



## CALL FOR NEW WRITING

### GUIDELINES & ENTRY FORM / THOMAS COLE'S *Essay on American Scenery*

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How is the American landscape changing? Is there something you see, do, or experience now that you hope will be around for future generations? In honor of Thomas Cole's text, *Essay on American Scenery*, The Thomas Cole National Historic site is calling for new writing on the topic of the changing landscape.

We invite writers to send writing that reflects on the landscape and the changes within, which may span the natural world, climate, physical strata or the shifting social and political landscapes, or the changes seen in your neighborhood, city block, or a single building or natural feature. To read Thomas Cole's *Essay on American Scenery* visit our website: [thomascole.org/events](http://thomascole.org/events)

#### **Selected texts will be**

- + Featured in a multi-media group exhibition at the Albany International Airport Gallery, September 29, 2018 – February 25, 2019.
- + Printed in a limited edition publication
- + Published online via the Thomas Cole or Albany Art and Culture websites

**WHAT** *Essay on American Scenery* was a piece of persuasive nonfiction writing, but Thomas Cole, in addition to being an essayist, produced poetry, fiction, and creative work of all kinds in his lifetime. In this spirit:

- We welcome nonfiction, fiction, or poetry that responds to the prompt. While the prompt can be interpreted broadly, texts must address in some way a change to the American landscape (environmental, physical, societal, cultural) and how the author feels about it.
- Texts should be between 1,500-5,000 words. Exceptions to word minimum will be made for poetry.
- Eligibility: Open to all.

Please note: The CALL is for writing only. We are not at this time reviewing unsolicited entries for visual artwork.

**Writing will be read by a panel of art historians, curators, and environmentalists, including:** J. Jeffrey Anzevino, Land Use Advocacy Director, Scenic Hudson; Kathy Greenwood, Director, Art & Culture Program, Albany International Airport; W. Douglas McCombs, Chief Curator, Albany Institute of History and Art; Kate Menconeri, Curator, Thomas Cole National Historic House; Nancy Siegel, Professor of Art History, Towson University; Allan Wallach, Ralph H. Wark Professor of Art and Art History and Professor of American Studies Emeritus, Professorial Lecturer in Art History, George Washington University.

#### **WHEN** Entries will be accepted through May 1, 2018

**HOW / Please send your text via PDF to [mconley@thomascole.org](mailto:mconley@thomascole.org)**

**Or Mail to:** Madeline Conley, Thomas Cole National Historic Site, 207 Spring Street, Catskill, NY 12414

**Questions? Write:** [mconley@thomascole.org](mailto:mconley@thomascole.org)

**MORE:** Thomas Cole (1801-1848) was an English-born painter who began America's first major art movement, the Hudson River School—a group of artists whose paintings paid homage to American wilderness even as it was being dramatically altered by industrialization. Cole wrote about both his appreciation of but also his worry for the American landscape in an essay called *Essay on American Scenery*, published in *American Monthly Magazine* 1 in January 1836. At a time when American natural scenery was commonly thought of as inferior to the beauty of European landscapes, Cole argued that the wilds of America were just as, if not more, beautiful than any other place in the world. Moreover, in the face of mounting industrialization, he pleaded readers to value and preserve its quickly disappearing wilderness.

At the time of his writing, the American landscape was changing rapidly. The advent of railroads, factories, mills, and steamships brought dramatic change to Catskill, New York, where Cole made his home, as well as to much of the Hudson River Valley and the United States as a whole. As he observed his beloved town of Catskill and its surrounding environs transformed by industry, Cole wrote, "I cannot but express my sorrow that the beauty of such landscapes is quickly passing away... another generation will behold spots now rife with beauty desecrated by what is called 'improvement.'"



**ENTRY FORM / CALL for NEW WRITING**  
**Essay on American Scenery**

**Please return this completed form with your writing entry by May 1, 2018.**

Name of Writer: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

+ Title of Text: \_\_\_\_\_

+ Year DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please sign below to indicate agreement with this statement:** Upon entering this call, I affirm that the writing submitted is my own and original to me; it is free and clear to be presented and does not infringe upon copyrighted work or work by another author. I give permission for my submitted writing to be presented in print, online, audio, or displayed in conjunction with this call and related use in the exhibition, education, and publicity. As the artist, I retain copyright and will be credited if and when my text is selected.

Signed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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