

# Young at Art!

## Picture This: Abigail Adams — A Founding Mother

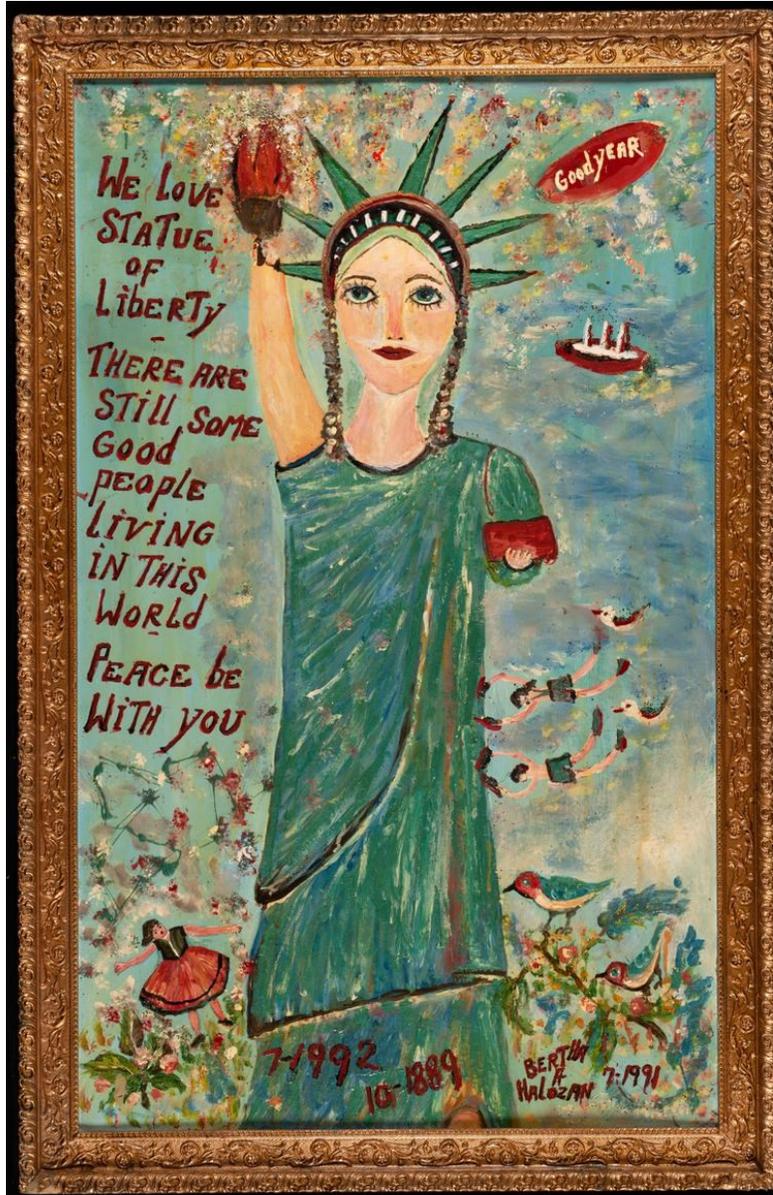


*Abigail Adams*, 1795. Ralph Earl (1751-1801). Oil on canvas, 35" x 31 1/2" x 2 3/4." Fenimore Art Museum.

Regarded by scholars as one of the most important women in the history of America, Abigail Adams advised her husband during the formative years of the American Revolution and the early years of the American republic, shaping, through him, national policy and the American character. Abigail's husband, John Adams, was an attorney, a member of the Continental Congress, and the second President of the United States. John relied upon Abigail's learned opinions and good judgment as expressed through her letters, which she wrote while single-handedly raising her children, caring for orphans of war, and managing a farm. Reunited after the war and John's travels abroad, Abigail continued to exert her influence as First Lady. Her son, John Quincy Adams, became the sixth President of the United States.

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## Picture This: The Portrait of a Nation



*Statue of Liberty*, 1991. Bertha Halozan. Oil and glitter on canvas. 35 1/2" x 21 1/2". Fenimore Art Museum.

The architects of the early American republic drew inspiration from classical Rome. In both nations, citizens elected representatives to serve their interests in a democratic process of lawmaking. These political freedoms were visually represented by the Roman goddess Libertas, who in America welcomed immigrants in the form of the monumental neoclassical sculpture 'the Statue of Liberty' (*Liberty Enlightening the World*).

Vibrant folk art painter Bertha Halozan emigrated from Austria to America in 1956. She began painting after suffering a stroke at the age of 62. Her colorful illustrations convey the optimism and appreciation for life that Bertha endeavored to share with the world. In *Statue of Liberty*, Bertha commemorates her arrival in America. Personal symbols are integrated throughout the image, such as Liberty's pigtails and a girl with a red dirndl dress.