

**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

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***UNEXPECTED SHAKER HIGHLIGHTS LESSER-KNOWN OBJECTS  
FROM MUSEUM COLLECTION***

*Exhibition runs from Saturday, June 8, through Sunday, September 1*

Kinderhook, NY – Shaker Museum announces its summer 2024 exhibition, *Unexpected Shaker*. True to its title, this pop-up exhibition at the museum’s gallery space in the Kinderhook Knitting Mill focuses on unusual, lesser-known, and one-of-a-kind objects in the museum’s collection of over 18,000 material objects of Shaker culture.

Shaker Museum Director of Library & Collections Jerry Grant explains the inspiration for the exhibition’s theme: “In a 2019 article in *Mortise & Tenon* magazine, Brother Arnold Hadd of the Sabbathday Lake, ME, Shakers remarked that museums tend to exhibit Shaker objects universally agreed to represent excellence in Shaker design. These examples, however, fall short of telling the whole story of the Shakers. *Unexpected Shaker* presents examples from Shaker Museum’s collection that reflect the importance of function over aesthetics, the wear and tear of use, and the infiltration of worldly styles in Shaker life. Each vignette includes biographical information and, when possible, photographs of the maker.”

Some of the objects in this exhibition include a monochord (or piano-violin) designed and built by Brother Elisha Blakeman of the Mount Lebanon, NY, Church Family, a Victorian tripod sewing stand built by Brother Thomas Fisher of the Enfield, CT, Shaker Community, and an oil painting of the Canterbury, NH, Shaker Meetinghouse by Sister Cora Helena Sarle.

***Unexpected Shaker***

**Opening: Saturday, June 8, 2024, 5:00 to 7:00 PM**

Kinderhook Knitting Mill

8 Hudson Street

Kinderhook, NY 12106

**Hours:**

Fridays and Saturdays: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Sundays: 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Runs through Sunday, September 1, 2024

No tickets or advance reservations are required. For more information on the exhibition visit [shakermuseum.us](http://shakermuseum.us). For more information on the Kinderhook Knitting Mill (located at 8 Hudson Street in Kinderhook, NY) visit [kinderhookknittingmill.com](http://kinderhookknittingmill.com).

Link to high-resolution images for media use:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/gvesvd5xg4y73rii6emng/AJJF6qDpHPKXZeO6FQxf38?rlkey=fu9wdry5nntgegot9k1yn48bz&st=fyxd9gXH&dl=0>

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### About Shaker Museum

With more than 18,000 objects, Shaker Museum stewards the most comprehensive collection of Shaker material culture and archives. It is the leader nationwide among organizations devoted to Shaker history. Its permanent new facility in Chatham, NY, which is in development, was designed by Selldorf Architects. The museum also stewards the historic site in New Lebanon, NY, and will soon be moving its administrative offices, library, and archives to 29 Jones Ave. in Chatham. The museum's collection can be viewed online at [shakermuseum.us](http://shakermuseum.us).