

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

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News

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ALBANY INSTITUTE FORMALLY WELCOMES *HUDSON RIVER PANORAMA* EXHIBIT WITH RECEPTION AND RIBBON-CUTTING

ALBANY, NY—The Albany Institute of History & Art invites members of the community and the media to formally welcome its latest exhibit—*Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Art, and Culture*—with a Reception and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony, to be held Friday, March 6, from 5:30–7:30 pm at the Institute, 125 Washington Ave. The reception coincides with 1st Friday, the arts walk that showcases the thriving and lively art scene in downtown Albany.

The Albany Institute will offer free admission to the public from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Several dignitaries from the Capital Region, including representatives from Mayor Jennings' office, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's office, Sen. Charles Schumer's office, Governor David Paterson's office, and the New York State Assembly and Senate, as well as numerous other political and business leaders have been invited to attend the ribbon-cutting, sponsored by the Albany Chamber of Commerce. Remarks will begin at 6:00 pm, followed by photo opportunities. Media kits, as well as interviews with curators and educators, and full access to the exhibit will be made available to members of the media.

Featuring hundreds of artworks, artifacts, interactive displays, and rare archival documents from the Albany Institute's renowned collections, *Hudson River Panorama* encompasses five major themes relating the many agricultural, industrial, and cultural influences of this historic waterway:

- Community and Settlement
- Natural History and Environment
- Transportation
- Trade, Commerce, and Industry
- Culture and Symbol

Complementing the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial—an international celebration stretching from New York City to Quebec Province—*Hudson River Panorama* explores and narrates the influential force that the Hudson has had on our region, including settlement,

agricultural cultivation, industrial growth, tourism, and the cultural prominence of the region's talented and creative artists, writers, architects, and landscape gardeners. For more than three years, the Albany Institute has been researching topics related to the Hudson River in preparation for the exhibition and accompanying educational programs.

Visitors will rediscover the flora and fauna of the Hudson River Valley and compare historic and contemporary images that reveal how the human presence has shaped and changed the appearance of the river over the last 200 years. The exhibition is also designed to reveal interconnections among the various topics, with occasional surprises and unexpected associations.

The Albany Institute of History & Art is located at 125 Washington Avenue in downtown Albany, one block from the New York State Capitol. For more information on the March 6 ceremony at the Albany Institute of History & Art, or additional information about *Hudson River Panorama*, please contact Steve Ricci, public relations and marketing director, at (518) 463-4478, ext. 467, or visit our website at www.albanyinstitute.org.

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