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THOMAS COLE SITE ANNOUNCES THE 2019 *SUNDAY SALONS* BRINGING TODAY'S LEADERS IN AMERICAN ART TO THOMAS COLE'S NEW STUDIO IN CATSKILL, NEW YORK

Catskill, NY – January 3, 2019 – The Thomas Cole National Historic Sites announced today the 16th annual *Sunday Salons* lecture series, bringing leaders in American art to Thomas Cole's New Studio in Catskill, New York, once a month from January through April. This season features some of today's top scholars discussing their game-changing new projects and inviting audience discussions. The series features the head of the American Wing at The Met, the curator of a major show on the Hudson River at the New-York Historical Society, the professor whose new exhibition at Princeton reframes American art from the last three centuries, and the dramatic reveal of new discoveries in Thomas Cole's home. The talks will be held once a month on Sundays at 2 pm and will be followed by audience discussions. Tickets for the *Sunday Salons* can be reserved at thomascole.org/events. Tickets are \$10 for members and \$12 for general admission.

The Thomas Cole Site will offer guided tours of the 1815 Main House and 1839 Old Studio during the winter season in conjunction with the *Sunday Salons* programming. Please see the schedule below for details. The Main House includes *The Parlors*, technology-driven story telling installations, and *Mind Upon Nature: Thomas Cole's Creative Process*, an exhibition featuring original works by Thomas Cole. Guided tour tickets are \$12 for general admission and free for members. Both members and non-members must reserve tour tickets in advance at thomascole.org/events.

The 2019 *Sunday Salons* are supported by a Humanities New York Action Grant with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Empire State Development's I LOVE NY Program under the Market NY initiative, New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, David and Laura Grey, Caldwell Gallery Hudson, Katherine and Eric Baumgartner, and Jim Lewis and Dianne Young.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2 pm

New Discoveries: Thomas Cole and Industrial Design, Jean Dunbar, Historic Design Inc.

Join design historian and historic interiors expert Jean Dunbar for the unveiling of a new discovery at Thomas Cole's home inspired by Cole's first love, English design. Living and earning on the cusp between manufacturing and art, Cole acquired the skills to become a painter. Cole's home in Catskill illustrates his virtuosity as a designer and the unquenchable passion for decoration that permeated his life as an artist.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2 pm

Evolving Visions and Voices in The Met's American Wing, Sylvia Yount, Lawrence A. Fleischman Curator in Charge of the American Wing, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Join Dr. Sylvia Yount, Lawrence A. Fleischman Curator in Charge, for a discussion of how the American Wing—founded in 1924 for the display and study of historical American decorative arts—is expanding its collecting focus and gallery narratives to create a more pluralistic experience for 21st-century audiences. A fascinating conversation is going on in American art today, inviting diverse voices to consider our conceptions of art history now and going forward.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2 pm

Directionality in the Art of Thomas Cole: An Ecocritical Perspective, Alan C. Braddock, Ralph H. Wark Associate Professor of Art History & American Studies, College of William & Mary, Co-curator of *Nature's Nation: American Art and Environment* at Princeton University

Join Dr. Alan C. Braddock, Ralph H. Wark Associate Professor of Art History & American Studies, on an exploration of directionality of vision and movement in the art of Thomas Cole. Cole's work often communicates a powerful sense of place by inviting us to look in certain directions, prompting reflection about actual places in nature. Through this lens, learn how paintings such as *The Oxbow* are informed by his concerns about human impact on pristine wilderness.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2 pm

Catskill Creek and the Science of Landscape, Jeanne Haffner, Associate Curator of *Hudson Rising* exhibition at the New York Historical Society

Join Dr. Haffner, Associate Curator of *Hudson Rising* and previous Lecturer at Harvard University, as she considers contemporary debates over Anthropocene—the idea that humankind is not separate from nature but a force of nature in itself—and Cole's paintings of Catskill Creek from the 19th century. The stretch of land along Catskill Creek that appears in the paintings was recently preserved as a public park in Catskill and is located less than a mile and a half from the Thomas Cole Site.

Guided Tours of the historic Main House, Winter Schedule

January

Sunday, January 20 at 1 pm & 3:30 pm

February

Sunday, February 10 at 1 pm & 3:30 pm

March

Every Saturday and Sunday at 11 am, 12 pm and 1 pm

*Additional tour at 3:30 pm on March 3rd

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 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: The hours for Thomas Cole's home, studios and special exhibitions vary by season. For details see: www.thomascole.org/visit. Keep in touch on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at @thomascolesite



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