The People of New Jersey: Their Enduring Journey

Celebrating the Vitality and Joys of Multiculturalism: A Century of Print Collecting
Welcome

This catalog profiles two exhibitions that are part of Transcultural New Jersey: An Arts and Education Initiative. The Newark Public Library is pleased to join with over twenty other New Jersey institutions in this celebration of our state’s cultural diversity.

Since the Library opened 115 years ago, it has developed collections reflective of its diverse clientele. The items displayed in the current exhibitions are drawn largely from these collections.

We welcome you to these exhibitions; and we hope that you will return to the Library often to explore its many other outstanding resources.

Alex Boyd, Ph.D.
Director

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Cover images
Left: Prince Street was the center of old Jewish Newark at the dawn of the 20th century.
Right: Feria del Libro, serigraph by Rafael Tufino. Gift of the Prudential Foundation.
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SCOPE

The inhabitants of New Jersey have always been its lifeblood. Its men and women, children and older people, healthy and infirm have shaped the landscape and produced a variety of "societies", "cultures", or communities which we now define as New Jersey.

From the distant past the original people of the Lenni Lenape called New Jersey home as they traveled the forests and in their annual journey to the shore to feast on succulent oysters at the present site of the busy Newark Airport. By the last quarter of the 17th century they were to come in contact with the first Europeans, and a clash of lifestyles was soon to occur. From that mixing of the original, or native people, with the first Europeans, a chain of events was set in motion, which continues today in the first decade of the 21st century.

What makes this natural movement of society so interesting in New Jersey is its intensity and diversity. Often called the most diverse state in America, nearly every community found in the modern day United States is represented somewhere in the Garden State's 21 counties and 566 municipalities.

In regard to the great variety of people who have inhabited New Jersey, there has not been agreement as to how these groups have affected their communities. In fact, with the change of time there have been different interpretations of attitudes about the constant social transformation.

Many middle-aged people may remember, especially during the hard years of World War II, that "we all pulled together" into the melting pot theory to defeat the axis in Europe. But with the changing of America, and the passage of new immigration laws, many have rejected this "one America" feeling and have come to a dual or hyphenated interpretation to their status as Americans. This latter interpretation has both its adherents and detractors. Some say it is only natural and right to be proud of your ancestral heritage, and to celebrate it is being truly American. Others disagree, claiming it weakens the nation and will result in disunity. Others perhaps lie somewhere between these statements, while others simply do not care one way or another.

In our exhibition, we are going to sample some of the great richness which is New Jersey's ethnic legacy. It is impossible to talk about, display and illustrate the more than one hundred groups appearing in the census, however, we will try to do our best to bring you a good representation of this myriad of communities which have come to our state from the four corners of the earth.

It is this curator's belief that diversity has led, is leading, and will continue to make New Jersey one of the most interesting of states — literally a jewel in the American crown of accomplishment and success.

THE OLD IMMIGRANT

Change was not only recorded by what one saw but more specifically by a recorded census. While still a British colony, a pre-Revolutionary War era census illustrated that most of its early residents were scattered around the colony and lived on farms. Its small villages included Burlington, Shrewsbury, Newark, New Brunswick, Acquackanonk and Bergen, usually meeting places for the transaction of farm business and almost totally lacking in industrial potential.

Occasionally a mill would be located on a stream bank, but these definitely were not the industrial sites which became standard in the 19th century.

In many ways, the 19th century was the time of the German as well as the Irish, Italian and Jewish immigrant. This Bi-Centennial of the first land of Germans in America was celebrated in Newark’s Broad Street in front of Old First Church, the bastion of old Puritan Newark.
entire economy changed. Goods could be produced and sold anywhere that ships and later trains and canals could carry them. The new economy demanded labor to run its factories, forges, and mills, and to manage the transportation facilities. As a result immigration grew and grew.

TECHNIQUES

Assembling an exhibition such as this one on groups of people, is based upon past and continued collecting by an agency. The basis for this project has been The Newark Public Library’s New Jersey Information Center. The Library has been responsible for collecting historical and current information about New Jersey, and is frequently used by numerous clients. To answer their questions, it contains five large collections that include copious numbers of books, newspapers, photographs, and mementoes plus indexes prepared by its staff. Its books include almost anything within reason that deals with people, places or things throughout the state. Its newspaper collection is composed of clippings arranged in 4,000 folders, the 3.8 million-item newspaper morgue of the old Newark News and several 20th century newspaper indexes. More than 30,000 fine photographs are found in the central Library collection, more than 800,000 photographs are a legacy from the Newark News gift several years ago, and a 300,000 card index file helps guide users to requested materials. In addition, both the document and memento collections hold some information.

