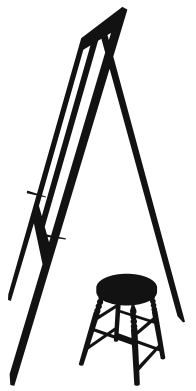


# THOMAS COLE

NATIONAL  
HISTORIC  
SITE



Fall 2014 Newsletter



Photo by Lance Wheeler

## NEW STUDIO RECONSTRUCTION NOW UNDERWAY

Forty-one years after it was summarily torn down, Thomas Cole's New Studio is now being reconstructed on its original footprint at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site. Built in 1846 according to Cole's own design, the building stood a few hundred yards from the artist's home in Catskill for 125 years. Tragically, it was demolished in 1973 after falling into disrepair. On July 3, 2014, we broke ground on the project to recreate this architecturally and historically important structure.

The building's exterior will be an exact recreation of the original, with floor-to-ceiling windows, decorative details such as carved wooden acorns in the corners, and graceful arches cresting along the cornice of the roof and porch. The interior is being engineered to provide a highly controlled environment for the display of art, featuring extreme precision in temperature and humidity controls, as well as high security, fire suppression and LED lighting, enabling this organization to borrow and present iconic artworks from major museums. The wide open interior will also provide space for lectures and all manner of community programs year round. With this design, the New Studio will enable the Thomas Cole National Historic Site



Thomas Cole, *Tower by Moonlight*, ca. 1838.  
(detail) Oil on canvas. Gift of David and Laura Grey

## THOMAS COLE'S "TOWER BY MOONLIGHT" IS DONATED

On October 8th we welcomed a new and exciting treasure into Thomas Cole's home, the 1838 oil painting by Thomas Cole entitled "Tower by Moonlight", a donation from our long-standing supporters, David and Laura Grey. The painting was featured in our 2008 exhibition on Thomas Cole's creative process and is an excellent example of Cole's use of classical architectural features in a landscape combined with motifs that denote the passage of time and mortality - in this case a ruined tower and a sarcophagus. The young lovers in the foreground contrast with the stone coffin beside which they are, presumably, pausing on their walk through the magnificent landscape illuminated by a full moon that is reflected in a calm sea. The Greys have been involved with the Thomas Cole National Historic Site and have generously lent paintings for several exhibitions over the last decade. They hope that this donation will inspire and set an example for other collectors with paintings by Thomas Cole, and they are delighted and gratified that thousands of visitors will see and enjoy their painting for years to come. The staff and trustees of the Thomas Cole site wish to thank the Greys for their miraculous gift.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Asli Ay is the Managing Partner of US Policy Metrics, a policy analysis and research firm serving leading hedge funds and private equity companies. Previously, she worked at UBS as a Senior Client Relationship Director and Deputy to UBS Vice-Chairman. Asli currently dedicates most of her time to Lone Star Global Acquisitions, helping them expand to new geographies including Brazil, Mexico and Italy. Asli has an MBA degree from Harvard Business School and a BS with high honors in Industrial Engineering from Bilkent University. In 2011, Asli was selected by the World Economic Forum as one of the Young Global Leaders and she is a member of 100 Women in Hedge Funds. She resides in New York City and in Catskill, NY.



Nina Matis currently serves as Chief Legal Officer and Chief Investment Officer of iStar Financial Inc. Ms. Matis previously was head of the real estate department and on the executive and compensation committees in the law firm of Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP. From 1984 through 1987, Ms. Matis was an adjunct professor at Northwestern University School of Law. Ms. Matis received a BA degree with honors from Smith College and a JD degree from New York University School of Law. She currently is Vice President on the Board of Trustees for the Signature Theatre Company and on the Board of National Partnership for Women & Families. She resides in New York City and in Catskill, NY.

