CROSS POLLINATION SHOW TRAVELS

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site has established a track record of organizing groundbreaking exhibitions and traveling them around the country. This year, the Thomas Cole Site partnered with Frederic Church’s Olana here in New York’s Hudson Valley, and the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Arkansas, to create the exhibition Cross Pollination: Heade, Cole, Church and Our Contemporary Moment. The collaborative project explored the theme of “pollination” in nature and ecology, as well as pollination as a metaphor for the interplay of art and science, and relationships among artists across centuries, from the 19th to the 21st. The project was presented at a total of five national venues: Thomas Cole National Historic Site, The Olana Partnership at Olana State Historic Site, Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, Reynolda House Museum of American Art, and Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. It built upon our successful collaborative exhibition, River Crossings: Contemporary Art Comes Home presented by the Thomas Cole Site and Olana in 2015.

Cross Pollination was presented as one simultaneous exhibition across both the Thomas Cole Site and Olana from June 12 through October 31, 2021,

SITE NAMED NATIONAL MEDAL FINALIST

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site opened to the public in 2001 following a restoration of the Main House, and 2021 marks the 20th anniversary. Coinciding with the anniversary, the Thomas Cole Site was named a 2021 National Medal Finalist, as one of just fifteen museums across the country to be honored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Washington, DC. The Thomas Cole Site was nominated for the National Medal by U.S. Representative Antonio Delgado, who kicked off a social media celebration with the @thomascolesite and the IMLS. Representative Delgado and community members “shared their story” of the Thomas Cole Site in personal videos on our YouTube channel and Instagram.

A new Economic Impact report on 2019 statistics at the Thomas Cole Site found that the total value added impact of the organization on the Capital Region is $2,854,525, and that the site is an essential economic pillar for Greene County. The Thomas Cole Site was recognized with official anniversary proclamations from both Greene and Columbia County with special thanks to Legislator Matt Luevra, Greene County Legislature, and Assemblymember Didi Barrett, Assembly District 106.
New Cole Painting gifted

We are thrilled to announce a new Thomas Cole painting gift to the collection from Michael Altman Fine Art & Advisory Services. The painting, entitled, *Jerusalem*, exemplifies the influence of the “sublime” landscape tradition in Cole’s work.

The collection of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site includes over six hundred objects and two research archives. Michael Altman’s gift of *Jerusalem* is the latest in a series of major gifts of artwork to the Thomas Cole Site’s permanent collection. Previously, Susan G. A. Warner gifted Thomas Cole’s *Hunters in a Landscape*, David and Laura Grey gifted Thomas Cole’s *Tower by Moonlight*, and Richard Sharp gifted Thomas Cole’s *Ruined Castle on a Rock, Reflection*, and *Catskill Mountain Landscape*, as well as the artist’s original guitar and case. Thank you to all of our generous donors to the collection over the years.

With support from the Henry Luce Foundation, our curatorial team brought a selection of collection highlights and related research into the digital space at thomascole.org/collection, making it accessible to broad audiences and scholars online for the first time. The collection highlights include paintings by Thomas Cole as well as Sarah Cole, his sister, and Emily Cole, his daughter, who both worked as professional artists in the 19th century. Additional highlights include Thomas Cole’s easel and the Bible that belonged to Maria Bartow Cole, his wife. Don’t miss a mysterious Valentine letter from the collection addressed to Harriet Bartow, Maria’s sister.

The digital collection highlights were made possible by the Henry Luce Foundation. Organized by Amanda Malmstrom, Assistant Curator; Kate Mencouni, Curator/Director of Exhibition & Collections; and Brooke Krancer, Class of 2022 Cole Fellow; with special thanks to Roseanne Dean, Class of 2018 Cole Fellow and Oriana Tang, Class of 2021 Cole Fellow.

Thank you

Major support for the Thomas Cole Site programs and operations is provided by the Henry Luce Foundation, U.S. Small Business Administration, National Park Service, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, The Bay & Paul Foundations, Enoch Foundation, Empire State Development’s I LOVE NEW YORK program under the Market NY initiative, The Manitou Fund, Art Bridges Bridge Ahead Initiative, Brown Foundation, a Humanities New York SHARP Grant with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the federal American Rescue Plan, The Educational Foundation of America, The J. M. Kaplan Fund, Tianaderrah Foundation, and the Kindred Spirits Society of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site.

