

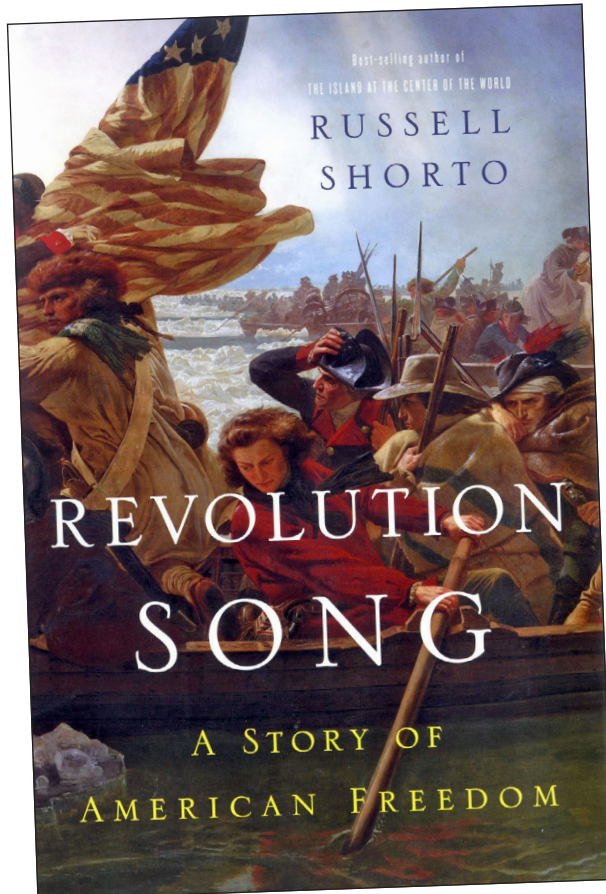
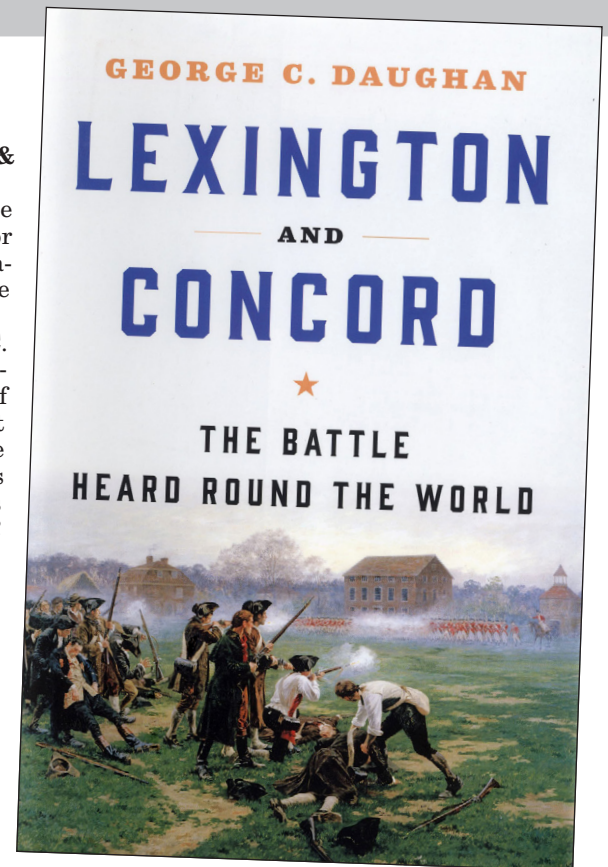
## BOOKS...BOOKS...BOOKS

## Lexington &amp; Concord, Fact Vs Fiction

***Lexington and Concord: The Battle Heard Round The World* by George C. Daughan, W.W. Norton & Company, New York and London, 2018; 368 pages, \$28 hardcover.**

The battle of Lexington and Concord has become part of America's national lore. As the opening clash of the American Revolution, it evokes the ride of Paul Revere, images of patriotic minutemen heroes and victory for rebellious colonists. But the mythology has long obscured the even more fascinating details: the tangled motivations and political conflicts of the two armies, the grim reality of the fight on the ground and the crucial ways the event signaled the fate of British control in America.