But it is the photographic collections which yield valuable sources in cases such as this exhibition. Long-time acquisitions from a variety of sources have enriched the collection. But even these resources need constant updating, and the Library has relied heavily on recent photographs from The Star-Ledger. It is this combination of old materials assembled over the past century, along with the daily search for new graphics, that has made this exhibition possible.

Not all of New Jersey’s migration was drawn by its need to power industry. In fact, many individuals wanted to seek greener pastures, to start anew or escape impossible problems in the old world. The potato famine in Ireland and a chain of bad crops in Italy, conscription in the Germanys, the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Russia, religious persecution of the Jews across Europe, crushing poverty in general or just plain bad luck brought others to 19th and 20th century New Jersey. The constant stream of new arrivals fell into two broad categories whether early or later immigrants. Many of these journeys have been recorded by writers including Rudolph Vecoli in his book The People of New Jersey published in 1964, Barbara Cunningham’s...

Picking up from the time of their work, we have relied upon daily newspaper accounts to bring news of the latest arrivals to center stage, and have in some instances, interviewed new arrivals when possible.

Navigating the changing and churning seas of immigration has been constant, as millions have headed toward North America, New Jersey and Newark during the past three and a half centuries. While the cast of characters has changed, the reasons for coming have differed, and while the newcomers represent almost every corner of the world, their search has been for one thing — simply a better life.

While the modern census tells us pretty much who selected New Jersey as home, historical records are not as precise as we would like them to be. Despite a brief period starting in 1798, it was not until the Act of 1819 that ship captains or masters began regularly to record on a manifest of all passengers taken aboard (the) “age, sex, occupation of each passenger and the country.” These ledgers also indicated if a death occurred during the voyage. This information was turned over to the United States Secretary of State, who then forwarded it to Congress. It has been estimated that by 1819 nearly 250,000 had arrived. Between 1820 and 1870 immigration statistics were compiled by the State Department, between 1867 and 1896 by the Treasury Department, and since 1892 by the Office of Bureau of Immigration which became part of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. From 1892 until 1932 the Bureau of Immigration issued annual reports.

In later years these statistics have appeared in the Annual Report of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. East coast immigration has been well reported, but it was not until later that records were kept for the Gulf ports, and not until 1850 that federal agencies tabulated foreign arrivals from Pacific ports. During the American Civil War federal agencies kept track of port entries in occupied southern cities.

While generally good, record keeping has not been perfect, nor necessarily uniform. 20th century reporting of 19th century census activities for New Jersey acknowledges that the state was the recipient mainly of a European heritage.
From 1860 until 1950, New Jersey became home to a largely European population with the greatest number coming from the British Isles, Ireland in particular, Germany, Poland, the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, Russia (USSR), Italy, the Netherlands and Canada, and but a handful recorded from the “other Americas.”

In the case of Newark, the four largest groups that immigrated were the Germans, Irish, Italians and Jews from all over Europe. This flow was soon to change following the two World Wars. In May 2002 a Star-Ledger headline read “Dwindling European Heritage. Census figures show a sharp drop since ’90.” The article reported that “some of the largest ethnic groups to originally settle New Jersey, or who came here in the great waves of immigration in the last century are dwindling — swallowed up in assimilation, retiring to the Sun Belt or simply dying off.” In September 2003, The Star-Ledger continued, “Diversity is rising in New Jersey. The minority population is growing faster than the white population in two-thirds of Jersey counties.”

In neighboring New York State, The New York Times reported a similar trend: “The Germans Came Now They Are Us. An Ethnic Queens Neighborhood Is Melting Away into America.” While the territory is different, the story is pretty much the same. Perhaps a truly American identity is developing to the heartbreak of some and joy of others.

In the second part of the Newark exhibition the new waves of immigrants that will be visited include the Arabs, Armenians, Brazilians, Cambodians, Chinese, Cubans, Dominicans, Egyptians, Ethiopians, Filipinos, Haitians, Hispanics, Indians, Japanese, Koreans, Laotians, Mongolians, Nigerians, Palestinians, Poles, Portuguese, Puerto Ricans, Russians, Syrians, Tibetans and Vietnamese.

