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Quinlan Eddy

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Today was a big day for our family. The [Omaha World-Herald](#) ran a front-page story by Julie Anderson about my grandfather Eugene Kingman's 1948 mural getting a permanent home at the new [Omaha Public Library](#) at 72nd and Dodge. The library opens to the public this Sunday, and it is absolutely beautiful!

Quick backstory: the mural was commissioned by [The New York Times](#) Publisher Arthur Hays Sulzberger and hung in the Times lobby in New York for over 40 years. It eventually made its way back to Omaha, spent about a decade at the W. Dale Clark Library, then sat in storage again when that building closed. [Joslyn Castle & Gardens](#) looked after it for years and ultimately donated it to the library, which is how it ended up in its permanent home. Now it's finally back on a wall, at eye level, where people can actually see it.

Two people made this happen: my mom, [Mixie Kingman Eddy](#), and Maureen McCann Waldron. Maureen is the reason the mural came back to Omaha at all. She tracked down my Aunt Elizabeth years ago, got the Joslyn Castle Trust to take the piece, and pulled together the Women of the Mural to raise the money to restore it. My mom and her late sister Elizabeth did the work on the family side, getting the mural out of storage at the Times and keeping my grandfather's legacy going all these years. Without the two of them, this thing is still rolled up in a crate somewhere.

The line my grandfather painted across the top of the mural reads: "Every day is a fresh beginning. Every morn is the world made new." with everything going on in the world, that's a pretty nice reminder to have waiting for you at the library.

If you want to follow along with more on Eugene Kingman and the mural, check out [Kingman/New York Times Mural in Omaha](#).

Omaha World-Herald

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Quinlan 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.

Decades-old mural gets fresh beginning at library

Artwork is on display at new Omaha Central Library; daughter calls it 'dream come true'

JULIE ANDERSON

Years before globe-creating satellites, the Apollo missions or even the Archimedes made stoves 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 a novelty.

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. Now the 7-by-10-foot mural has found a new home in the Omaha Central Library at 72nd and Dodge Streets, which opens to the public on Sunday.

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

Photo by W. Dale Clark

Mural

From A1

"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 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, 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.

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 B , 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.

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