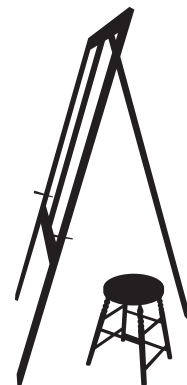


THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

December 2018 Newsletter



WRAPPING UP A BICENTENNIAL YEAR 1818-2018



Picturesque and Sublime in Thomas Cole's New Studio, Photo © Peter Aaron/OTTO

Thomas Cole on the World Stage

The Bicentennial of Thomas Cole's arrival in America from England in 1818 was celebrated with great fanfare on both sides of the Atlantic. The Metropolitan Museum of Art presented a critically-acclaimed exhibition entitled *Thomas Cole's Journey: Atlantic Crossings* that lived up to its name and traveled from New York City to Trafalgar Square, where it opened at the National Gallery, London, as *Thomas Cole: Eden to Empire*. *The New York Times* called the show "gorgeous" and "politically right for right now," and *The London Times* declared Cole "ravishing - and still resonant." The show was organized by Elizabeth Kornhauser, Alice Pratt Brown Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture at The Met, and Tim Barringer, Paul Mellon Professor in the History of Art, Chair, History of Art at Yale University, with Christopher Riopelle, Curator of Post-1800 Paintings at The National Gallery, London. Our region celebrated the Bicentennial with special exhibitions at the Fenimore Art Museum, *Thomas Cole and the Garden of Eden*, the Albany Institute of History & Art, *Thomas Cole's Paper Trail*, and of course here at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site with a special exhibition that shared a co-curator with the show at The Met.

Cole, Turner & Constable in the New Studio

Bringing the Bicentennial celebrations home, the Thomas Cole Site presented a new exhibition in partnership with the Yale Center for British Art and members of the Yale History of Art Department. The exhibition *Picturesque and Sublime: Thomas Cole's Trans-Atlantic Inheritance* was on view in the New Studio from May through October and was co-curated by: Tim Barringer; Gillian Forrester, previously at the Yale Center for British Art and author of Turner's *'Drawing Book': the Liber Studiorum*; Jennifer Raab, Associate Professor in the History of Art at Yale; and two doctoral candidates at Yale, Sophie Lynford and Nicholas Robbins. The exhibition presented masterworks on paper by major British artists including J.M.W. Turner and John Constable, together with significant oil-on-canvas paintings by Thomas Cole, to demonstrate Cole's radical achievement of transforming the British landscape traditions into a new bold formulation, the American Sublime. The power-packed exhibition was accompanied by a 180-page catalogue published by Yale University Press, revealing new research on Thomas Cole by each of the curators.

First-Ever Children's Book on Thomas Cole is Published

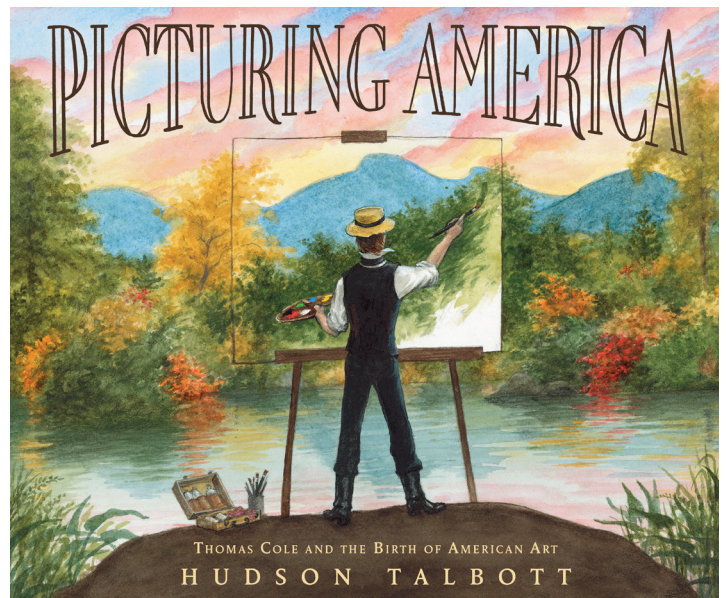
See page 2 for details

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HUDSON TALBOTT CREATES THE FIRST CHILDREN'S BOOK ON THOMAS COLE

Exploring the same trans-Atlantic themes as the Bicentennial exhibitions, the first children's book on Thomas Cole was created by our trustee Hudson Talbott, a beloved children's book author and illustrator, and published this fall by Nancy Paulsen, an imprint of Penguin Random House. *Picturing America: Thomas Cole and the Birth of American Art* is a beautifully illustrated story introducing a new generation to Thomas Cole. The book takes readers on a journey from Cole's early childhood in the English countryside, to discovering the American wilderness in the Hudson Valley and the Catskills, to founding America's first major art movement, the Hudson River School of landscape painting. The Thomas Cole Site hosted a book launch to celebrate the special occasion, and book sales from the event were donated to the historic site's educational programming thanks to the publisher. That evening was a great success and Hudson signed over 100 books for excited guests.

