



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jennifer Greim, Director of External Relations | jgreim@thomascole.org

Thomas Cole Historic Site Announces a Spring Series of Outdoor Art Workshops for Children and Visitors of all Ages at the Historic Site. The Workshops are Free and Designed to Inspire Creativity.

Catskill, NY – Monday, April 15, 2019 –The Thomas Cole National Historic Site announced today a series of Outdoor Art Workshops at the historic site offered to the community for free. Children and their families and visitors of all ages are invited to join an afternoon of painting and drawing in nature. Explore the historic grounds, the flower and kitchen gardens, and the porch of the Main House which offer sweeping views of the Catskill Mountains. Discover your own artistic inspiration at the place where Cole painted many of his Hudson River School masterpieces nearly 200 years ago. Activities include: *Drawing the Catskills, Perspective and Architecture, Pigment Making, Plant Identification and Close Observation, and Understanding Color*. The series will be held at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in Catskill, New York on four Saturdays: April 20, May 4, May 11, and May 25. Events will take place on the lawn and porch of the Main House from 10 am to 2 pm.

The Outdoor Art Workshops are offered in conjunction with the special exhibition entitled [*Thomas Cole's Refrain: The Paintings of Catskill Creek*](#) opening in Thomas Cole's New Studio at the historic site on May 4 and running through November 3. The exhibition explores Cole's paintings of Catskill Creek, the body of water that runs through the Village of Catskill and is located less than a mile and a half from the historic site. The view of the Catskill Mountains that frames Catskill Creek in Cole's paintings can still be enjoyed from the porch of the Main House today, and a stretch of land along Catskill Creek has been preserved as a public park by Scenic Hudson and Greene Land Trust. Free admission to *Thomas Cole's Refrain* will be offered on Saturday, April 27 from 4 to 6 pm.

The Outdoor Art Workshops are led and developed by 2019 Cole Fellow, Maeve McCool. Maeve is a visual artist who received her B.A from Corcoran College of Arts and Design and has spent the last year researching alternative methods of engagement with the arts and school children at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site.

The workshops are free and all necessary materials will be provided. Advance reservations are appreciated, but drop-ins are also welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Admission to the exhibition is purchased separately. For questions and reservations, please contact Cole Fellow, Maeve McCool, at MMcool@thomascole.org.

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 Thomas Cole Site's activities include guided and self-guided tours, special exhibitions of both 19th-century and contemporary art,

printed publications, lectures, extensive online programs, activities for school groups, the Cole Fellowship program, free community events, and innovative public programs such as the Hudson River School Art Trail—a map and website that enables people to visit the places in nature that Cole painted. The goal of all programs at the Thomas 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.

VISITOR INFORMATION: Open weekends in April and May for guided tours at 11 am, 12 pm and 1 pm. Please visit our website for more information: www.thomascole.org/visit. Keep in touch on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter [@thomascolesite](https://twitter.com/thomascolesite).