## 2014 COLE FELLOWS

This year we welcomed the fourth annual class of Thomas Cole Fellows, a program for recent college graduates and graduate students that runs from late May to early November. This year the program received more than 30 applicants from 12 states. Fellows commit to a five-month stay at the historic site and become part of the museum staff. They receive free housing at the site, a monthly honorarium, professional development, job-searching and resume-writing assistance, networking opportunities and field trips. Interested candidates for 2015 should send a letter and resume to the Thomas Cole Historic Site, attention Kate Menconeri. Details can be found on our website at [www.thomascole.org/internships](http://www.thomascole.org/internships).



Rita Carr



Kathryn O'Dwyer



Jennifer Morales

Rita Carr graduated from Vassar College in May 2014. Carr worked with us to organize every detail of the Stanley Maltzman exhibition, realized a kids paint-out day, conducted visitor surveys to learn more about our audiences, and has been working as a detective to answer some of our questions about Thomas Cole's first trip to Catskill in 1825. Her final presentation and research binder is titled *Catskill Calling: Thomas Cole's 1825 Hudson River Journey*.

Kathryn O'Dwyer graduated from American University in 2013. During her time at the Cole Site she traveled to libraries and archives across the state in order to assist our 2016 guest curator, Annette Blaugrund. Working with her co-fellows and Kate, she helped organize the annual Silent Auction, and discovered a previously unpublished 91-page poem Thomas

Cole wrote. Her research project and presentation is called: *Making Commitments: Revisiting the letters, poems, and journals of Thomas Cole, 1835-1836*.

Jennifer Morales graduated from Amherst College in 2013. During her time here she worked closely with the collections, helped devise a database and new storage area for the Raymond Beecher collections, and has drawn upon her attention to detail and keen research skills to help with all things related to the display and collections in the main house. Her research project is *Then and Now: Tracing the Histories of Thomas Cole's Paintings*.

**Applications are now  
being accepted for  
2015. Please visit  
[thomascole.org/internships](http://thomascole.org/internships)  
for more information.**

»continued from page 1»

to effectively serve as a catalyst for the burgeoning national and international interest in 19th century American landscape painting, an outstanding destination for visitors to and residents of the Hudson Valley, and a resource and inspiration for future generations of scholars, collectors and artists.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place on the lawn next to the original foundation stones and featured remarks by Rose Harvey, NY State Parks Commissioner; the project's architect, John I Mesick; and several elected officials. The New Studio construction committee members are Elizabeth Jacks, Stephen Dunn, Carrie Feder, Lisa Fox Martin and Stephen Shadley. The building contractor is Dimensions North, Ltd. of Catskill.

A capital campaign for the New Studio reconstruction and an endowment to support its programs was launched in



Pictured, left to right: Rowena Sahulee, Director of Tourism Marketing at I LOVE NY; Vincent Seeley, Mayor, Village of Catskill; Joseph Kosloski (behind Vincent), Legislator, Greene County; Stephen Dunn, Trustee, Thomas Cole National Historic Site; Warner Shook, Trustee, Thomas Cole National Historic Site; Lisa Fox Martin, Board Chairman, Thomas Cole National Historic Site; Stephen Shadley, Trustee, Thomas Cole National Historic Site; John Mesick (behind Stephen), Architect; Rose Harvey, NY State Parks Commissioner; Nina Matis (behind the shovel), Trustee, Thomas Cole National Historic Site; Carrie Feder, Trustee, Thomas Cole National Historic Site; Elizabeth Jacks, Executive Director, Thomas Cole National Historic Site; Linda Gentalen (behind Elizabeth), Trustee, Thomas Cole National Historic Site; Hudson Talbott, Trustee, Thomas Cole National Historic Site; Peter Lopez, NY State Assemblyman; Michel Goldberg, Trustee, Thomas Cole National Historic Site.

2012, chaired by Thomas Cole trustee Anne Miller. As of October 2014, \$1.3 million has been raised.

Donations are still needed to complete the project and we invite you to be a part of history and donate to the campaign at [thomascole.org/new-studio](http://thomascole.org/new-studio).