The inspiration for *Picturing America* came when Betsy Jacks, Executive Director at the Thomas Cole Site,



approached Hudson to create a free online story to get kids excited about Thomas Cole and the historic site before they came for a visit. Hudson thought it was a great idea and his editor did too, giving rise to the print publication with Penguin Random House. The free online story was launched in February 2018, with excerpts from *Picturing America* as well as original content exclusive to the web version. Read the 14-page story at thomascole.org/story.

NEW DIGITAL EDUCATION PACKAGE IS LAUNCHED



Education is at the heart of everything we do here at the Thomas Cole Site. As part of our ongoing education initiative, this year we created a new digital education package available for free at thomascole.org. The section features new classroom lesson plans designed using Thomas Cole's story to engage students in enduring themes such as the human impact on the environment. One fourth-grade teacher in Hudson who participated in piloting the lesson plans observed, "I love the conversations I heard

from the students!" To download the free lesson plans visit thomascole.org/teacherresources.

The digital education package for people of all ages also includes a virtual gallery of Thomas Cole's paintings, essays, poems and letters with scholarly analysis; the digital story by Hudson Talbott introducing Thomas Cole to children; a video section filled with lectures by leading scholars, curators and contemporary artists as well as original Thomas Cole Site films; and information on booking a customized educational experience with a Thomas Cole Site educator at the historic site or in the classroom.

The lesson plans were created, piloted, and refined by Madeline Conley, a 2017-18 Cole Fellow who is now pursuing an M.A. in Art and Design Education at Rhode Island School of Design. The lesson plans were piloted over the last year with more than 900 students - 500 in eight schools in the Hudson River Valley and New York Metropolitan Area and 400 at the historic Site. The digital education package grew out of research by 2016 Cole Fellow Kathleen Brousseau and was supported by The Bay & Paul Foundations.



Artwork by Anne Lindberg. Photo by Jennifer Morse.



Installation view of artwork by Linda Weintraub. Photo © Peter Aaron/OTTO

SPECTRUM:

INVITING 11 CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS INTO THOMAS COLE'S HOME

For the third exhibition in the annual series *OPEN HOUSE: Contemporary Art in Conversation with Cole*, our curator Kate Menconeri and the artist Kiki Smith took a deep dive into Thomas Cole's use of color and light. The resulting exhibition was inspired by Cole's writing on color, his colorful interior design, and his 1834 painting, *Diagram of Contrasts*, on loan to us from the collection of Richard Sharp. The exhibition engages contemporary artists in a visual dialogue with Cole, exploring how artists use color in their practice at the intersection of art and science. The site-specific installation was installed throughout Thomas Cole's historic home, studio, and grounds from August 14 to November 18. The project featured work by eleven contemporary artists: Polly

Apfelbaum, Valerie Hammond, Ann Veronica Janssens, Anne Lindberg, Laura Moriarty, Portia Munson, Jackie Saccoccio, Lisa Sanditz, Julianne Swartz, Mildred Thompson, and Linda Weintraub.

"Color has baffled me. Thomas Cole's use of color, as well as his evident interest in light phenomena found in nature, is compelling to me." — Kiki Smith

The artworks included an immersive site-specific light installation by Ann Veronica Janssens, photographs and a corresponding living garden designed by Portia Munson, woodblock prints

by Polly Apfelbaum, four *Camera-Less-Videos* by Julianne Swartz, an outdoor installation of rainbows by Valerie Hammond, vibrant *Radiation Explorations* by Mildred Thompson, and monumental scaled works on linen by Jackie Saccoccio. The artist Lisa Sanditz created an installation of sculpture and painting, combined with works from the collection by Emily Cole (Thomas Cole's daughter), and Anne Lindberg created a new site-specific thread installation and works on paper in response to the periwinkle wall color that Cole chose for his home. Laura Moriarty created a *Tableau for Thomas Cole* with pigmented beeswax, and Linda Weintraub presented an installation of home-preserved food called *Let Us Eat the Colors of the Spectrum*.



SPECTRUM opening, Photo by Chad Kleitsch

The exhibition was accompanied by a print publication that featured text by Kate Menconeri and an original essay by Jesse Bransford, Clinical Associate Professor of Visual Arts, Chair of the Department of Art and Art Professions, NYU Steinhardt, that explores the dominant color theories during Cole's time and words and works by each artist.

