



The Hood Museum, Dartmouth College
&
Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site
Cornish, New Hampshire
Wednesday, October 9

7:30 am – Arrive at the Museums’ State Street lot located across the street from the Springfield Main Library. Park in the lot and board the bus at the curbside. **Depart at 7:45 am sharp.**

10:15 am – Estimated arrival. Enjoy a guided tour of the **Hood Museum of Art** and view the renovated galleries following a recent major expansion. Owned and operated by Dartmouth College, the collection encompasses important holdings of American, Native American, European, African, and Melanesian art, including a significant collection of indigenous Australian contemporary art and a major archive of photojournalism. Among the collection’s greatest treasures are the ninth-century BCE Assyrian stone reliefs and the fresco mural cycle *The Epic of American Civilization* (1932-34), by José Clemente Orozco.

12 noon – Lunch at the King Arthur bakery and café nearby. Menu will be announced.

Following lunch, we’ll tour the studio and gardens at the **Augustus Saint-Gaudens NHS** with over 200 pieces of sculpture throughout. This was his summer residence from 1885 to 1897, his permanent home from 1900 until his death in 1907, and the center of the Cornish Art Colony.

Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907), created over 150 works of art, from exquisitely carved cameos to heroic-size public monuments. Works such as *the Puritan* (Deacon Samuel Chapin), *Standing Lincoln* monument and the *Shaw Memorial*, continue to inspire people today and his design for the 1907 Twenty Dollar Gold Piece, is considered America’s most beautiful coin.

The son of French and Irish immigrants, Saint-Gaudens was born in Ireland and at 6 years old, landed in New York. He was destined to become America’s foremost sculptor. His work was to lead an American Renaissance and place him alone and above his contemporaries on either side of the Atlantic. The great sculptor, Rodin, on seeing his work at the Paris Exposition of 1900, doffed his hat, as homage to the artist.

At the age of 13, Saint-Gaudens was apprenticed to a cameo cutter. A willing pupil who showed unusual promise, his miniature cameos rivaled his master’s and eventually surpassed them. As he worked at creating cameos, which he described as his “miserable slavery,” he was privy to the goings-on outside his window. The American Civil War was raging. Saint-Gaudens witnessed regiments of men marching off to war, singing “John Brown’s Body” as they went. He saw Ulysses Grant and to his amazement President Lincoln, whose height, he observed, seemed “entirely out of proportion” in the carriage he rode. He also saw the wounded returning from war, and President Lincoln lying in state at New York’s City Hall — these images would remain with him for his entire life and translate to seven sculptures that would memorialize the Civil War.

What to bring: Dress in layers as temperatures can vary between the bus, the museums and the outside. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat, snacks and water for the bus.