Site joins Pollinator Pathway

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site continued its Greening Initiative this year, taking actions to become a more environmentally sustainable organization in keeping with Cole’s early environmentalist values. All of the historic buildings on campus now source solar electricity from a local business.

As part of our Greening Initiative and in conjunction with the exhibition, *Cross Pollination*, the Thomas Cole Site officially joined “The Pollinator Pathway.” The Pathway is a group of international public and private properties that together offer pesticide-free corridors of native plants that provide nutrition and habitat for pollinators. To receive this designation, the properties do not use pesticides and herbicides and mow higher and less often to support pollinator habitats. Previous Greening actions, such as installing an electric car charger, can be found at thomascole.org/greening.

New Cole Painting gifted


Paula Hayes’ sculpture *Bird Nesting House and Tree* on the grounds

The digital collection highlights were made possible by the Henry Luce Foundation. Organized by Amanda Malmstrom, Assistant Curator; Kate Mencouni, Curator/Director of Exhibition & Collections; and Brooke Krancer, Class of 2022 Cole Fellow; with special thanks to Roseanne Dean, Class of 2018 Cole Fellow and Oriana Tang, Class of 2021 Cole Fellow.
SUNDAY SALONS CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL CONVERSATIONS

The annual “Sunday Salons,” now in their eighteenth year, were reimagined to stream live online with interactive questions from January through April 2021. The series of talks presented leading thinkers on timely topics relating to American art and landscape and contributed to national conversations during Black History Month, Women’s History Month, and Earth Day. The 2021 speakers were Jean Dunbar, Historic Interiors Expert; Elon Cook Lee, Founder, Liberation Heritage Consulting & Director of Interpretation and Education, National Trust for Historic Preservation; Nancy Siegel, Professor of Art History, Towson University & co-curator of our 2010 exhibition Remember the Ladies; and Judith Enck, President, Beyond Plastics & Former EPA Regional Administrator appointed by President Obama. The Salons were offered for free as part of our Diversity, Equity and Access Initiative. In the virtual space, the Sunday Salons were attended by more guests than we can accommodate in the New Studio building, where the Salons have been held in person when conditions allow. The talks are available to stream for free at thomascole.org/sundaysalons.

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site dedicates the 2021 Sunday Salons lecture series in honor of David Grey.

Support provided by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the New York State Legislature, Empire State Development’s I LOVE NEW YORK program under the Market NY initiative, a Humanities New York Action Grant with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Kindred Spirits Society of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT INSTALLED

The following land acknowledgement is a statement from the Thomas Cole National Historic Site developed in conversation with the Stockbridge Munsee Cultural Affairs Department. This season, the Land Acknowledgement was installed on the grounds at the entrance to the property.

It is with gratitude and humility that we acknowledge that we are learning, speaking and gathering on the ancestral homelands of the Muhheaconneok (or Mohican) people, who are the indigenous peoples of this land. Despite tremendous hardship in being forced from here, today their community resides in Wisconsin and is known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors past and present as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all.
COLE FELLOWS RESEARCH SHAPES THE FUTURE

In 2020 and 2021, we responded to pandemic conditions and developed a special hybrid model for the Cole Fellowship that allowed our Fellows to participate in the program through both remote and in-person opportunities. The annual Cole Fellowship offers four recent college graduates the opportunity to gain professional experience by becoming part of the museum staff. The Fellows serve on project committees, engage with the public, and conduct significant research that is immediately put into action to advance mission-based initiatives.

Isabelle (Issy) Bohling is working in arts education and developed and led the free program series “Art in the Garden.” She is researching the history of land protection in the United States and how to best enact Cole’s environmental legacy across the site today. She is also helping with research for our 2023 exhibition, curated by scholar Nancy Siegel, who curated our 2010 exhibition, Remember the Ladies, and TCNHS curators, Kate Menconeri and Amanda Malmstrom.

Adaeze Dikko is working on new interpretive initiatives to illuminate the lives, legacies, and circumstances of people who lived at the historic property during Cole’s residency, including Maria Cole’s sister, Frances, who spent time at the Hartford Retreat for the Insane, and a free Black woman who lived and labored on the historic property in the 1840s.

