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Mural once displayed at The New York Times returns to view at Omaha Central Library

Julie Anderson

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Years before globe-circling satellites, the Apollo missions or even the Artemis II made views of Earth from space nearly commonplace, artist Eugene Kingman painted a mural in the basement of Omaha's Joslyn Art Museum that captured the post-World War II globe as one entity.

Commissioned by former New York Times Publisher Arthur Hays Sulzberger, the mural hung in the lobby of the New York Times for more than 40 years before it was brought back to Omaha, where it was restored and hung downtown in the now-defunct W. Dale Clark Library for nearly a decade more.



Quinlan Kingman Eddy points Wednesday to a mural by his grandfather, Eugene Kingman, that hangs in the new Omaha Central Library at 72nd and Dodge Streets. Commissioned by New York Times Publisher Arthur Hays Sulzberger, the mural was on display in the newspaper's lobby for more than 40 years before it was brought back to Omaha.

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Now the 7-by-20-foot mural has found a new home in the Omaha Central Library at 72nd and Dodge Streets, which opens to the public on Sunday.

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On Wednesday, Kingman's daughter, grandson and Omahans who helped bring home and restore the mural held a dedication event to mark its return to the public eye.

"This is just stunning," said Mixie Kingman Eddy, Kingman's daughter, as she got a glimpse of the mural, mounted at eye level behind plexiglass. In addition to being a painter and muralist, Kingman directed the Joslyn Art Museum from 1946 to 1968. The painting is dated November 1948 and signed signed by Kingman and friend Richard Edes Harrison, one of the nation's most famed cartographers.

Kingman Eddy credited her late mother and sister, Elizabeth, and the Omaha group for helping the mural make its journey. "I feel like my parents' spirits are here, and I'm just deeply grateful to all of you," she said, noting that having the mural in a new home is a "dream come true."



Maureen McCann Waldron points Wednesday to the plaque next to a mural by Eugene Kingman that's on display in the new Omaha Central Library. She was a driving force behind the mural's return to Omaha and restoration but said dozens of people were behind the effort.

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Maureen McCann Waldron, a driving force behind the mural's return and restoration, said dozens of people were behind the effort.

The New York Times had taken it down in the late 1980s, and it had sat rolled in storage for a quarter-century, according to World-Herald archives. The Kingman daughters got the piece out of storage and convinced then-Times Publisher Arthur O. Sulzberger Jr. to give it to them.

Waldron had suggested bringing it to Omaha years before it arrived. Waldron had originally phoned Elizabeth Kingman because she lives in Eugene Kingman's old Omaha home and wanted to learn more about the mural he'd painted in the staircase.

Hansen: After decades at the New York Times building, mural painted



in Omaha has a new home

By Matthew Hansen / World-Herald columnist

She convinced the Joslyn Castle Trust to accept the artwork and formed a group that members dubbed the Women of the Mural, which raised the funds to have the mural restored. Kenneth Bé, head of paintings conservation at the Nebraska Historical Society's Gerald Ford Conservation Center, cleaned off the decades of cigarette smoke, revealing the mural's vibrant blues and greens.

The restored mural was rehung in the W. Dale Clark Library in 2016. When the library closed, it went back into storage, this time at The Joslyn.

The mural now is located in a second-floor computer lab on the new library's second floor. The computer lab wall is one of the few spaces large enough in the glass-walled building for it to be displayed. The room may occasionally be in use, so visitors might not always be able to get close to it.

Quinlan Kingman Eddy, Mixie Kingman Eddy's son, said he finds the line of poetry at the top of the mural inspirational, especially given today's world events.

From a work by Sarah Chauncey Woolsey, writing as Susan Coolidge, it reads, "Every day is a fresh beginning. Every morn is the world made new."

Kingman Eddy said he was disappointed when the mural went back into storage after W. Dale Clark closed. "But now to see it displayed in such a manner ... really is amazing," he said.

Photos: Mural by Eugene Kingman finds home at new Omaha Central Library



Quinlan Kingman Eddy points to a mural by his grandfather, Eugene Kingman, that now hangs inside the new Omaha Central Library in Omaha, on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

CHRIS MACHIAN, THE WORLD-HERALD



Shannon Gilroy, vice president of development at Heritage Omaha, speaks about a mural by Eugene Kingman inside the new Omaha Central Library in Omaha, on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

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Amy Richardson, executive director of the Joslyn Castle, speaks about a mural by Eugene Kingman inside the new Omaha Central Library in Omaha, on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

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