THE COLE FELLOWSHIP: DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

Last year marked the first full-year Cole Fellowship program, which had previously been a six-month program. All four of the 2017-2018 Fellows were accepted into graduate programs and embarked on their journeys this fall: Madeline Conley (M.A. in Art + Design Education, Rhode Island School of Design), Rowanne Dean (Ph.D. Program in Art History, University of Chicago), Adam Grimes (M.A. in Art History, University of Delaware), and Michael Quituisaca, (M.A. in Art History, American University). We are so proud of our Fellows and cannot wait to see all the wonderful things they will do!



Amanda Malmstrom, Maeve McCool, Katie Pratt-Thompson, Peter Fedoryk

Introducing the class of 2018-2019 Cole Fellows

Peter Fedoryk received his B.A. from Villanova University where he majored in History, and minored in Art History, and wrote his thesis on Thomas Cole. Peter is currently researching 19th century historical events in the US, NY State, and Catskill to provide context for Thomas Cole's life and work. His project will inform the reinterpretation of the second floor of the Main House.

Katherine Pratt-Thompson received her B.A. from Princeton University with a certificate in American Studies. Katherine is currently researching the items in Cole's mineral collection to draw connections between Cole's travels, writings, and the growth of the natural sciences in the 19th century. Her project will inform new interpretive materials illuminating this key object in the collection.

Amanda Malmstrom received her B.A. from Loyola University Chicago where she double majored in Art History and History and minored in Women's Studies & Gender Studies. Amanda is now building on existing research of both the women who called the historic property home, as well as the women who painted in the style of the Hudson River School. Her project will inform future interpretation and programming at the site.

Maeve McCool is a visual artist who received her B.A. in Fine Art & Art History from Corcoran College of Arts and Design at the George Washington University. Maeve is researching alternative methods of engagement and programming outside of conventional museum spaces. Her project will help shape the future of the Hudson River School Art Trail, and outdoor experiences in nature, as inspired by our mission and Thomas Cole.



THOMAS COLE AT THE AIRPORT

This fall, we teamed up with the Albany International Airport to present a new multidisciplinary exhibition that features ten contemporary visual artists and seven writers whose work explores our relationship to the natural world and shares common ground with Thomas Cole's "Essay on American Scenery" from 1836. The exhibition, curated by our curator Kate Menconeri and Kathy Greenwood, Director of the Albany International Airport Art & Culture Program, is now on view at the Albany International Art Gallery through February 25, 2019. The project features work by Ellen Driscoll, Valerie Hammond, William Lamson, Portia Munson, Kenneth Ragsdale, Anne Roecklein, Lisa Sanditz, Kiki Smith, Darren Waterston, and Susan Wides.



ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT AMERICAN LANDSCAPE?

Join our community of inspiring people and find out about membership benefits at thomascole.org/membership



WE'RE NEARLY THERE!

The Final Year of our Program Endowment Challenge

Thanks to many generous people, we met our fourth year fundraising deadline this past July and are so close to establishing a \$1.2 million Program Endowment to support educational programming here at the historic site for future generations. With the final fundraising deadline less than a year away, will you help get us over the finish line?

In 2015 we received a five-year "Challenge Grant" from the National Endowment for the Humanities for \$300,000 that we must match with \$900,000, resulting in a \$1.2 million endowment. We are thrilled

to let you know that we have secured over \$1 million through fundraising and matching NEH funds to date. The final year challenge is to raise \$150,000 and we are delighted to report we have already whittled this down and have just \$122,000 left to go. We would so greatly appreciate your support to make this final challenge a success and ensure that this organization is able to continue offering top level programming to a growing audience, such as the projects described in this newsletter. To join this impactful initiative, visit our website at thomascole.org/donate.

»continued from page 1«

In conjunction with the exhibitions, the Thomas Cole Site presented the 12th annual Raymond Beecher Lecture in October 2017 in New York City with Elizabeth Kornhauser who gave our community a sneak peek into her research driving The Met's exhibition. To kick off 2018, we partnered with Yale University and The Metropolitan Museum of Art to present the 15th annual "Sunday Salons" lecture series. Once a month from January through April, a leading scholar from Yale or The Met working on one of the Bicentennial exhibitions presented a lecture in Thomas Cole's New Studio in Catskill. In March we hosted a black tie dinner at The Met honoring Elizabeth Kornhauser and Tim Barringer, which is detailed on page 7.

In April, we hosted a book launch party in NYC for our exhibition's accompanying publication, *Picturesque and Sublime*, with the curators from Yale, and then in May we opened the exhibition here in Catskill which included a very rare appearance of Cole's *Catskill Mountain House - the Four Elements* from an anonymous private collection, with many thanks to Michael Altman Fine Art for making this loan possible, and we are most grateful to the Yale Center for British Art for lending so many important works. We should also mention that the musician Sting performed at The Met in April in Thomas Cole's honor. Happy Bicentennial indeed!



