

Childe Hassam

The South Ledges, Appledore, 1913

Oil on canvas

Smithsonian American Art Museum
Gift of John Gellatly

American Impressionist painter Childe Hassam (1859-1935) beautifully captured a dappled sunlit moment on Appledore Island off the coast of Maine, a favorite place he traveled to each summer. Along with a circle of musicians, writers, and other artists, Hassam helped establish an informal artist colony on Appledore at the home of his friend, the poet Celia Thaxter.

In Thaxter's gardens and on nearby rocky beaches, Hassam used flickering brushstrokes and brilliant colors to paint the fleeting light of Appledore's brief summer season. This painting evokes the leisurely, seasonal rhythms of America's privileged families in the years before World War I. A beautifully dressed woman shields her face from the sun; she looks down and away, as if absorbed in the song of a sandpiper—the island bird that inspired Celia Thaxter's most famous children's poem, *The Sandpiper*.



Celia Thaxter's home on Appledore Island, 1901

Edward Hopper

Ryder's House, 1933

Oil on canvas

Smithsonian American Art Museum
Bequest of Henry Ward Ranger through
the National Academy of Design

From the time he was 29 years old, Edward Hopper (1882-1967) spent nearly every summer in New England painting the dunes and cottages of Cape Cod, the rolling hills and farms of Vermont, and the rocky shore of Maine. Hopper enjoyed his solitary time on the coast amid the sand, dune grasses, and low-lying shrubs.

Known for his realist paintings of modern American life, Hopper often rented a summer cottage not far from this blocky, clapboard dwelling situated on a bluff overlooking the Atlantic coast. The modest and tidy house, depicted in *Ryder's House*, once belonged to a family of longtime Cape Cod fishermen in Massachusetts. Its distinct white walls are a stark contrast to Hopper's loosely painted grass, hills, and cloudy blue sky that offer a feeling of both serenity and quiet isolation.



Present day view of Ryder Beach, Massachusetts

Georgia O'Keeffe

Hibiscus with Plumeria, 1939

Oil on canvas

Smithsonian American Art Museum
Gift of Sam Rose and Julie Walters

In 1938 the Dole Pineapple Company (then known as the Hawaiian Pineapple Company) hired the celebrated Modernist painter Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986) to create paintings for an advertising campaign. They covered the cost of her two-month trip to Hawaii, but she never painted a pineapple during her time there. O'Keeffe chose instead to create works such as this up-close view of hibiscus and plumeria flowers set against a pure blue sky. It was with reluctance that she finally fulfilled her commission after Dole was forced to fly a pineapple plant to her New York studio. That painting, *Pineapple Bud* (1939), is now in the collection of the Honolulu Museum of Art.



Georgia O'Keeffe, *Pineapple Bud*, 1939, Honolulu Museum of Art