In his new book, award-winning historian George C. Daughan tackles some of the most controversial issues surrounding the battle and reveals the heroism and folly of the leaders and soldiers involved. With an epic sweep that takes readers from the halls of power in London to the muddy country roads around colonial Boston, Daughan's new history is the definitive account of the opening shots of the War of Independence. —MHR



## The Revolutionary War, Recast

***Revolution Song: A Story of American Freedom* by Russell Shorto, W.W. Norton & Company, New York and London, 2018; 512 pages, \$29 hardcover.**

Histories of the Colonial era are cast almost entirely with white men in powdered wigs. In his new book, Russell Shorto, author of the best-selling *Island at the Center of the World*, recasts the narrative with a cast of characters diverse in their race, class and gender to retell the story of the founding of the American nation. Drawing on diaries, letters and autobiographies, Shorto fleshes out six lives that cast the era in a fresh new light.

In addition to George Washington, these include disgraced British military officer Lord George Germain; the Seneca tribal leader Kayéthwahkeh; Margaret Coghlan (née Moncriffe), the daughter of a British officer who became a supporter of the American cause; New York cobbler-turned-politician Abraham Yates, who vigorously championed the interests of working-class colonials; and Broteer Furro, also known as Venture Smith, who was captured from his home in Africa and enslaved on Long Island but who would buy his freedom and advocate freedom and dignity for freed blacks.

Published at a time when our country is in a state of unprecedented turmoil, Shorto's book is a timely narrative that traces race, class and gender concerns of the modern era back to their Colonial origins and shows how these conflicts have become embedded in our national character. —MHR

## Focusing On Lejaren A Hiller's Trailblazing Photographic Illustrations

*Anytime, Anywhere, As Long As It's In My Studio*

***Sutures and Spirits: The Photographic Illustrations of Lejaren A Hiller* by Doug Manchec; RIT Press, <http://ritpress.rit.edu>, 2017; 189 pages, softcover, \$39.95.**

Lejaren A Hiller (1880–1969) pioneered advertising photography for an industry dominated in the early Twentieth Century by text and an occasional line drawing. An advertising and editorial photographer who began his advertising career as an illustrator, Hiller believed photography could be used in print advertisements to depict dramatic scenes and characters.

He first recognized photography's potential as a persuasive method to sell products and services, as well as illustrating magazine stories, but it was not until *Cosmopolitan* agreed to use photographs to illustrate a fictional story in 1913, that Hiller could persuade clients to try photographs in their advertising. By 1915 the majority of his commissioned work was camera based.

Best known for his large and exquisitely detailed studio sets that often depicted historical scenarios or exotic foreign lands, Hiller produced thousands of photographs for a variety of clients. His credo was "Anytime, Anywhere, As Long As It's In My Studio."

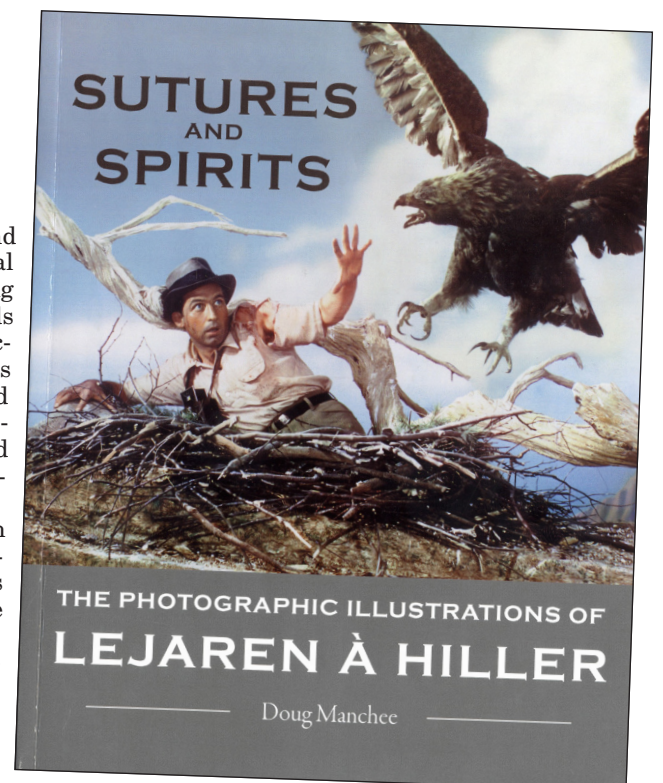
The results of his career are carefully and intensively explored in *Sutures and Spirits*. It was through a fluke

of timing that Hiller's complete archive was saved and brought to Rochester. The Hillier collection at Visual Studies Workshop (VSW) is comprehensive, including material from Hiller's 50-year career: with hundreds of original photographs (both personal and family pictures as well as work related), offset reproductions (tear sheets) of advertisements, magazine covers and brochures; original paintings and illustrations; business and personal correspondence; and articles by and about Hiller. A trove of material through which Manchec has shifted to produce this volume.

