

Angles of a Landscape

Emily Dickinson

SEEING NEW ENGLANDLY

The poet Emily Dickinson lived all her life (1830 – 1886) in the small New England town of Amherst, Massachusetts. Yet from the large windows of her bedroom in the family Homestead, she observed a world as vast as her imagination. Many of her almost 1,800 poems are now considered among the greatest in the English language. “I see New Englandly,” she wrote, alert to the drama of the weather, the spectacles of the northern sky, the lives and deaths of the people around her, the natural world she shared with plants and creatures, and also events far beyond the horizon of her native town.

“Seeing New Englandly,” the second program in the series “Angles of a Landscape: Perspectives on Emily Dickinson,” explores the poet’s education, her lifelong interest in science and literature, her fascination with the search for the Northwest Passage, and her response to the tragedy of the Civil War. The poems featured in

the film introduce us to her boundless New England vision, “numerous as space – But neighboring as Noon –.” The program also highlights a time of despair for Dickinson: at the height of her poetic creativity she experienced serious eye problems that threatened her with blindness.

The program is lushly illustrated by the paintings of artists who, like Dickinson, probed the natural world in their work: Thomas Cole, Frederic Edwin Church, George Inness, John Kensett, Elbridge Kingsley, and other painters of the Hudson River and Luminist schools. The musical background includes works by Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, and Mendelssohn.

The 57-minute program was written and narrated by poet Susan Snively, edited and produced by Ernest Urvater, and created under the auspices of the Emily Dickinson Museum.

