



RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)
invites you to attend its meeting on **Wednesday, August 5, 2015**
First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette place, Greenwich, CT

HOLLISTER STURGES

A New Vision of the American Frontier: The River Paintings of George Caleb Bingham

Legend and folklore have romanticized The American West for generations. Yet one of the most compelling and memorable images of the frontier was fashioned in the 1840s by an artist from a backwater town on the Missouri River. Resisting the temptation to sensationalize, George Caleb Bingham won national recognition by painting the familiar everyday activity of boatmen working in the Missouri and Mississippi River Basin.

Hollister Sturges will discuss how the self-taught Bingham mastered the art of painting and developed a signature style that depicted the vital role the inland waterways played in commerce, trade, and progress. In the "River Paintings" Bingham created a vision of the American Frontier that presented the West as a promising land, civilized, secure and attractive to investors, settlers, tourists, and men of ambition.



Before his active membership and leadership in the Greenwich RMA Hollister Sturges was formerly executive director of the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, Connecticut; chief curator at the Indianapolis Museum of Art; and director of the Museum of Fine Arts, Springfield, Massachusetts.

He is an art historian with expertise in nineteenth-century painting and contemporary art. His publications include *Art of the Fantastic: Latin America, 1920-1987*; *Jules Breton and the French Rural Tradition*; *New Art from Puerto Rico*; and *The Rural Vision: France and America in the Late Nineteenth Century*. He holds a Masters in Arts from the University of California/Berkeley in Art History, and a BA in Comparative Literature from Cornell University.

RMA meetings are free and open to the public; no reservations are required. Please plan to arrive around 10:40AM for our social break (coffee and cake), followed by our speaker at 11:00M. Meetings are held at the First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich, with parking on-street or at public lot two houses north of the church on Lafayette Place. For additional information, contact: jim.fishbein1@verizon.net