Brooke Krancer is conducting research on Cole’s painting River in the Catskills and the history of industry in Catskill, as well as working closely with the curatorial team on the 2022 exhibition and publication, Thomas Cole’s Studio: Memory and Inspiration, curated by Franklin Kelly from the National Gallery of Art. She also helped to launch the museum’s Collection Highlights online exhibition.

Oriana Tang contributed edits to wall labels and other texts now available on the Cole Site Collections webpage and on view in Cross Pollination. She also finalized new transcriptions of original writings by Thomas Cole, including Verdura and Catskiliana, and put together guidelines to standardize and advance the Thomas Cole Site’s future work on primary source transcriptions and publications.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS SERVE STUDENTS OF ALL AGES

At the peak of the pandemic, we transitioned our annual K-12 and higher education programming into the virtual space. In 2021, the site continued to respond to student and teacher needs and provided programming both in person and live online. We welcomed Catskill Middle Schoolers, incoming Hamilton College students, and others for on-site experiences. Virtual programs included customized programming for Hudson Elementary, Red Hook High School, and Columbia University Architecture School graduate students. We adapt our programs to serve various ages and academic interests. Our annual programming meets expressed teacher needs for engaging material to teach curriculum themes with creative lesson plans that use American art to teach American history.

MEMBERS SUPPORT FREE PROGRAMMING

Become a member of the Thomas Cole Site and join a community of compassionate people that help make possible all of our free programming, including educational programs for students. You can learn more at thomascole.org/membership or by connecting with Nichole at nburke@thomascole.org.
REMEMBERING RAY BEECHER

Raymond (Ray) Beecher was the Greene County Historian and the leader of a community campaign to save the Thomas Cole site from being lost to history twenty years ago. His advocacy, support, and bequest transformed a beloved property into the Thomas Cole National Historic Site today and protects its future.

If you have already included the historic site in your estate plans, or would like to find out how, please let us know. We cannot wait to thank you. You can reach Jennifer at jgreim@thomascole.org to start the conversation.

INTRODUCING THE MUSEUM EDUCATORS

The Thomas Cole Site seasonal Museum Educators facilitate the visitor experience and support visitors in learning through conversation. The 2021 Educators are Ava Teague, Beth Wynne, Catherine Lockhart, Jackie Woods, Lora Lee Ecobelli, Martha Bradicich, Mary Beth Soya, Michael Barraco and Nancy Winch.

Ava graduated from the New School with a BA in Literary Studies. Beth graduated from SUNY New Paltz with a BA in English and minors in Studio Art and Art History. Catherine has a BA in Sociology and Peace & Global Studies, an MA in Cultural Anthropology, and a Graduate Certificate in Museum Collections Management and Care. Jackie Woods graduated from Bard College with a Master’s in Secondary English and Teaching, and now teaches Secondary English at Niskayuna High School. Lora Lee is a working actress and teaches part time. Martha Bradicich previously worked in primary education. She works in the Visitor Center on site. Mary Beth graduated from the College of the Holy Cross with a BA in English and Art History. Michael graduated from Hunter College with a BA in Combined Media and has an MA in Fine Arts from Purchase College. He was previously the Director of Education at Hudson Valley MOCA and, most recently, the Director of Programs and Education at Fairfield Museum and History Center. Nancy is a Master Gardener and the go-to educator for garden-related questions.

VIRTUAL TOUR REACHES BROAD AUDIENCES

Tour Thomas Cole’s historic home and 1839 Old Studio building with the updated “360 Virtual Explore.” Wander through the rooms and make discoveries, including the opportunity to snoop through Cole’s private letters, thanks to pop out videos, photos, and research. Learn about Cole’s relationship with his patrons and his passionate concern for the landscape. The virtual tour is available for free at thomascole.org/360explore as part of our Diversity, Equity and Access Initiative. Support provided by Art Bridges.

This online program was organized by Anne T. Comer, Class of 2020 Cole Fellow, and Heather Paroubek, Manager of Visitor Engagement.
featuring 25 artists and over 85 artworks installed throughout the historic interiors and outside in the landscape. *Artnet News* hailed the exhibition as “powerful, highly ambitious, and deeply relevant” and proclaimed that it wove “together the histories of conservation and American art in a way most people haven’t seen before.” In a review published in *The Magazine Antiques*, leading scholar and Yale professor Tim Barringer observed that, “Cross Pollination is an enterprising endeavor that makes for a thrilling visit to the region, filled with insights running back and forth between past and present” and *Sculpture Magazine* included the show in its round-up of this year’s best outdoor sculpture exhibitions.

