

Arts, history centers show Hoerman works

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Original paintings by Carl Hoerman (1885-1955), one of Saugatuck's most famous artists, are now on display in public areas at the Saugatuck Center for the Arts and Saugatuck-Douglas History Center.

The four works were on view at the recently closed Saugatuck Huntington Bank branch, 249 Mason St., for more than 90 years.

Born in Germany, Hoerman emigrated with his family at age 9 to Chicago, where he studied and opened an architect's office at 19. By age 30 he had retired to mostly painting and opened a studio-gallery in Saugatuck. Here he grew well known for his realistic paintings of the Lake Michigan shoreline. The artist likely hand-carved frames for these four works too.

The History Center, 130 W Center St., Douglas, is displaying "October Day on Lake Kalamazoo" and "Autumn Symphony," both from 1929. The paintings join the SDHC's collection of Hoerman's original architectural drawings for projects here.

Public viewing during winter hours are Mondays from 11 a.m. or by online appointment (sdhistorical-society.org).

The SCA, 400 Culver St.,



Saugatuck, has received and is showing "Seascape from Dunes" and "The Kalamazoo River," both 1930, outside its conference room near the entrance pavilion. Public hours are weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Extra

hours vary and may be found at sc4a.org.

The two institutions have celebrated Hoerman's work before. In 2007 the SCA hosted his first major solo exhibition "The Art of Carl Hoerman: An Émigré's Vision of America."

The history center March 15 hosted a program about its old and new acquisitions too.

SDHC director Eric Gollanek says the bank likely bought the four Hoerman works in 1930. It is also possible the artist's

partner donated them after Hoerman passed away, or then-Fruitgrowers Bank head Daniel Gerber commissioned them; "October Day" (above, showing Saugatuck's Big Pavilion across the river) was painted from the later baby

food magnate's Douglas land.

A November 1929 Commercial Record article announced the works' appearance at the bank closing "Lovers of art should drop into the bank and view these paintings."