

# THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

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## **New Research on Thomas Cole to be Presented at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site**

**As Part of the Annual Fellowship Program, the 2017-18 Cole Fellows Will Reveal New Discoveries about this Widely-Known Artist in a Public Presentation in Cole's New Studio**

### ***Cole Fellow Presentations***

**Friday April 6, 5pm**

**Catskill, NY** – The Thomas Cole National Historic Site announced today that on Friday, April 6 at 5pm the 2017-18 Cole Fellows will present new research about Thomas Cole and the historic site where he lived and worked. This event will be held in the New Studio at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site located at 218 Spring Street, Catskill, NY. A toast and reception will open at 5, presentations start at 5:15pm. Admission is free.



In 2017 the Thomas Cole National Historic Site selected four Fellows to join the site to participate in the research and interpretation of the work, home, and studios of Thomas Cole. This year's Fellows are passionate, intelligent, and creative. They have been quite busy –welcoming hundreds of visitors and students to the site, as well as bringing Thomas Cole's story into local classrooms and beyond! They have made new discoveries about how Cole constructed his landscapes; about the work of two more Cole artists with whom Thomas shared his life - his sister, Sarah and daughter, Emily. They have also dived into the primary documents and oral histories to tell the story of the site's transformation from a family home to a museum.

The presentations are:

#### **Madeline Conley | *The Onsite and Online Classroom: Students as Artists, Writers, and Environmentalists***

This project continues and expands the work of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site's educational mission: to provide young people with opportunities to engage in place-based, project-based, and problem-based learning — whether they are able to visit the site or not. This presentation will shed light on creating engagement with students including field trips, visits to schools around the region, and designing web experiences.

#### **Rowanne Dean | *"Painted by Miss Cole": Bringing to Light Women Artists of Cedar Grove***

There is scant knowledge about the lives of Thomas Cole's sister, Sarah—a painter and etcher often cited as a 'copyist' of her brother's paintings—and his daughter, Emily—a botanical artist working in watercolor and on porcelain. This talk will discuss these women and their artistic pursuits, both as inheritors of Thomas's legacy and as individual artists.

## **Adam Grimes** | *Real & Imagined: The Landscapes of Thomas Cole*

In his paintings, Thomas Cole consciously changed certain aspects of the American landscape in order to convey ideas and inspire emotions. By comparing his work with photographs of real scenes, and considering his artistic interests and the environment in which he lived and worked, this research will explore how and why Cole created his landscapes.

## **Michael Quituisaca** | *“An Act of Love”: Cedar Grove’s Development from Home to Museum*

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site officially opened to the public in 2001, but the house was sold out of Cole family ownership long before then. What happened in the time between? Using primary documents and oral histories, the story of the site’s transformation from a family home to museum is revealed.

## **ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP**

The Cole Fellowship was established in 2010 and now offers a one-year residential program that affords recent and new college graduates with the time and space to conduct significant research and to gain professional museum experience through a combination of research, interpretation, and hands-on projects.

**THE THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE** is a forward-thinking organization that presents special exhibitions of 19<sup>th</sup>-century landscape paintings, contemporary art installations, and immersive video presentations that bring to life the original home and studios of Thomas Cole, the founder of the Hudson River School of painting, the nation’s first major art movement. Located on 6 acres in the Hudson Valley, the site includes the 1815 Main House; Cole’s 1839 Old Studio; the recently reconstructed New Studio building; and panoramic views of the Catskill Mountains. It is a National Historic Landmark and an affiliated area of the National Park System. The Cole Site’s activities include innovative public programs such as the Hudson River School Art Trail—an interactive map and website that enable visitors to visit the places and see the very same views that Cole painted. The goal of all programs at the Cole Site is to enable visitors to find meaning and inspiration in Thomas Cole’s life and work. The themes that Cole explored in his art and writings—such as landscape preservation and our conception of nature as a restorative power—are both historic and timely, providing the opportunity to connect to audiences with insights that are highly relevant to their own lives.

## **On VIEW at the Thomas Cole Site**

+ *The Parlors*, an immersive experience combining technology and meticulous restoration of Cole’s interior designs in his 1815 home, including the earliest-known interior decorative painting by an American artist. Integrated projections enable paintings to “come to life” and letters to “magically appear” on tables to tell a story.

+ *Mind Upon Nature: Thomas Cole’s Creative Process*, an exhibition in the Main House featuring Cole’s paintings, sketches, palettes, and other unique objects.

+ *Picturesque and Sublime: Thomas Cole’s Trans-Atlantic Inheritance* (opening on May 1)

**VISITOR INFORMATION:** The Thomas Cole National Historic Site opens for tours on weekends in March. The hours for Thomas Cole’s home, studios and special exhibitions vary by season. For the full schedule, please visit our website at [www.thomascole.org/visit](http://www.thomascole.org/visit). The grounds are free and open daily 8 am – sunset.