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ACCLAIMED PERFORMANCE ARTIST TIM YOUD BEGINS HIS SECOND WEEK AT THE THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, RETYPING THE 60TH IN HIS NATIONWIDE *100 NOVELS* PROJECT

The 60th Novel is James Salter's *Light Years* – Set on the Banks of the Hudson River – And Part of Youd's Hudson Valley Cycle, Which Will be the Basis for an Exhibition at Vassar College Next Month

Catskill, NY – July 9, 2018 – Acclaimed performance artist Tim Youd begins his second of two weeks at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site tomorrow. He is in the process of retyping 100 novels, from beginning to end, over a 10-year period, and he is now working on the 60th novel at the Cole Site, where he retyped from July 3-8 and will retype from July 10-13.

Each performance residency in the *100 Novels* project takes place at a location of significance to a particular novel and is performed using the same make and model typewriter used by the author. The novel that he is now retyping is James Salter's *Light Years*, first published in 1975. It is set on the banks of the Hudson River and explores the complex history of the Hudson River Valley. Youd is performing the retyping on an IBM Selectric III. He is open to visitors approaching him to talk about the project throughout the performance.

As Youd says, "Salter opens the novel with a meditation on the Hudson River. He places the home of the story's young family on its banks and bathes it in light. More than 100 years after Thomas Cole found an elegiac beauty in the Hudson River Valley, Salter tapped into and subverted that sentiment."

Traveling the country for the *100 Novels* project, Youd has also typed Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* in Piggott, Arkansas, William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury* in Oxford, Mississippi, and Jack Kerouac's *Big Sur* in Big Sur, California, among other choice locations.

For the *100 Novels* project, Youd types each novel on a single sheet of paper, which is backed by an additional support sheet. The artist loads the two-ply paper through the typewriter repeatedly, until the entire novel has been retyped. As the typing progresses, the top sheet becomes saturated with ink and perforated from overuse, while the sheet underneath becomes embossed from indentation. Upon completion, the two pages are separated and mounted side by side as a framed diptych, recalling two pages of an open book with the words obscured. The diptych remains as a relic of the performance that embodies the novel, even though it is completely illegible. The *100 Novels* project explores the formal quality of the act of reading, as well as the memory and attention that reading demands.

Tim Youd's performance residency at the Thomas Cole Site is part of a [Hudson Valley Cycle](#) organized by Vassar College, where he previously retyped *The Group* by renowned Vassar alumna Mary McCarthy. The

culmination of these performances will be an exhibition at Vassar’s Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center titled *Tim Youd: The Hudson Valley Retyped*, which will be on view August 30 through October 14, 2018.

Tim Youd is a visual and performance artist living and working in Los Angeles. Born in Worcester, Massachusetts, he graduated from the College of the Holy Cross. He began his current work, the *100 Novels* project, in 2013. *100 Novels* stands as a series of performance art pieces with related paintings, drawings, and sculptures. Youd is represented by Cristin Tierney Gallery in New York City, and his work has appeared in numerous museum exhibitions across the country.

THE THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE is an international destination presenting 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 guided tours, special exhibitions of both 19th-century and contemporary art, printed publications, extensive online programs, activities for school groups, free community events, lectures, and innovative public programs such as the Hudson River School Art Trail—a map and website that enables visitors to visit the places 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 in Thomas Cole’s New Studio from May 1 through November 4, 2018

+ *Picturesque and Sublime: Thomas Cole’s Trans-Atlantic Inheritance*

Ongoing Exhibitions in the 1815 Main House

+ *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.

VISITOR INFORMATION: The hours for Thomas Cole’s home, studios and special exhibitions vary by season. For details see: www.thomascole.org/visit. Keep in touch on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at @thomascolesite.