARLY 20TH CENTURY WOMAN PHOTOGRAPHER FEATURED
IN HISTORIC PHOTOS OF STONINGTON AT DEER ISLE GRANITE MUSEUM**

Josephine Ginn Banks from the Maine Maritime Museum's Collection

JUNE 28, 2024 STONINGTON, MAINE – The Deer Isle Granite Museum, located at 51 Main Street in Stonington, will host an opening reception and gallery talk for a new rotating exhibit on **Thursday, July 11, at 7 p.m.** “Images of Stonington’s Past: Early Twentieth Century Photography by Josephine Ginn Banks” is a collaboration with the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath and features a selection of large format, glass plate negative prints from its collection. The images bring to vivid life Stonington’s 19th century village and stonecutting culture during the period when its famed granite industry was in full bloom. Catherine Cyr, Associate Curator at Maine Maritime Museum, will present a gallery talk on Banks and her photographs during the opening reception.

“We are excited to be reinvigorating our little gem of a Main Street museum, especially with a collaboration such as this with a museum as esteemed as Bath’s Maine Maritime Museum,” said Linda Nelson, Stonington’s Economic & Community Development Director and a board member for the Deer Isle Granite Museum. “Our goal going forward is for the museum to always have new things to experience, new ways to understand our island culture, new things to learn about its granite industry, and more reasons for local residents and visitors to return repeatedly to see what is new.”

Josephine Ginn Banks was the only child of a sea captain from Prospect, Maine. She lived in and photographed Stonington in the early 20th century after having eloped in 1899, at the age of 36, to marry Charles E. Banks, a stonecutter working in Stonington’s quarries. While she had no formal training, being a photographer was core to her identity and self-reported as her occupation in the 1910 census. Her work was only recently displayed publicly for the first time

in 2023 thanks to a major exhibition at Maine Maritime Museum, which holds a collection of over 1200 of her images. This is the first time Banks' photographs of Stonington will be exhibited locally.

Catherine Cyr is the Associate Curator at Maine Maritime Museum in Bath. Catherine received her A.B. from Bowdoin College where she investigated the intersection of material culture and society through a self-designed American Studies major. Prior to graduating with an M.A. from the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture in 2022, where her research focused on Maine-made objects and architecture, she worked at the Pejepscot History Center in Brunswick. Catherine currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Tate House Museum in Portland and Vernacular Architecture Form's New England Chapter. She is also a member of the Board of Advisors for the Center for Painted Wall Preservation.

The Deer Isle Granite Museum is open Wednesday through Saturdays from 10am - 4 pm June to October, and at other times for school trips and tours by special request. For more information about the Deer Isle Granite Museum, please visit it at 51 Main Street or visit the Museum at <https://deerislegranitemuseum.org> or on Facebook and Instagram.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The Deer Isle Granite Museum was founded in 1995 by Frank and Denie Weil of Stonington, Maine and Washington, D.C. to fill a gap in Stonington's Main Street cultural assets and historical legacy. Its signature asset is a large, working model of the Crotch Island Quarry that includes a narrated video of how the quarries worked and the role they played in Stonington's history. The Museum has also published *Stone Slabs and Iron Men*, an illustrated history of the industry, available for purchase at the Museum.

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PHOTO CAPTION: Woman Fishing in Stonington at the turn of the 20th century by Josephine Ginn Banks. Large format photographs from the Maine Maritime Museum's collection of Banks' work will be on display at the Deer Isle Granite Museum this summer, with an opening gallery talk by Catherine Cyr on Thursday, July 11 at 7 p.m. Photo courtesy Maine Maritime Museum.