

# PSU's Museum of the White Mountains pays tribute to the Old Man

ANGEL LARCOM  
angel@salmonpress.news

PLYMOUTH—A new exhibit at Plymouth's Museum of the White Mountains examines one of the state's most enduring legacies - the Old Man of the Mountains. Inspired by the 20th anniversary of the Old Man's fall in Franconia Notch, the exhibit highlights the rock outcropping's role in paintings, historical images, documents and tourism ephemera.

"We selected items that were not just representational of the Old Man of the Mountains, but also the bigger picture of how the Old Man helped define New Hampshire," said Curator Inez McDermott.

According to Executive Director Meghan Doherty, the idea came about while she was in-

terviewing for the position in October 2021. She said the 20th anniversary of the Old Man's fall was an important topic for the White Mountains, and more concrete work began in February 2022.

"In some ways, I started work on this exhibition before I even had the job," she said. "We spent almost a year and a half planning because we wanted to make sure that we had the time to pull together the range of objects we did."

Select objects of interest include a digital display with a 3D rendering of the rock face, the first daguerreotype photograph taken of the Old Man in 1841, the model for the turnbuckle design presented to the Governor for approval in 1916 to secure the Old Man from falling and several paintings of



Museum of the Mountains Executive Director Meghan Doherty (left) gives a brief presentation during the opening reception for

the Profile by renowned White Mountain artists. The museum hosted an opening reception on June 2. The collection will remain on display until Sept 16.

Museum staff coordinated several lectures that will occur throughout the exhibition, in-

cluding one by McDermott on June 15 that features the artists who sketched, painted and photographed the icon and how their images resonated with the public.

Old Man of the Mountain Legacy Fund President Brian Fowler will

deliver a lecture on Aug 10 about the geologic history of the icon. He said the lecture series aimed to highlight some aspects of the Old Man's legacy. He added that Legacy Fund founder Dick Hamilton wanted his personal collection of Old Man memorabilia

to go directly to the Museum of the White Mountains.

"He left instructions that we would try to see if we could develop a more cooperative relationship with the museum so that all the memorabilia - objects, artwork, documents and so forth related to the Old Man - would find a safe and well-managed storage place," stated Fowler. "We've established a great working relationship with them."

All lectures are free to the public and grant-funded by the New Hampshire Humanities Community Project Grants. To learn more, visit [www.plymouth.edu/mwm/events](http://www.plymouth.edu/mwm/events).

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