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‘Sailing on Ice’ Photography Exhibit to Open in Ford House Gallery

Show features Great Lakes ice boat racing in photographs by Gretchen Dorian

GROSSE POINTE SHORES, Mich. – The pluckiest of Midwest sailors can be found on the Great Lakes in the dead of winter sailing on hard water, and photographer Gretchen Dorian’s passion is capturing this unique sport.

Ford House is opening an exhibition of her work called “Sailing on Ice” in the Teague Gallery inside the new Visitor Center. Dorian is a maritime photographer based in Northern Michigan.

“Gretchen Dorian’s photographs explore the power, speed, and elegance of ice boat racing, as well as the determination, tenacity, and camaraderie of intrepid ice boat sailors,” said Ford House Director of Education Sheila Ruen. “Lake St. Clair hosted many iceboat sailors in the early 20th century, including Edsel Ford. We found a *Life Magazine* photograph of Edsel racing his ‘999’ iceboat on Lake St. Clair, having reached speeds up to 94 m.p.h.”

On Nov. 21, visitors also will be able to stop by to see a real ice boat. World champion iceboat racer Ron Sherry will have one of his boats on display outside the Visitor Center from noon-4 p.m. Nov. 21.

“Sailing on Ice” will remain on view through March 20, 2022. It is free and open to the public during Ford House Visitor Center hours, Tuesday-Sunday. See fordhouse.org for hours and admission info.

Ford House requires masks inside all our buildings, regardless of vaccination status.

About the Artist

Gretchen Dorian photographs iceboat racing competitions around the world. She lives and works in northern Michigan, and grew up in the Grosse Pointes, sailing on Lake St. Clair. Her photographs have been published in *Wooden Boat Journal*, *ESPN Magazine*, *SAIL*, *Sailing World*, *Lakeland Boating*, *BOAT US*, *Great Lakes Scuttlebutt*, *Michigan BLUE*, and *Outside Bozeman Magazine*. Online publications include the *Wall Street Journal*, *TRAVERSE Magazine*, *Sailing Scuttlebutt*, *Sailing Anarchy*, *HARKEN*, and *Seahorse of the UK*.

About Ford House

Ford House is located at 1100 Lake Shore Road in Grosse Pointe Shores. Since 1978, Ford House has welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors to share in Eleanor Ford’s vision of preserving the estate for future generations to enjoy through interpretive tours, family activities, lectures, exhibits and gardens and grounds events. For more information, visit www.fordhouse.org or call 313-884-4222 and connect with Ford House on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).