

CHECK-IN

P-town B&B elevates the put-on to an art form

Spooky portraits at Eben House

By Julie Hatfield

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PROVINCETOWN – At first glance, the Eben House B&B at 90 Bradford St., looks a little stuffy, with its expensive antique highboy greeting you in the foyer and its 18th century family portraits hanging pretentiously throughout the lobby. One of just three stately brick homes left in town from the Colonial era, built in 1776 by wealthy seafarer Captain Eben Snow, this house seemingly could put you to sleep before you turn in.

Take a second look, though, at those portraits and you might think they're winking back at you. If you concentrate on Captain Snow himself, for example, you'll see that he seems to have exces-

sively long eyelashes. Fake ones, for sure. And, he's wearing a diamond drop earring.

The presumed Mrs. Snow, in a Victorian-like prim white collar and Puritanical black dress, has an empty flask in her hand.

One of the other Snow women, dressed nunlike as her sister-in-law, is clutching an open copy of the "Kama Sutra." A male Snow cousin, with an impressive military jacket and hat, is revealed below his waist to be wearing a pair of ruffly white underpants and a garter belt. A prudish Snow aunt has huge tattoos peeking out from under her sleeve.

Turns out that Eben's married owners David Bowd and Kevin O'Shea, who also own Salt B&B a few blocks away,

got the naughty idea into their heads to commission P-town

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artist Michael Gredler to create the fictional Snow family and give each of them a little playful Provincetown touch.

Copies of the ancestral portraits are in each of the 14 rooms of the inn. It wouldn't be a surprise, if a guest wanted to purchase one of these unique art works, that the owners would let it go out of the house.

Eben House, opened in 2015, is open for weekends year-round, with rates starting at \$195 per night. www.salt-hotels.com.

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Several portraits of members of the fictional Snow family at the Eben House.