Emily Dickinson Museum

280 Main Street, Amherst, MA 01002

413 542-8161

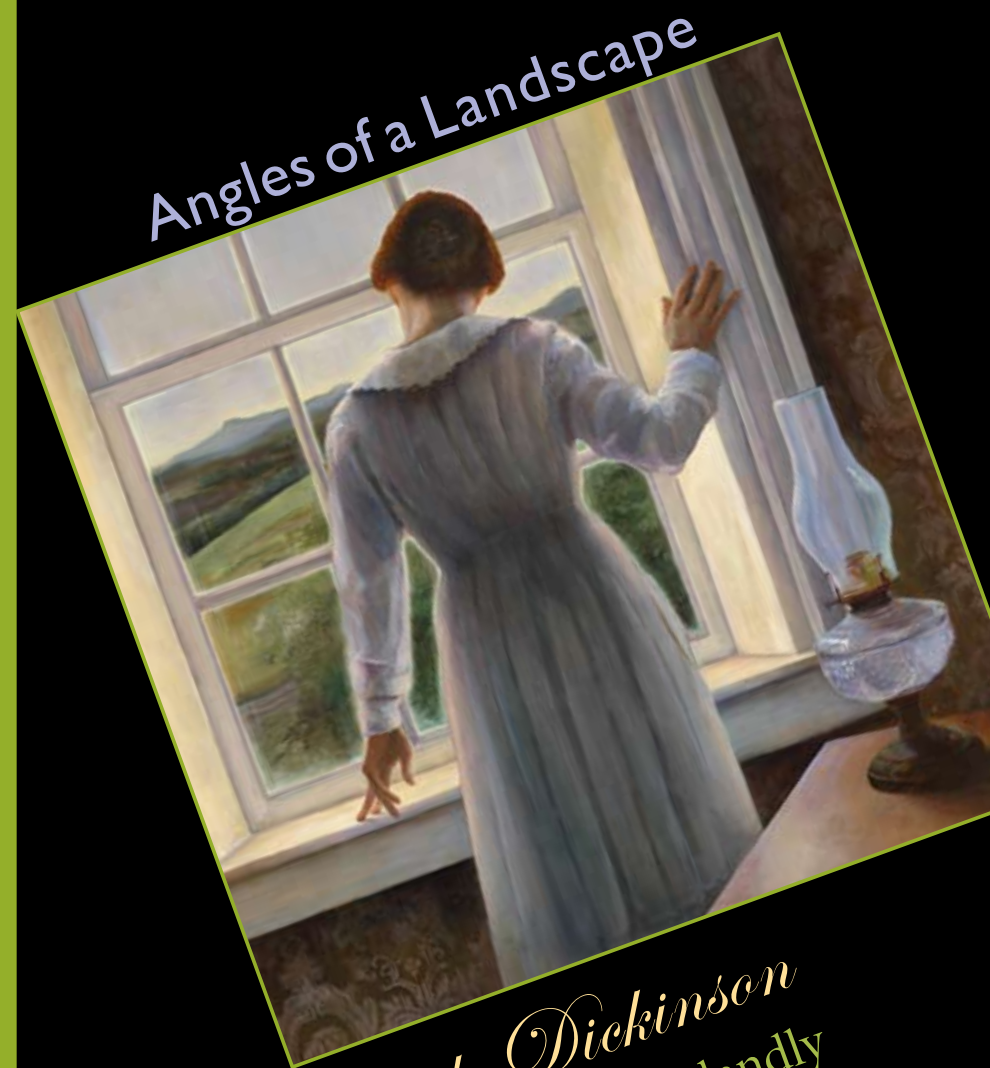
www.emilydickinsonmuseum.org



Paintings by Elizabeth Pels

Angles of a Landscape

Emily Dickinson



Angles of a Landscape

Emily Dickinson
Seeing New Englandly



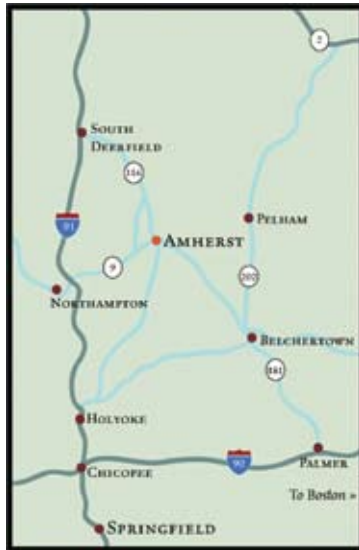
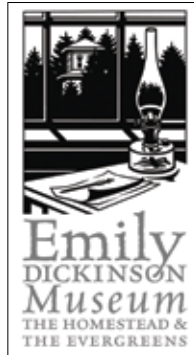
Mission

The Emily Dickinson Museum is dedicated to educating diverse audiences about Emily Dickinson's life, family, creative work, times, and enduring relevance, and to preserving and interpreting the Homestead and The Evergreens as historical resources for the benefit of scholars and the general public.

Museum Visits

The Emily Dickinson Museum is open each year from March through December. Admission to the Dickinson family homes is by guided tour. Audio tours of the landscape are also available. The Tour Center, with museum shop, is located in the Homestead. For detailed information about tours, admission fees, and accessibility, please visit our website, www.emilydickinson-museum.org.

The Emily Dickinson Museum is located on Main Street in Amherst, two blocks east of the town center.



From Boston: Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) west to Exit 4 (West Springfield). Take I-91 North to Exit 19, Route 9 east, through Hadley to Amherst (approximately 5 miles). At top of hill in Amherst center, turn left at traffic light onto South Pleasant Street. Turn right at the next light onto Main Street. Parking is available at on-street meters in front of the Museum.

From the South: Interstate 91 north to Exit 19, Route 9 east to Amherst center at top of hill, then same as above.

From the North: Interstate 91 south to Exit 24. Routes 5 & 10 south to Route 116 south to Amherst. Left on Route 9 east to Amherst center at top of hill, then same as above.

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Seeing New Englandly

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Emily Dickinson



The poet's bedroom

The Emily Dickinson Museum

Visitors to Amherst, Massachusetts, may step into the intimate world of one of America’s best-loved poets, Emily Dickinson (1830-1886).

During her lifetime, Dickinson wrote nearly 1,800 poems, fewer than a dozen of which were published before her death. The world that inspired her to write about life, love, and death was a small one, consisting of two homes that stand side by side on Amherst’s Main Street.

The Homestead

The poet spent most of her life at the Homestead, built by her grandfather around 1813. Emily’s bedroom in adulthood was on the second floor, its west windows facing the center of Amherst and her brother’s home, The Evergreens. In this room she polished her verse, including favorites like “I’m nobody! Who are you?” and “Because I could not stop for Death.”

Emily and her sister Lavinia, both unmarried, remained at home with their parents while brother Austin pursued a legal career, married the poet’s girlhood friend, Susan Huntington Gilbert, and settled down next door. Emily Dickinson died at the Homestead in 1886, leaving behind a cache of brilliant poems for the world to discover.

The Evergreens

In honor of Austin and Susan’s marriage in 1856, Emily’s father built a house for the couple next to the Homestead. The Evergreens epitomized the fashionable Italianate style. While the Homestead provided a quiet retreat for Emily, The Evergreens was the scene of frequent social and cultural activity, thanks to Austin and Susan’s vigorous hospitality.

A path “just wide enough for two who love,” in Emily’s words, linked the two properties and contributed to the intimacy of the family homes.

The Evergreens