The 19th-century artists featured in the exhibition were Martin Johnson Heade, Thomas Cole, Frederic Church, Emily Cole, and Isabel Charlotte Church, and the contemporary artists are Rachel Berwick, Nick Cave, Mark Dion, Richard Estes, Juan Fontane, Jeffrey Gibson, Paula Hayes, Patrick Jacobs, Maya Lin, Flora C. Mace, Vik Muniz, Portia Munson, Lisa Sanditz, Emily Sartor, Sayler/Morris, Dana Sherwood, Jean Shin, Rachel Sussman, and Jeff Whetstone.

Taking flight from Martin Johnson Heade’s influential series of hummingbird and habitat paintings, *The Gems of Brazil*, (1863-64,) the project brought together historic paintings, sketches, sculpture and natural history specimens with new contemporary artworks.

*Cross Pollination* was curated by Kate Menconeri, Curator & Director of Exhibitions and Collections at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site; Julia B. Rosenbaum, Associate Professor of Art History and Visual Culture, Bard College and former Director of Research and Publications at The Olana Partnership; William L. Coleman, Director of Collections &...
The exhibition was accompanied by a series of dynamic programs:

The Thomas Cole Site and Olana hosted the first “Great Pollinator Ramble” in June with Processional Arts Workshop. Giant pollinator puppets soared through the streets of Catskill and “migrated” to the Thomas Cole Site. Community members gave life to these giant works of art and children created their own flower puppets to join in the fun. Support provided by Art Bridges.

The Thomas Cole Site collaborated with Olana and Basilica Hudson to present a screening of WasteLand at the local Greenville Drive-In. WasteLand is a documentary that follows the Cross Pollination exhibition artist Vik Muniz to Brazil, where he explores the social ecosystem of workers at the world’s largest garbage dump.

The Hudson Eye worked with the Thomas Cole Site, Olana, and the New York State Bridge Authority to activate the Hudson River Skywalk with a new art installation entitled, The Spirits are Laughing by the acclaimed artist Jeffrey Gibson.

The Thomas Cole Site and Olana presented a series of virtual talks bringing together artists, ecologists and history scholars. The talks were held throughout the five month run of the exhibition and featured Paula Hayes, Chris Layman, Lisa Sanditz, Susannah Sayler & Edward Morris (pictured here), Dr. Scott Manning Stevens, and Rachel Sussman. The series was organized by Amanda Malmstrom, Assistant Curator at the Thomas Cole Site, and Carolyn Keogh, Director of Education and Public Programs at The Olana Partnership.

Cole Fellow Isabelle Bohling developed free immersive workshops at the intersection of art and nature that were offered on the grounds of the Thomas Cole Site. The “Art in the Garden” programming was in coordination with the local farmer Rachel Stults of Brand Hollow Farm and Master Gardener Jean Campbell. The program was free, and all necessary materials were provided as part of our Diversity, Equity and Access Initiative. Support provided by Art Bridges.

Artists Lisa Sanditz and Emily Sartor created an artwork entitled, Thrilling Tales and Startling Adventures: An Unofficial Guide to Pollinators (detail pictured here). This illustrated map encouraged visitors to get out into the local landscape and identify local pollinators and plants.

The Thomas Cole Site and Olana cohosted a talk with the preeminent Martin Johnson Heade scholar, Theodore E. Stebbins Jr. In the talk entitled, “Martin Johnson Heade: A Strange Art Life Brought up to Date,” Dr. Stebbins provided a new look at the nineteenth-century artist that inspired the Cross Pollination exhibition.
“SPRING LIGHTS” BROUGHT OUT THE COMMUNITY

The Thomas Cole Site launched a new program this year called “Spring Lights,” activating the historic gardens and grounds after dark. In April and May 2021, “Spring Lights” offered visitors a safe outdoor walk-through experience inspired by Cole’s love of nature, and we invited local residents every week for Free Community Fridays. A field of lights designed by Chris Bochiarro and Megan Kinneen of Clerestory Light appeared to dance around visitors. The experience included an original soundscape by Greg Hanson, the sound designer for Sleep No More in NYC. The audio featured Cole’s original writings given voice by the film actor Jamie Bell. The contemporary artist Brian Kenny created a new animated artwork inspired by Cole’s paintings that was projected across the entire side of the historic Old Studio building.

