

Lost Painting Found!

A Tale of Conservation



Thomas Cole, *View of Fort Putnam*, 1825

Catskill, NY — On Sunday, March 11, at 2 p.m., the “Sunday Salon” at Cedar Grove, the Thomas Cole National Historic Site, will feature Elise Effmann, former assistant conservator of paintings at the Kimbell Art Museum and now a paintings conservator at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

Conservator Effmann played an integral role in first cleaning and then identifying one of Cole’s early masterpieces. The painting “View of Fort Putnam” was lost for over a century, and discovered in an antiques dealer’s warehouse that had caught fire in the early 1990s.

As the painting was restored, the question of how it fit into Cole’s known work became more and more intriguing. Effmann discovered its true identity as one of the original three artworks that launched Cole’s career. The painting was purchased out of a shop window by the artist Asher B. Durand, after which Cole’s fame “spread like fire,” as Durand was reported to have said.

“Sunday Salons” are monthly gatherings at Cedar Grove with guest speakers leading discussions on topics relating to the Hudson River School, America’s first major art movement. Guests enjoy



Cedar Grove

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site

wine, cheese, and lively conversation once a month at the birthplace of American landscape painting. Tickets are \$8 a person or \$5 for members. Admission is first-come-first-served.

The 1815 Federal yellow-brick Main House at Cedar Grove contains the historic rooms where the Cole family lived, and from its porch visitors can view one of the most perfect views of the Catskill Mountain range in the distance. Cedar Grove also includes gallery rooms where exhibitions of art from the Hudson River School and beyond are on display. From May through October, visitors can also visit the "Old Studio" where Cole painted many of his best known works, and where Cole's original easel and art-making materials are on view.

Cedar Grove is located at 218 Spring Street, near the western entrance to the Rip Van Winkle Bridge, Route 23, and with easy access from the New York State Thruway, exit #21. For more information, call (518) 943-7465 or visit www.thomascole.org.