

betty & barney

April 1 through
November 2, 2026





Betty and Barney Hill were a couple living in 1960's Portsmouth. Both were civil rights activists and members of the local chapter of the NAACP. Barney was a postman and Betty was a social worker, and they lived on State Street with their dachshund, Delsey.

On the night of September 19, 1961, the course of their lives would change forever. While they were driving home from a honeymoon trip in Canada, they believed they were abducted by aliens. Though they didn't tell many people initially (and only remembered details of the night later under hypnosis), eventually the story got out, and their experience would go on to influence, not only their lives, but Portsmouth, and pop culture in general for many years to come.

Check out highlights from our Betty and Barney exhibition and the accompanying NHAA art exhibition in the following slides, and choose a piece that inspires you to make your own work of art for the Young Artists Contest!



Untitled alien portrait, David C. Baker



Bust of alien ("Junior"), Marjorie Fish



Chair, Norman Cherner (1920-1987), designer;
manufactured by Plycraft (active 1953-94), and
triangular side table



Airflow six-cup teapot, Leonard
Brinley, designer; manufactured by
Hall China Co. (est. 1903)



PORTSMOUTH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEW HAMPSHIRE
ART ASSOCIATION

Contemporary Currents

April 1 - November 14, 2026



Who am I? And why am I here?
Sheila Papetti



Emergence,
Mae Kenny



Questionable Existence
Gail Allen



Delsey
Adric Giles



We Come In Peace
Shawn Carlin



Historical Visits From Beyond
Marilene Sawaf