Looking out Manship’s Window
Photo credit: Charles Giuliano

Picture Window
A Poem by Charles Giuliano
FOREWORD

Author Charles Giuliano recently completed a residency with the Manship Artists Residency in Gloucester, MA. Manship was formed in 2015 to preserve and protect a 15+ acre, quarried landscape and to continue the legacy of the Manship family of artists: Paul, John, and Margaret; all of whom found community and great inspiration while living and working on Cape Ann. The Residency program aims to enrich and advance Cape Ann’s cultural heritage with a new group of innovators, writers, visual artists and scholars, providing a peaceful space dedicated to self-discovery and creative exploration.
Picture Window

BY CHARLES GIULIANO

In Lanesville 1940s
The War years
Paul Manship bought land
With two quarries
Butman and Canney’s
How fitting for a sculptor
The very material
Of ledgy Cape Ann
Most solid foundation
Now 400 years
Since white men came
Natives long gone
Except for names
Like Annisquam
Lumber was scarce
House salvaged from Pigeon Cove
Bayview barn torn down
Built home and studio
With a picture window
Overlooking Butman pit
Each day I sit
Swathed in the warm
Mantle of Manship
Invited as residents
Astrid and me
Doing the good work
Inspired by this place
Here in the belly of
My Irish ancestors
Nugents of Rockport
Heritage of Dogtown
Farm land included
All of Good Harbor Beach
Great grandparents
Patrick and Mary
Raised some thirteen
Three died in 1913
On Beaver Dam Farm
Now Babson Museum
Just the stone kitchen
All that's left after
Vandals torched the farm
When Mary moved to town
Around 1927
George bought land
Just cross the road
Raised cows and pigs
An éminence grise
Largest land owner
Puppet master of
Gloucester politics
Heirs swindled
Lawyer did time
Former pig farm
Now upscale condos
Just the name survives
Mighty Nugent heritage
Thoughts of ancestors
Gazing out the window
Pit filled with water
Work of Finns
Ethnicity of this place
Before tourists and condos
Memories of when
Italians and Portuguese
Toiled the sea
Gloucester and Rockport
More dirt poor than quaint
Which artists came to paint
My Irish clan
Worked the land
Cape Ann flows
Deep in my veins

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Charles Giuliano is a critic, artist and art historian. He has published seven books including Gloucester Poems: Nugents of Rockport. Charles’ next book, Annisquam: Pip and Me Coming of Age is a collaboration with his sister, due in 2023. He is grateful to Manship Artists Residency for making this work possible.