



Contact: Communications Manager, Jennifer Greim, [JGreim@thomascole.org](mailto:JGreim@thomascole.org)

**Thomas Cole National Historic Site Will Offer Free Admission to its New Studio and New Exhibition from 4:00 to 7:00 pm on Saturday, May 26, as Part of a village-wide celebration on Memorial Day weekend**

**Catskill, NY – May 21, 2018** – The Thomas Cole National Historic Site announced today that it will participate in “What’s Up In Catskill” – the all-day celebration of shops, food, entertainment and cultural offerings taking place in Catskill on Saturday, May 26. The Thomas Cole Site, which will be open throughout the day for ticketed guided tours, will then offer free admission from 4:00 to 7:00 pm to its New Studio, the reconstructed building of Cole’s own design that houses the Site’s latest exhibition.

That exhibition – “Picturesque and Sublime: Thomas Cole’s Trans-Atlantic Inheritance” – opened on May 1<sup>st</sup> and was created in collaboration with the Yale Center for British Art and members of the Yale History of Art Department. It presents masterworks on paper by major British artists, including J.M.W. Turner and John Constable, in a new exploration of the prints and drawings that were early trans-Atlantic influences on Cole’s work. The exhibition includes major paintings by Thomas Cole that demonstrate his radical achievement of transforming the well-developed British traditions of landscape into a new bold formulation, the American Sublime.

“What’s Up In Catskill” invites you to discover all that the Village of Catskill has to offer. Catskill is part of the Hudson River Skywalk Region recently designated by Governor Andrew Cuomo. The Region consists of two landmark historic sites – the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in Catskill and Olana State Historic Site in Hudson – which are linked historically by their pivotal roles in the history of American art and physically by the Hudson River Skywalk, a new pedestrian walkway with stunning views of the Hudson River and the Catskills, on the Rip Van Winkle Bridge. Completing the region are the Village of Catskill and the City of Hudson. Together the components of the Hudson River Skywalk Region provide an unparalleled tourism experience in the evolution of American art and culture.

**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 19<sup>th</sup>-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 and Church 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 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.

**ABOUT OLANA AND THE OLANA PARTNERSHIP:** The landscape at Olana will be open this Saturday, May 26 from dawn until 8pm and ticketed guided tours are offered on the hour from 10 am to 4 pm. Olana is the greatest masterpiece of Frederic Edwin Church (1826-1900), the preeminent American artist of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century. Church designed Olana as a holistic environment integrating his advanced ideas about art, architecture, landscape design, and environmental conservation. Olana’s 250-acre artist-designed landscape with a Persian-inspired house at its summit embraces unrivaled panoramic views of the Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains and, today, welcomes more than 170,000 visitors annually. Olana State Historic Site, a historic site administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Taconic Region, is a designated National Historic Landmark and one of the most visited sites in the state. The Olana Partnership, a private not-for-profit education corporation, works cooperatively with New York State to support the restoration, conservation, and interpretation of Olana State Historic Site. To learn more about Olana and The Olana Partnership, please visit [www.olana.org](http://www.olana.org).

**VISITOR INFORMATION:** The hours for Thomas Cole’s home, studios and special exhibitions vary by season. The grounds are free and open daily from dawn until dusk. For details see: [www.thomascole.org/visit](http://www.thomascole.org/visit). Keep in touch on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) @thomascolesite.

The Olana landscape is free and open daily 8:00 am - sunset. For a current list of tours of the main house and artist-designed landscape visit: [www.olana.org/hours-and-admission](http://www.olana.org/hours-and-admission).