## PARRY ARCHIVE ARRIVES

The late scholar Ellwood C. Parry spent a lifetime compiling a research library of Thomas Cole material, and now the entire archive has been do-



The archive as it appeared in Ellwood C. Parry's home

nated to the Thomas Cole Historic Site by Michael Altman of Michael Altman Fine Art & Advisory Services. Parry traveled to all of the public and private collections of Thomas Cole letters and papers that he could find, and created his own copy set that is arranged in chronological order, narrating the artist's life. The archive also contains thousands of images of Cole paintings and drawings as well as copies of every article written about Thomas Cole that Parry could find until his premature death from cancer in September 2005. Shown at left is a snapshot of how Parry's archive appeared in his own home. The

archive is an invaluable resource to our staff and research fellows.

Parry taught art history at Columbia University (1969-1975) and the University of Iowa (1976-1981) before joining the University of Arizona where he taught for 24 years. Michael Altman Fine Art & Advisory Services is a private gallery located on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, specializing in rare masterpieces of American paintings from the 19th and 20th centuries. Altman has a history of supporting the Thomas Cole Historic Site and has sponsored exhibitions and research projects at the site.

# YEAR IN REVIEW



Kate Menconeri in September 2014. Photo by Thatcher Keats

## EXHIBITION ATTENDANCE BREAKS PREVIOUS RECORD

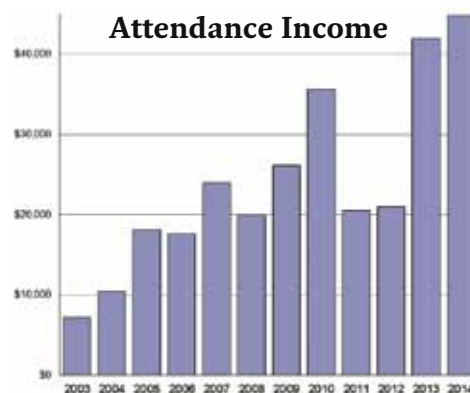
*It vividly evokes the personal and intellectual bond between the elder painter and the pupil who became one of the most celebrated artists of the mid-19th century...An intimate representation of two artistic lives significantly entwined.*

— The Wall Street Journal

The 2014 exhibition at the Thomas Cole Historic Site, entitled “Master, Mentor, Master: Thomas Cole & Frederic Church”, has brought an unprecedented number of visitors to the historic site, surpassing last year’s record high. The exhibition explored one of the most influential teacher-student relationships in the history of American art - that between the

founder of the Hudson River School of painting, Thomas Cole (1801-1848) and his celebrated student and successor, Frederic Church (1826-1900). Church was first introduced to the Hudson Valley as an 18-year-old when he came to live and study with Cole at the property known as Cedar Grove in Catskill, New York, from

1844 to 1846. With 20 artworks on view, the exhibition offered a rare chance to see Church’s early works from this formative period, alongside key examples of Cole’s work from the same time. The exhibition was curated by John Wilmerding, the former Deputy Director of the National Gallery of Art, with associate curator Kate Menconeri.



Sponsored by the Wyeth Foundation for American Art, Eli Wilner & Co., the Bay and Paul Foundations, Furthermore Grants in Publishing – a program of the J. M. Kaplan Fund, the Bank of Greene County, the Greene County Legislature through the County Initiative Program administered by the Greene County Council on the Arts, and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.

## FOURTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY DAY



Melissa Gavilanes, creator and organizer of Community Day



Betsy Jacks and Robin Smith

## ROBIN SMITH HONORED

The Thomas Cole Historic Site staff, board and volunteers would like to express our sincere gratitude to Robin Smith, master gardener, for her 13 years of volunteer service. Robin created and cared for the vegetable and perennial flower gardens at the historic site, and she will be sorely missed when she retires this year.