The Times Union reported: “created with 450 glowing orbs, the immersive installation conjures up a magical space filled with life and warmth” and hailed Brian Kenny’s artwork as “a kaleidoscopic animation of color and imagery that evokes the depth and richness of Cole’s canvases.” In an interview with the Daily Freeman, Executive Director Betsy Jacks said “we wanted to create something that could be experienced outdoors and that’s really accessible to everybody.” ABC News 10 covered the new experience in the region and observed that, “For 20 years, the Thomas Cole National Historic Site has been sharing the beauty of the painter’s home and studio with the community” and “This spring, people are welcome to enjoy a new community event called Spring Lights.”

“Spring Lights” was made possible by a generous grant from The Bay & Paul Foundations in support of using light to inspire new experiences.

Community benefits, including Free Community Fridays, were made possible by our generous Underwriters

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Lisa Fox Martin

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS UNDERWRITER
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Special thanks to Brian Swardstrom

“Spring Lights” was created by Clerestory Light, the artist Brian Kenny, and the voice of film actor Jamie Bell
SUMMER PARTY CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

Thank you for making the 20th Anniversary Summer Party a night for the history books. We are so grateful for the community behind this historic place. Lisa Fox Martin, our magnificent chairman and party host, wondered if she had ever seen so many smiles in one place. It was a joyful and exuberant evening! We were thrilled with the enthusiastic response for commemorating this major anniversary milestone.

Remarks by Senator Schumer and Representative Antonio Delgado were screened at the event. Thanks to supporters like you, the Thomas Cole Site has come a long way in twenty years. A very special thank you to Geoff Howell and Geoff Howell Studio for designing the beautiful celebration, which took place in Catskill on the banks of the Hudson River.

ANNIVERSARY TABLE
Jimmy & Micaela Bulich
Matthew & Amy Davidson
Lisa Fox Martin
Gloria & Barry Garfinkel
James LaForce & Stephen Henderson
Marianne Lockwood & David Bury
Rick Sharp & Meredith Kane

PATRON OF THE ARTS TABLE
Sara & Tom de Swardt
David Forer
Alison Lankenau
Lisa Fox Martin
Gloria & Barry Garfinkel
James LaForce & Stephen Henderson
Marianne Lockwood & David Bury
Rick Sharp & Meredith Kane

CONTRIBUTORS
Richard & Jean Bassin
Annette & Stanley Blaugrund
Kathleen & Neil Chrisman
Margaret Davidson & John Stein
Ginnie Gardiner
Gail Gregg & Daniel Moses Schreier
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Maynard & Kay Toll
Nancy Ursprung
Alan Wallach & Phyllis Rosenzeig
Wheelock Whitney & Sandro Cagnin

Projected remarks from Senator Schumer

Event Design Geoff Howell
Dîner & hors d’œuvres Creekside Catering
Event cocktails Domany’s Liquors & Fine Wines,
Great Barrington, MA
Auctioneer Charles Antin
Restrooms by Stone Industries
Tent by Canale Tent Rentals
Fireworks by Fireworks Extravaganza
upcoming exhibitions: on memorial and inspiration

The Thomas Cole Site has organized two major exhibitions for 2022. Franklin Kelly, the Christiane Ellis Valone Curator of American Paintings, National Gallery of Art, will curate our exhibition, Thomas Cole’s Studio: Memory and Inspiration, presented in the artist’s New Studio in Catskill from April 30th through October. The project will reveal new research by Dr. Kelly on Cole’s late work and its influence on the next generation of artists and the course of American art. The exhibition will travel to the Albuquerque Museum, Albuquerque, NM.

MASS MoCA and the Thomas Cole Site are partnering to present concurrent exhibitions by the contemporary artist Marc Swanson. The project entitled, Marc Swanson: A Memorial to Ice at the Dead Deer Disco, will be installed in Cole’s historic home and open in July. Swanson is inspired by Cole’s writing about preserving the natural environment. Denise Markonish, the curator at MASS MoCA who is working with Cole Site curator Kate Menconeri, poignantly describes the project as “a longing for the present, and future nostalgia, resulting from the impending loss and inevitable results of climate change.”