Manchec, professor of photography and program chair for the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), includes examples from all aspects of Hiller's career, and he examines closely two of Hiller's most recognizable projects: the 87 Lands campaign for Canadian Club Whisky and Surgery Through the Ages, commissioned by Davis and Geck, a manufacturer of surgical sutures.

The book is filled with wonderful illustrations (almost 100) and the text is informative and easy to read. Hiller's life lends itself to story-telling, as did his photographic creations.

Beyond his position at RIT, Manchec is a photographer whose commercial clients include Adobe Systems,



Corning Inc, Xerox, Eastman Kodak, Simpson Paper, Bausch & Lomb and many others. Manchec's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally in both solo and group exhibitions. —A.K.

## Hudson Talbott Introduces Children To Thomas Cole

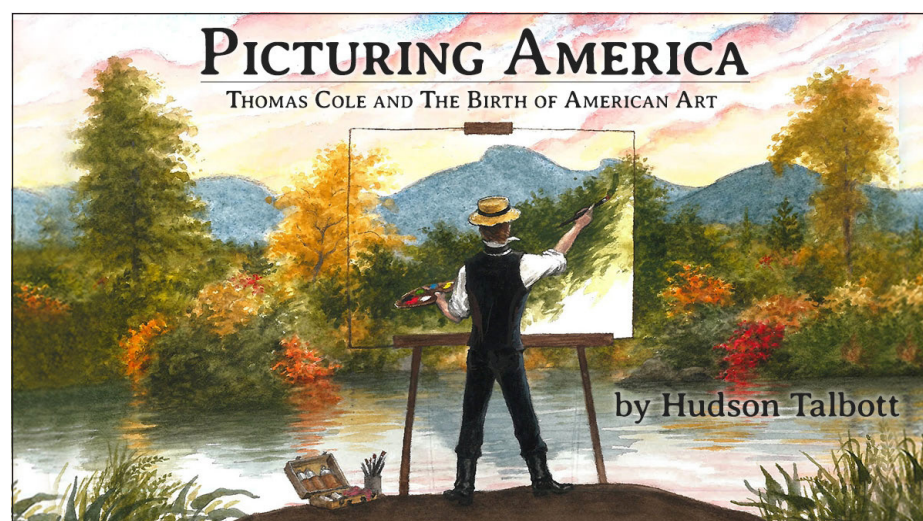
***Picturing America: Thomas Cole and The Birth of American Art* by Hudson Talbott; Nancy Paulsen Books, an Imprint of Penguin Random House, [www.penguin.com](http://www.penguin.com), 2018; 32 pages; softcover, \$17.95**

In an online version and softcover book (due to be published in September by Penguin Random House), author and illustrator Hudson Talbott introduces children to artist Thomas Cole, whose 200th anniversary of coming to America is being celebrated in 2018 with an exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, an exhibition at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site and several books.

In both the online and the softcover version of *Thomas Cole and The Birth of American Art*, Talbott has created a captivating, full-color story to introduce children to Thomas Cole, founder

of the nation's first major art movement, the Hudson River School of art. It is available now for free on the web-

site of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site or can be purchased through the site.



The 16-page online story is an abbreviated version of the upcoming, 32-page picture book. The story shows how, as an immigrant from England, Cole fell in love with the American wilderness, especially the Hudson River Valley and the Catskills. Through his paintings and writings, he made an impassioned plea to value and preserve America's natural landscapes — a message that profoundly influenced the nation and continues to resonate today.

Hudson Talbott is a trustee of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site. He has written and/or illustrated more than 25 books, including the Newbury Honor Book *Show Way* (by Jacqueline Woodson), ALA Notable Book *Leonardo's Horse* (by Jean Fritz) and *We're Back! A Dinosaur's Story*, which was adapted into an animated film by Steven Spielberg. —AK