Charles F. Cummings
Assistant Director
for Special Collections,
The Newark Public Library and
Newark City Historian
Since the Fine Print Collection was started in early 1902 at this Library, the staff assigned to the highly creative task of working and building this truly remarkable gathering of graphic arts has been fully aware of the amazing diversity and the technical accomplishments of printmakers from other parts of the world who have made our state their home or studio space while avidly pursuing careers as fine artists in our relatively small, but highly essential part of the United States. Some of the high points in the collection are prints from Japan spanning works created late in the 18th century to today, prints by American artists of the past two centuries, European artists from both the 19th and 20th centuries, Puerto Rican master posters and prints from 1950 to today, and ancillary works such as historic maps, greeting cards, sheet music covers, 1001 shopping bags with striking designs, illustrated and artists books, pop-ups and celebrated prints spread throughout the holdings. As expected, only a few of the artists included were closely associated by residence or by workplace with the Garden State. A primary statute of the collecting policy has always been to have a truly international representation. A world view without geographic limitations was considered the best policy for the aesthetic needs of the cosmopolitan city of Newark and surrounding community interests in a continuously evolving history and new technical developments noted in the broad universe of the graphic arts in our times.

Nevertheless, it is a source of enormous pleasure and pride to exhibit nearly four score works of graphic art by immigrant New Jersey artists as part of this memorable project representing a variety of generations, iconography and techniques. The older cities of northeast New Jersey have been home to countless immigrants from the earliest times as a nation. From 1889 the overall policy of The Newark Public Library was to welcome new populations to a rapidly growing American city and to make life more interesting, more humanistic and more worthwhile for everyone. This democratic policy continues today in most areas of activity with world language collections in quantity covering 19 languages, world history and biography, and multicultural prints, posters and artists’ books on exhibition in our galleries which are always open free of charge during regular Library hours throughout the year.

This survey show includes major prints by some immigrant artists with international reputations such as John James Audubon (from Santo Domingo) who spent time on the New Jersey coast sketching our native birds. Later artists of considerable standing are Ben Shahn (from Lithuania), Max Weber (from Russia), and Louis Lozowick (from the Ukraine). Much closer to contemporary times clearly indicating a wide variety added to the New Jersey ethnic mixture are prints by artists from Taiwan, Japan, Ecuador, Poland, India, Puerto Rico, Nigeria, Mexico, England, Italy and Scotland plus other sources of national origin. The subjects of these fascinating visual works are varied and range from realistic views to images of abstract and completely non-objective creations.

As this institution is a Library, a few art books are displayed telling of current developments and artists in regions of the world from where many recently arrived immigrant artists lived earlier in their careers. Also on view are small catalogs, commercial gallery notices and other printed ephemera relating to the lives and careers of the diverse artists featured in the exhibit. Biographical data and a few autographed items enrich the display. Some of these relatively rare documents are from the Rabin & Kreuger Archives which were given to this Library when the legendary gallery on Newark’s Halsey Street closed shop after the death of a co-proprietor. Historic illustrations of the immigration process are selected from the century old Picture Collection which is a part of the Library’s visual holdings. These bring realistic evidence and accurate atmosphere of the often trying immigrant experience.

Also noted in a nod to emigration, are our artists who left New Jersey at various times to achieve distinction in the wider...
world of art via their work, training and experience in foreign lands while maintaining close ties to America. These include Man Ray, Philip Bragar and Margaret K. Johnson. Man Ray is known primarily as one of the founders and leading spirits of Dada and Surrealism and as such was the only American to play a prominent role in the launching of these two extraordinary art movements in Europe. In 1913, Man Ray moved to Ridgefield, New Jersey where he hoped to develop a community of artists. He lived there until 1915 when his career expanded in a variety of directions. Philip Bragar is an American artist who graduated from Long Branch High School in 1943 and then studied at Monmouth Junior College from 1945 to 1947. Years later, he studied at the Esmeralda School of Painting and Sculpture in Mexico City, Mexico and taught for many years at The Mexican North-American Institute of Cultural Relations. Margaret Kennard Johnson is a Princeton resident who spent a span of years studying with master printmakers in Japan. Her prints have been part of the annual College Women’s Association of Japan held in Tokyo for over 15 years. Especially notable are the prints by three Native American print artists with strong New Jersey associations. They are Lynne Allen (Sioux heritage), Lorenzo Clayton (Navajo), and Kay Walkingstick (Cherokee).

Any mention of the renewed interest and virtual renaissance for prints in New Jersey, brings to mind the remarkable establishment and success of The Innovative Center for Print & Paper at The Mason Gross School of the Arts in New Brunswick under the guidance of the founder, Professor Judith K. Brodsky. The facility, the faculty and enthusiastic student body are a joy to recognize and special gratitude is extended to the Center for their gift of prints to this Library over the past 15 years. These truly exciting prints make up a stunning segment of our exhibit and the tradition happily continues under the direction of Lynne Allen.

