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New Exhibition “Remember the Ladies” Explores the Women Artists of the Hudson River School

“I desire you would Remember the Ladies... if particular care and attention is not paid to the Ladies we are determined to foment a Rebellion.” Abigail Adams to John Adams – 1776

Catskill, N.Y.—On May 2, 2010, the Thomas Cole National Historic Site opens a new exhibition, “Remember the Ladies: Women of the Hudson River School,” the first known exhibition in the United States to focus solely on the *women* artists associated with the 19th century landscape painting movement. This exhibition will bring these deserving artists to the public’s attention with an exhibition in the home of the founder of the Hudson River School.

This 2010 exhibition will include approximately 25 works of art (paintings, photography, drawing manuals) by artists such as Julia Hart Beers, (sister to William and James Hart), Evelina Mount (niece to William Sidney Mount) Susie Barstow, Eliza Greatorex, Harriet Cany Peale, and Josephine Walters among others. Also included are paintings by Thomas Cole’s own sister Sarah Cole and daughter Emily Cole.



“With all the attention that has been given to the 19th-century landscape movement, it is certainly time that the names of these women become better known. The fact that there were women who were inspired by the landscape during the same years as Asher Durand and Frederic Church is a story that needs to be told, and we are so pleased to bring these women’s fascinating stories to the public,” said Betsy Jacks, Executive Director of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site.

By the turn of the 19th century, schools, seminaries, and private instructors were already providing artistic education for young women, particularly in the art of landscape studies. Women traveled in increasing numbers to experience the American landscape and wrote of their adventures poetically. The 2010 exhibition seeks to increase awareness of a previously little-celebrated but highly talented and accomplished group of women artists associated with the well-known Hudson River School.

THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The exhibition is co-curated by Nancy Siegel, Associate Professor of Art History at Towson University, Towson, MD and Jennifer Krieger, Managing Partner of Hawthorne Fine Art in Manhattan. Plans are underway by Siegel and Krieger to develop an enlarged version of the exhibition to travel nationally. “The concept for this exhibition is to expand the discussion of Hudson River School painting beyond the celebrated male artists toward a more inclusive conversation that addresses the vast number of women who venture in the American landscape with artistic ambition,” explains Dr. Siegel.

The exhibition is accompanied by a printed exhibition catalogue with full-color illustrations and essays by Ms. Krieger and Dr. Siegel. The title of the exhibition is taken from a letter from Abigail Adams to John Adams in 1776: “I desire you would Remember the Ladies... if particular care and attention is not paid to the Ladies we are determined to foment a Rebellion.”

The exhibition is on view May 2 to October 31, 2010.

The exhibition is sponsored by Michael Altman Fine Art & Advisory Services, Hawthorne Fine Art New York, the Bank of Greene County, Greene County Tourism, and the Greene County Legislature through the County Initiative Program administered by the Greene County Council on the Arts. The exhibition catalogue is supported by Furthermore Grants in Publishing, a program of the J. M. Kaplan Fund, Sharon and Henry Martin, and Eric and Katherine Baumgartner.

About Thomas Cole

As the founder of America's first art movement, the Hudson River School, Thomas Cole (1801-1848) is a central figure in the development of American culture. When Cole made his first trip up the Hudson River in 1825, thought-leaders were searching for something distinctly American to establish the nation's own culture as separate from that of Europe. Thomas Cole found it in the Catskill Mountain wilderness, which came to symbolize the unspoiled character of the new nation. Lionized during his lifetime and celebrated by a generation of artists who followed in his footsteps, Cole is now widely regarded as the father of American landscape painting.

About the Thomas Cole Historic Site

The Thomas Cole Historic Site, historically known as Cedar Grove, is where the artist Thomas Cole lived, worked, was married, and where he died at the age of 47. Today the site consists of the Federal style brick home (c. 1815) in which Thomas Cole resided with his family, as well as the artist's original studio building, on five landscaped acres with a magnificent view of the Catskill Mountains.

Directions:

The Thomas Cole Historic Site is located at 218 Spring Street in Catskill, New York, near the western entrance to the Rip Van Winkle Bridge, with easy access from the New York State Thruway, Exit 21.

Image caption for above: Harriet Cany Peale (1800-1869), *Kaaterskill Clove*, 1858, oil on canvas, 36 x 25 in. Private Collection