

Press Contact: Betsy Jacks
Executive Director, Thomas Cole Historic Site
518-943-7465 ext.3 director@thomascole.org



Art-World Star Stephen Hannock to Speak at Thomas Cole House this Sunday

RADIO PERSONALITY ROBIN YOUNG WILL COVER THE EVENT



Stephen Hannock, "The Oxbow, After Church, After Cole, Flooded, Green Light," 1999

Catskill, NY – This Sunday, April 11 at 2pm, internationally known artist Stephen Hannock will speak at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site. The title of his talk is “Thomas Cole with a Power Sander.” After his talk, Mr. Hannock will sign copies of a large new book about his artwork.

One of the most exciting artists of our time – called “the consummate landscape painter” – Stephen Hannock began his artistic career near the site of Thomas Cole’s famous 1836 painting, *the Oxbow*. Cole has been a reference point for Hannock, whose virtuosic use of light - as well as a power sander - has landed his paintings in museum collections including The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Art Historian Jason Rosenfeld in his 2002 essay *Imaginary Realism, Meaningful Contradictions*, describes Hannock's work as "both distinctively modern as well as reflective of landscape traditions....Hannock, in his radical technique is a true American luminist. His paintings, multi-layered in both surface and meaning, radiate in a manner that connects past and present."



About Stephen Hannock

Stephen Hannock is an American painter known for his atmospheric landscapes—compositions of flooded rivers, nocturnes and large vistas which often incorporate text inscriptions that relate to family, friends or events of daily life. The artist creates a unique luminosity using a signature technique that involves building up layers of paint on the canvas, sandpaper-polishing it, applying new layers of paint and polishing again. Many critics have compared Hannock's paintings to such forebears as Thomas Cole, Frederic Edwin Church, J.M.W. Turner, Albert Pinkham Ryder, and Louis Remy Mignot, among other nineteenth-century masters.

Hannock's painting entitled *The Oxbow: After Church, After Cole, Flooded (Flooded River for the Matriarchs E. & A. Mongan), Green Light* (2000)—is part of the permanent collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Describing that work on the Metropolitan Museum of Art website, Sabine Rewald writes: "Stephen Hannock captured this view of the Connecticut River from the same vantage point chosen by Thomas Cole (1801–1848) for his famous *View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm—The Oxbow* (1836), in the collection of the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum." Art critic Grace Glueck, writing in *The New York Times*, called Hannock's work "Among the more spectacular of the contemporary views" [of the Oxbow]. Glueck goes on to describe the painting as "A rather eerie elegy depicting the scene at twilight, it shows the Oxbow brimming at slight flood and surrounded by shimmering dark plains, heightened by a technique of sanding and polishing each layer of paint." To date, Hannock has painted over twenty Oxbow paintings. Also part of the permanent collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, is the artist's painting *Kaaterskill Falls for Frank Moore and Dan Hodermarsky*, acquired in 2007.

In addition, Hannock's work is in such collections as the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; The Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, N.Y.; the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA; and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA. Private collectors include Sting and Trudie Styler—who own over 20 of Hannock's works—as well as William and Karen Lauder, Meredith and Tom Brokaw, Dick and Betty Hedreen, John McEnroe, and Candice Bergen.

Hannock's new book, *Stephen Hannock* is by Jason Rosenfeld, Martha Hoppin, Garrett White and with an introduction by Mark C. Taylor. Published in December, 2008 by Hudson Hills Press, this monograph includes a wide spectrum of paintings spanning the artist's thirty year career, as well as drawings done while Hannock was traveling in Asia, Europe, and North America, and of friends in the music and arts, at work in their homes and studios.



Special Announcement: Radio Personality Robin Young to Cover the Event

Robin Young is the host of the popular NPR radio program “Here & Now.” She is a Peabody Award-winning documentary filmmaker who has also reported for NBC, CBS, and ABC television, and for several years was substitute host and correspondent for the Today Show.

Robin has received several Emmy Awards for her television work, as well as cable’s Ace award, the Religious Public Relations Council’s Wilbur Award, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews Gold Award. She has also received radio’s regional Edward R. Murrow award.

Here and Now is Public Radio’s daily news magazine, bringing the news that breaks after “Morning Edition,” and before “All Things Considered.”

About This Sunday’s Program

Sunday Salons are gatherings at the home of Thomas Cole, with guest speakers leading discussions on topics relating to the Hudson River School, America’s first major art movement. Please join us for wine, refreshments and lively conversation once per month at the Thomas Cole Historic Site, the birthplace of American landscape painting. Sundays at 2pm. Tickets are \$8 per person or \$6 for members. Admission is first-come-first-served.

About Thomas Cole

As the founder of America's first art movement, the Hudson River School, Thomas Cole (1801-1848) is a central figure in the development of American culture. When Cole made his first trip up the Hudson River in 1825, thought-leaders were searching for something distinctly American to establish the nation's own culture as separate from that of Europe. Thomas Cole found it in the Catskill Mountain wilderness, which came to symbolize the unspoiled character of the new nation. Lionized during his lifetime and celebrated by a generation of artists who followed in his footsteps, Cole is now widely regarded as the father of American landscape painting.

About the Thomas Cole Historic Site

The Thomas Cole Historic Site, historically known as Cedar Grove, is where the artist Thomas Cole lived, worked, was married, and where he died at the age of 47. Today the site consists of the Federal style brick home (c. 1815) in which Thomas Cole resided with his family, as well as the artist’s original studio building, on five landscaped acres with a magnificent view of the Catskill Mountains.

Directions:

The Thomas Cole Historic Site is located at 218 Spring Street in Catskill, New York, near the western entrance to the Rip Van Winkle Bridge, with easy access from the New York State Thruway, Exit 21. Full directions are available at www.thomascole.org