The Newark Public Library’s exhibition provides unique and substantial evidence of the encouragement and fostering of the American dream for immigrant artists to thrive in the field of visual arts in a new homeland. Over a century of active participation in acquiring, exhibiting and encouraging work of newly arrived artists is shown in carefully selected examples of notable graphic art on view during this period of celebration and for continued study and display for generations to come. The future of this segment of print collecting is bright and full of promise as one considers the past century of collecting works by newly arrived residents and citizens of all nations and national origins. The variety of iconographic themes and experimental techniques is remarkable and presents stunning evidence of America’s cultural richness in the graphic arts which are flourishing in these early years of the 21st century thanks in particular to the enrichment of works by artists coming to us from other treasured cultures.

William J. Dane, Keeper of Prints, Posters and Works of Art on Paper, The Special Collections Division, The Newark Public Library
ARTISTS INCLUDED IN THE VITALITY AND JOYS OF MULTICULTURALISM

Allen, Lynne  
Contemporary Native American artist and Director of the Rutgers Center for Innovative Print and Paper.

Anreus, Alejandro (1960-)  
Contemporary artist from Cuba. Formerly chief curator of the Jersey City Museum, he is now a professor at William Paterson University.

Arakawa, Peter Stanhope (1956-)  
Contemporary artist, fourth generation Japanese-American. Arakawa has taught extensively in New Jersey, including at Middlesex County College and Raritan Valley Community College.

Araki, Shinko  
Contemporary artist from Japan, living in Edgewater.

Audubon, John James (1785-1851)  
Born in Santo Domingo, Mr. Audubon lived for 14 years in France and by 1803 was living in Philadelphia. America's most celebrated artist specializing in birds.

Barrell, Bill (1932-)  
Born in London, England. Mr. Barrell won the Harry Devlin Award and lives in New Jersey.

Bastidas, Hugo (1956-)  
Born in Quito, Ecuador. Lives and works in New Jersey and New York and is a faculty member of The New Jersey City University.

Bragar, Philip Frank (1925-)  
Contemporary painter and sculptor and teaching art in Mexico. Mr. Bragar graduated from Long Branch High School and later studied at Monmouth Junior College.

Chervin, Catalina (1953-)  
Contemporary artist living in Argentina who wanted her work in The Newark Public Library.

Clayton, Lorenzo (1951-)  
Contemporary Navajo artist who received a New Jersey State Arts Council Award in 1983.

Das, Anuradha  
Contemporary artist from India living in New Jersey.

Davson, Victor  
Contemporary artist from Guyana and Director of the Aljira Gallery in Newark.

Estopinan, Roberto (1921-)  
Born in Havana, Cuba and came to the United States in 1961 as a political exile. From 1992 to 2001, he lived in Union City and is currently living in Miami.

Gurevich, Grigory  
Contemporary artist born in Leningrad, Russia. In the early 1990’s, Mr. Gurevich made his home in Jersey City and was a teacher of sculpture at The Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts.
Gussow, Bernar (1881-1957)
Born in Russia. Mr. Gussow taught at The Newark School of Fine & Industrial Arts in Newark and his works were shown at The Rabin & Kreuger Gallery in downtown Newark.

Johnson, Margaret Kennard (1918- )
Mrs. Johnson was born in Wisconsin and makes her home in Princeton. She studied printmaking for several years in Japan and organized exhibits in Tokyo. Her career and work are a grand example of a New Jersey artist traveling and studying in another country while meriting a notable art career as a printmaker.

Jorgensen, Jorgen (1871-1938)
Born in Denmark, Mr. Jorgensen made his home in New Jersey for many years. He designed sets for Proctor’s Theater in Newark and dated prints of Newark and neighboring towns.

Konrad, Adolf (1915–2004)
Born in Breman, Germany. He had his studio and home in Newark for many years before moving to Asbury. Mr. Konrad is widely recognized as one of the Garden State’s leading 20th century artists.

Lozowick, Louis (1892-1973)
Mr. Lozowick is an internationally renowned printmaker, author, and painter born near Kiev, Ukraine. He made his home and studio in South Orange for decades.

Macarol, Victor
Noted contemporary photographer who born in Yugoslavia and makes his home in New Jersey. In 1987, he was awarded a Distinguished Artist Award by The New Jersey State Council on The Arts.

Moran, Mary Nimmo (1842-1899)
Born in Stathaven, Scotland and later married the well-known landscape painter, Thomas Moran. During the 1870’s, the Morans lived in Newark.

