



2020 COLE FELLOWS'

Research Presentations

DIGITAL PROGRAM

May 15, 2020

Welcome to the 2020 Cole Fellows'
Research Presentations.

We are pleased to bring you
this year's presentations digitally on
Friday, May 15, 2020 at 5:30 pm
at thomascole.org/researchpresentations.

Following the presentations we are offering
a short live stream Q&A at 7 pm.
Please sign up here to attend.

Thank you for joining us this evening and
for being part of the Cole family.



THOMAS COLE
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

PROGRAM

Introduction

Kate Menconeri

Curator/Director of Exhibitions & Collections

Last Indian—Dead Hemlock:

Thomas Cole and the Imagined Indian

Hampton Smith

Changing Hands, Changing Lands:

The History of the Cedar Grove Property, 1848–1961

Marissa Hamm

Ten Thousand Fires:

Thomas Cole's Environmental Anxiety

Alex McCarty

Experiencing the History of America Through Art:

On-Site & On-Line Adventures

Anne Comer



Thomas Cole, *Distant View of Niagara Falls*, 1830, The Art Institute of Chicago

THE COLE FELLOWSHIP

The Cole Fellowship is a one-year residential research and professional development program at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site. Each year four new Fellows are invited to join the site and participate in the research and interpretation of the work, home, and studios of the artist, Thomas Cole (1801–1848). Through a combination of research, seminars, and hands-on projects, Cole Fellows conduct significant primary research and gain professional museum experience.

This includes conducting in-depth research that leads to a major project and/or paper based on their work. During their time at the Cole Site, Fellows work closely with



Thomas Cole, *River in the Catskills*, 1843, Museum of Fine Arts Boston

staff on projects of their choice that span exhibitions and collections to educational initiatives and programming. They participate in an intensive one-week seminar with the leading Cole scholar and professor, Dr. Alan Wallach, and throughout the year work with acclaimed theater director and trustee Warner Shook on their public presentation skills. Fellows also work with our audiences and have full engagement in interpretive programming. Professional development is at the heart of the program and Fellows attend monthly site visits to museums and cultural venues to learn firsthand from leaders in the field. Résumé review and next step planning are built into the program and based on each Fellow's individual career goals.

THE 2019 - 2020 COLE FELLOWS



ANNE COMER graduated from Bard College in 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology and Experimental Humanities. Prior to her work at the Cole Site, Anne interned at US/ICOMOS and assisted with archaeological work for the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society in Thurmont, Maryland. At Bard, she worked in the Media Corps and Digital History Lab. As a Cole Fellow, Anne developed an American with Disabilities Act document with site-wide recommendations to improve accessibility. She also played an active role to help develop an online educational game that will allow students to connect Thomas Cole's art with American history. After the fellowship, Anne will present her senior thesis conducted at Bard College, "Ward Manor: Care for the Elderly and Digital Memory," at the Memory Studies Association Conference.

THE 2019 - 2020 COLE FELLOWS



MARISSA HAMM graduated from the College of Wooster in 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts in History. Before coming to the Cole Site, Marissa was involved in researching and working with local historical societies. She spent the summer of 2018 interning at the Cleo Redd Fisher Museum in Loudonville, OH, where she curated the exhibition *A History of Photography*. As a Cole Fellow, Marissa researched life at Cedar Grove between 1848 and 1961, focusing on how the property changed and who lived there. In addition to her primary research, Marissa assisted with education programs like the Catskill Third Grade school visits and organized monthly Art Out events.

THE 2019 - 2020 COLE FELLOWS



ALEX McCARTY graduated from Santa Clara University in 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts in Art History. Prior to coming to the Thomas Cole Site, Alex worked at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York City and the San José Museum of Art in San Jose, CA. Alex's primary research with the Cole Site examines how Cole's art and writing can be considered within the context of the history of American environmental consciousness. He has also explored new initiatives to make the Cole Site more ecologically sustainable and worked on programming for the upcoming exhibition, *Cross Pollination*. Alex will be attending the City College of New York in the fall to pursue a master's degree in Art History.

THE 2019 - 2020 COLE FELLOWS



HAMPTON SMITH graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts in Art History. Hampton's previous positions include internships at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum and the Ackland Museum of Art. His research at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site interrogates Cole's complex representations of Indigenous peoples and their stolen land. He has also contributed to upcoming traveling exhibitions and participated in the reinterpretation of the *Creative Process* exhibition. Hampton looks forward to continuing his education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the fall, where he will begin a doctorate in the Theory, Criticism, and History of Art and Architecture.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS BY THE 2019–2020 COLE FELLOWS



We would like to express our deepest appreciation to the staff of the Cole Site—this program would be nothing without their generosity and leadership. First, we are immensely grateful to our supervisor Kate Menconeri, whose mentorship and example have enriched and improved our work. Without her unflagging support, the fellowship’s mission to help young scholars garner professional and critical skills would not be the same.

We owe just as much to Warner Shook, special advisor extraordinaire, and Betsy Jacks, director of the Cole Site. They both remain committed advocates and thoughtful critics of our work; their care and guidance helped create a meaningful fellowship experience.

Special thanks are due to Livi Lichens, development as-

sociate, and Jennifer Greim, director of external relations, for their flexibility in transferring our presentations to the virtual realm. When the ability to present to an audience in the New Studio disappeared, they helped ensure our hard work would not be lost!

We must also express our gratitude to the entire staff. Their generous intellectual insight, moral support, and humor was there when we needed it the most. Amanda, Heather, Traci, Rachel, Peter, Toni, Matt, Alice, Thea, Nancy, Martha, Maeve, and Lora Lee: thank you for your commitment and friendship.

Finally, we are eternally thankful to the Thomas Cole National Historic Site for the opportunity to be Cole Fellows. It is rare to find an institution dedicated to helping recent graduates enter careers within the cultural sector. We will look back on our year at the Cole Site fondly as we take our next steps.



Undated photograph of the Main House at Cedar Grove, Thomas Cole National Historic Site

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site marks the birthplace of American art, as it was the home of the founder of the nation's first major art movement, now known as the Hudson River School. Located in the Hudson River Valley, the site includes Thomas Cole's 1815 home, his 1839 studio, and the recently reconstructed 1846 New Studio, with gardens and grounds overlooking a sweeping view of the Catskill Mountains. The site is an affiliate of the National Park Service and operates as a forward-thinking, independent nonprofit organization. Our vision is to be the leading source for education and scholarship on Thomas Cole and inspire cultural and environmental awareness of the American landscape.

THOMAS COLE

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**Council on
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