

**SPECIAL EXHIBIT
OPENS SEPT 2018**

Heroines
AT THE
Helm

THE WHALING MUSEUM

Agnes Tapley with sextant. SAFR J9.24,359.28. Courtesy San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

2018-2019 *Heroines at the Helm*

The Whaling Museum & Education Center, Cold Spring Harbor, New York

Heroines at the Helm explored the impact of women who broke social bounds to affect change in a male-defined world as reflected in the arts spanning 19th century whaling wives to 20th century and contemporary female artists.

To represent the 20th century, female artists were chosen based on their artistic merit, impact, and struggle to be recognized as part of the artistic canon while simultaneously shaping the discipline. *Heroines at the Helm* illuminated the experiences of women who have been invisible in the traditional narrative of American culture within the realms of art and history, yet found ways to forge ahead despite marginalization.

Reflecting these challenges as seen through art the exhibition served as a model for the field of maritime museums, whose exhibits typically center on historically male-dominated industries and experiences.

Esphyr Slobodkina's works *Self Portrait* (1960) *The Broken Promise of Marital Bliss* (1989) *Nails* (1978) *Toilers of the Sea* (1929) *Copper Interest* (1948) *Shopping Industry* (1948) *Spangles* (1948) *Crossroads* (1948) *Deus Ex Machina* (1960) were included in the show.