Moran, Thomas (1837-1926)
This celebrated artist was born in Lancashire County, England and grew up in Philadelphia. He made a number of fascinating prints of late 19th century New Jersey.

Murata, Hiroshi (1941-)
Born in Japan, he taught art techniques for many years in New Jersey. Now a resident of New Mexico.

Landrove, Manuel (1957-1989)
Born in Bayamo, Cuba. He moved to Elizabeth with his family in the mid-1960s. He was active as a graphic designer much interested in Cuban issues.

Lenson, Michael (1903-1971)
Born in Galich, Russia. He was Supervisor of Easel Painting for the WPA, and executed large murals for Weequahic High School and Newark’s City Hall. Lenson was the distinguished Art Critic for The Newark Evening News, the state’s largest newspaper.

Liao, Shiou-Ping (1936-)
Born in Taiwan. Mr. Liao graduated from The National Taiwan University in 1959 and later studied for six years at Tokyo University. Mr. Liao was on the faculty of Seton Hall University. He is a resident of Englewood Cliffs.
Nordfeldt, Bror J.O. (1878-1955)
Nordfeldt was born in Tulstorg, Sweden
and in his later years made his home in
Lambertville.

Orenstein, Philip
Originally from Poland, he and his family
moved to France just before World War II.
In 1945, the family was reunited and came
to the United States on the legendary liner,
Ile de France.

Ray, Man (1890-1976)
This highly imaginative artist is known
primarily as one of the founders and leading
exponents of Dada and Surrealism. In 1913,
Man Ray moved from New York to
Ridgefield to establish an art colony and
lived there until 1915. He became an
internationally celebrated artist with New
Jersey roots.

Rengifo, Gildardo
The artist was born in Alvarado, Tolima,
Colombia and began to paint at an early
age. He later studied at the Escuela de Bellas
Artes in Bogota. His works have been
widely exhibited. He lives with his family in
Pompton Lakes.

Sadagopan, Jayamalathy
Came to Newark to study Business
Administration on the doctorate level at the
Rutgers/Newark campus. In 2003, she
returned home to Madras, India. Her work is
also in the Dana Library at Rutgers/Newark.

Serra-Badue, Daniel (1914-1996)
The artist was born in Santiago de Cuba.
He was Assistant Director and later
Chairman of the Art History Department at
St. Peter’s College in Jersey City.

Shahn, Ben (1898-1969)
Mr. Shahn was born in Kovno, Lithuania and
lived for many years in Roosevelt, New
Jersey. He was one of the major creative
forces in the history of New Jersey Art.

Stella, Joseph (1877-1946)
Stella was born in Italy and came to the
United States in 1896 to study medicine
and pharmacology. He soon enrolled in the
Art Students League and determined to
become a painter. Newark’s Rabin & Krueger
Gallery was a major outlet for Stella’s work
for decades.

Tsvetkov, Sergei
This printmaker came to New Jersey from
Russia in 1990. His work was frequently
exhibited in Moscow and Leningrad. He was
a faculty member of The Mason Gross
School of the Arts at Rutgers University
from 1991 to 2002. His prints are in notable
collections in Europe and the United States.

Tufino, Rafael (1922- )
Mr. Tufino spent much of his creative life in
Puerto Rico. However, he lived in New
Jersey for about 9 months in the early
1950’s and worked on his portfolio of prints
relating to coffee production in Puerto Rico.

WalkingStick, Kay (1935- )
This Cherokee artist received a National
Endowment for the Arts Fellowship as well
as a Fellowship awarded by The New
Jersey State Council on the Arts. She is a
Professor of Art at Cornell University.

Weber, Max (1881-1961)
Weber was born in Bialystok, Russia. His
work was shown in the newly established
Newark Museum in 1913 and he later
worked closely on an exhibit program with
the Director of The Newark Public Library
while becoming a nationally recognized
American artist of historic distinction.
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and
Celebrating the Vitality and Joys of Multiculturalism:
A Century of Print Collecting
at
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5 Washington Street
Newark, New Jersey
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These exhibitions were presented as part of
Transcultural New Jersey: An Arts and Education Initiative,
a yearlong, statewide project documenting the contributions of Latino/Hispanic,
African-American, Asian-American and Native-American New Jersey artists
through more than 20 exhibitions at museums, galleries and arts organizations.
The program is designed to highlight the achievements of artists from historically
underrepresented populations and provide insight into the state’s diverse population,
foster cross-cultural dialogue and understanding, and impact curriculum development and education.

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and the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.
The exhibition schedule and additional information are available at www.transculturalNJ.org.

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many of the photographs featured in The People of New Jersey.