## SUMMER EXHIBITION: THOMAS COLE'S HONEY

A special selection of ten new artworks by Stanley Maltzman were on exhibit at the Thomas Cole Historic Site this summer to mark the 200th birthday of the Honey Locust tree that stands across from Thomas Cole's front door

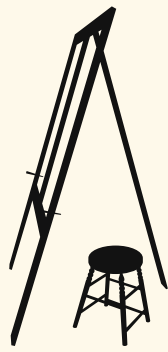


The 3rd annual "Postcards from the Trail" exhibition organized by Kate Menconeri and the Cole Fellows, with installation by Stephen Dunn



A group of Thomas Cole trustees on the front steps

# THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



## CREATING A LEGACY

You can create your own legacy with a planned lifetime or estate gift to the Thomas Cole Historic Site. Your commitment will continue the preservation of Cole's home, studio and landscape, and help us to bring his inspiring story to the next generation of art-lovers. For more information about how to make a gift, whether of cash or other assets, please contact Elizabeth Jacks, Executive Director, at 518-943-7465 extension 3.

## YEAR-END GIVING

As 2014 comes to a close, we hope that you will remember the Thomas Cole Historic Site with a year-end gift. As an independent non-profit organization, we are not owned or operated by either New York State or the federal government and rely on the kindness of individuals like you to ensure that this historic site is open and inspiring to all for generations to come. Please use this form or visit our website donation page at [www.thomascole.org/support-us](http://www.thomascole.org/support-us). Thank you for being there and making a difference!



Mark Prezorski, Lisa Fox Martin, and Owen Davidson

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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My Generous Gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## THANK YOU TO OUR 2014 SUMMER PARTY SPONSORS

The staff and trustees of the Thomas Cole site would like to thank the many contributors to our annual summer fundraiser event, hosted by Lisa Fox Martin and designed by Greg Feller and Richard Bodin of Hudson Home. The success of the event was greatly boosted by both a live and silent auction that were made possible by the many generous individuals listed below. Many thanks to the event committee including Lisa Fox Martin and Michele Saunders, the volunteers, and the staff who worked very hard on this event all year including Sheri Dejan, Erin Dinan, Melissa Gavilanes, Kate Menconeri and Alice Tunison.

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**SAVE THE DATE  
FOR THE 2015  
SUMMER PARTY:  
SATURDAY JUNE 27**

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Elizabeth Jacks, Todd Poteet

[www.thomascole.org](http://www.thomascole.org)  
(518) 943-7465

**THOMAS  
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## ANNOUNCING THE 2015 EXHIBITION: RIVER CROSSING

We are excited to announce our 2015 exhibition, "River Crossing," presented in partnership with Olana, featuring contemporary art installed directly into the historic spaces and landscapes of the two historic sites. The exhibition is curated by the artist Stephen Hannock and Jason Rosenfeld, PhD. The artists in the exhibition include Chuck Close, Lynn Davis, Don Gummer, Jerry Gretzinger, Valerie Hegarty, Angie Keefer, Stephen Hannock, Charles LeDray, Maya Lin, Elizabeth Murray, Martin Puryear, Cindy Sherman, Sienna Shields, Kiki Smith, and Elyn Zimmerman.

The goals of this groundbreaking project are to engage both current and new audiences with a presentation that differs from the traditional house museum tour, enabling visitors to access the historic spaces

from a new angle and provoking new ideas about the meaning of the art and history of the mid- 19th century. The two sites are two miles apart on either side of the Hudson River, joined by the Rip Van Winkle Bridge. Together these historic



Stephen Hannock, *Oxbow II, For Frank Moore and Dan Hodermarsky*, 2014, 36 x 54 in., oil on canvas. Private collection

homes and studios tell the story of the origin and the apex of the Hudson River School of landscape painting, considered to be the country's first major art movement.

Dr. Rosenfeld notes, "Over 150 years ago, when Thomas Cole and Frederic Church both established roots flanking the Hudson River, they did so in order to immerse themselves in the motifs that had made their careers, to continue the process of making and displaying new art in the realms of its inspiration, and to be within a day's striking distance of Manhattan and the urban world that supported their practice. The continuity of this novel impulse is celebrated in this visionary exhibition, held jointly at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site and Olana, that brings together some of the most celebrated American artists of the past 40 years who have chosen to work along the upper reaches of the Hudson."

The exhibition opens in May 2015 and runs through early November.