Photo courtesy the New York State Bridge Authority

IT'S HAPPENING:

The Hudson River Skywalk

By the end of 2018, the Hudson River Skywalk will be substantially complete with a continuous pedestrian walkway from the Thomas Cole Site to Olana via the Rip Van Winkle Bridge. The Skywalk includes a reconstructed walkway featuring viewing platforms for visitors to take in sweeping views of the Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains from hundreds of feet in the air, and new pedestrian walkways from either side of the Bridge leading directly to the historic sites. The new experience physically connects the historic homes and studios of the leading Hudson River School artists, Thomas Cole and Frederic Church, with the Hudson River Valley landscapes that inspired them.

The Hudson River Skywalk has been a tremendous effort with a number of leading partners, and we would like to extend a special thank you to the Olana State Historic Site, the New York State Bridge Authority, Historic Bridges of the Hudson Valley, Greene County Tourism, the Temple Israel of Catskill, Columbia County Tourism, Scenic Hudson, the Village of Catskill, NYS DOT, and the many others who made this project a reality.

A TOAST TO OUR SUMMER PARTY SPONSORS

Thank you to all of our wonderful guests who made the 2018 Summer Party so magical and so memorable. The evening included cocktails, dinner, music, fireworks and dancing at the home of Chairman Lisa Fox Martin on the banks of the Hudson River. Event designer Geoff Howell set the scene for a beautiful evening with friends. This gathering is our biggest fundraiser of the year, making it possible for all of us to continue to make great strides. We would like to say a very special thank you to our Summer Party sponsors for their important generosity in support of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site.



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Dinner and Hors d'Oeuvres by Creekside
Catering
Event Cocktail donated by Domaney's Liquors,
Great Barrington
Music by The Wallpapers
Auctioneer Charles Antin, lot1.bid
Restrooms by Stone Industries
Tent by Cantele Tent Rentals
Fireworks by Fireworks Extravaganza
Sound donated by Lisa M. and
Jeffrey W. Jackson, Experience Music





TOP OF THE MET

To commemorate the Bicentennial year, we hosted a black tie dinner at The Metropolitan Museum of Art honoring Elizabeth Kornhauser and Tim Barringer in recognition of their outstanding achievement as co-curators of the major Thomas Cole show presented at The Met and the National Gallery, London. The curators led guests on an exclusive tour of the exhibition in the American Wing before proceeding on to cocktails and dinner overlooking Central Park. Ebullient toasts were made all around, capped off by Morrie Heckscher, Curator Emeritus of The American Wing. We are so grateful to our Benefit Committee for their tremendous support of this special event:

Course of Empire Tables

Lisa Fox Martin
Nina Matis & Alan Gosule

Oxbow Table

Anne Miller & Stuart Breslow

American Landscape Tickets

Blair & Cheryl Effron
Lise Strickler & Mark Gallogly
Deedee & Barrie A. Wigmore



Course of Empire Tickets

Michael Altman
Asli & Evren Ay
Miranda Barry & Charlotte Sheedy
David & Marianne Lockwood
David Forer
Kristin Gamble
Barry H. Garfinkel & Gloria L. Garfinkel
Marjorie & Gurnee Hart
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Warner Shook & Frank Swim
Frances Spark & Michel Goldberg
Maynard & Kay Toll

Event Design by Geoff Howell
Photos by Adam T. Deen

Oxbow Tickets

Laurel DeVore Acevedo
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Christopher Forbes
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Hudson Talbott & Jay Lesenger



THANK YOU

Many of our supporters have already left a gift to the Thomas Cole Historic Site in their wills or estate plans to help preserve this historic place for future generations, and you can too. If you have already included the Thomas Cole Site in your will, please let us know. We can't wait to thank you.

For more information reach out to Jennifer at 518.943.7465 x6.

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CATSKILL CREEK LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE

Looking ahead, we have big things planned for 2019. The new special exhibition *Thomas Cole's Refrain: The Paintings of Catskill Creek* will open on May 4 in partnership with Vassar College, Cornell University Press and the Hudson River Museum, and with related programming in partnership with Scenic Hudson and Greene Land Trust. The exhibition curated by H. Daniel Peck, John Guy Vassar Professor Emeritus of English, will reveal new research on Thomas Cole's Catskill Creek paintings, considering them as an integral series for the very first time. The exhibition will illuminate masterpieces from the New-York Historical Society, Yale University Art Gallery, and the National Gallery of Art.

The exhibition is supported by the Wyeth Foundation for American Art, New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, Empire State Development's I LOVE NEW YORK program under the Market NY initiative, The Education Foundation of America, The Enoch Foundation, Joan K. Davidson (The J. M. Kaplan Fund) and the Kindred Spirits Society of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site.



Thomas Cole, *Catskill Creek*, New York, 1845, Oil on canvas, 26 ½ by 36 in., New-York Historical Society, The Robert L. Stuart Collection, Gift of his widow Mrs. Mary Stuart, S-157