

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

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CALENDAR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 27, 2009

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Note: All programs are subject to change.

Exhibits, family programs, and events at the Albany Institute of History & Art: January, February, and March 2009.

UPCOMING EXHIBITS

HUDSON RIVER PANORAMA: 400 YEARS OF HISTORY, ART, AND CULTURE

FEBRUARY 7, 2009—JANUARY 10, 2010

The mighty Hudson River will be the museum's main focus in 2009 as the Albany Institute of History & Art unveils *Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Art, and Culture*.

Specifically conceived to coincide with the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial—an international celebration stretching from New York City to Quebec Province—the exhibition will explore and narrate the influential force that the Hudson has had on our region, including settlement, agricultural cultivation, industrial growth, tourism, and the cultural prominence of its talented and creative artists, writers, architects, and landscape gardeners. More than 200 historical artifacts, works of art, and rare archival documents from the collections of the Albany Institute and selected public and private collections will help tell the many stories of the river. 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. The process has been a journey of exploration and discovery, unearthing accounts of the people and events that have shaped the history of the Hudson Valley.

With a topic as vast and wide-ranging as the Hudson River, selecting key events, people, innovations, and ideas to relate broader narratives of the river has been both crucial and challenging. The exhibition will be divided into five themed sections: Community and Settlement; Natural History and Environment; Transportation; Trade, Commerce, and Industry; Culture and Symbol. Other galleries will offer visitors a chance to discover 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. Whether visitors to the exhibition come from the Hudson Valley or travel in from elsewhere, *Hudson River Panorama* promises a stimulating and enjoyable look at one of America's great rivers and the people and history it helped to shape.

HUDSON VALLEY: SPANNING THE BANKS

BY HARRY WILKS

MARCH 14—JUNE 7, 2009

For 25 years, New York photographer Harry Wilks has been looking at this world from different viewpoints; from the roofs of New York's skyscrapers, from the perspective of a concrete barrier, and the vantage point of a highway guardrail. Using a Widelux swing-lens camera, Wilks captures panoramic slices of the Hudson River Valley, from New York City to the Hudson Highlands, where mundane structures along roadways, industrial wastelands, and

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abandoned gardens assume sculptural properties. The Widelux camera, which pans across 140 degrees of landscape, can create visual distortions, bend objects that are rigidly straight, and shape an abstracted view of reality, results that Wilks uses to his advantage. In the 21 photographs included in this exhibition, the bold forms of bridges, fences, and handrails unite the built environment with the fluid smoothness of the Hudson River, a rounded mountain, or a patch of grass. "I want to show people things they can't see with their own eye," Wilks observes. A native of New York City, Wilks received his B.A. in art and design from City College of New York in 1967. He's been described as an urban photographer who focuses his camera on unexpected scenes of his home city and the Hudson River Valley. His work has been shown in numerous exhibitions and added to museum and corporate collections such as the Brooklyn Museum, the George Eastman House, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Hallmark collection.

NOW SHOWING

IN SEARCH OF ICE: TRAVELS IN THE ARCTIC

BY MARCIA CLARK

THROUGH MARCH 1, 2009

Veteran landscape painter Marcia Clark (left) has traveled to Alaska, Newfoundland, Greenland, and Arctic Norway by air, water, and land to capture the ephemeral beauty of ice, particularly in glaciers and icebergs. In *Search of Ice*, on view through March 1, 2009, showcases 26 of Clark's paintings, ranging in size from small sketches to a large panorama more than 11 feet long, and executed in media such as watercolor, oil stick or oil paint on paper, canvas, aluminum, and frosted Mylar, the latter giving a stunning translucent quality to the subject matter.

A PRIMROSE WAY: THE ART OF WILL H. LOW

CLOSE DATE EXTENDED INDEFINITELY

Albany's own Will H. Low was a friend and contemporary of another well-known Albany painter, Walter Launt Palmer, and the Scottish writer Robert Louis Stevenson. One of the leading decorative artists of his generation, Low's many prestigious commissions included murals for the Plaza Hotel, ceiling paintings for the Waldorf Hotel in New York City, and murals in the New York Education Building and the Legislative Library of the New York State Capitol in Albany. This eclectic exhibition of Low's work includes paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, illustrations, and books related to his accomplished life and career.

CHANGING EXHIBITIONS

THE LANDSCAPE THAT DEFINED AMERICA: THE HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL

NOW ON VIEW

Among the highlights of the museum's exhibition collections are its holdings related to the 19th-century American landscape tradition known today as the Hudson River School. Located in the heart of the Hudson Valley, the full collection includes more than 60 paintings along with drawings and sketchbooks, scrapbooks, letters, paint boxes, and photographs related to the lives and careers of first- and second-generation Hudson River School artists, including artists such as Thomas Cole, Asher B. Durand, Jasper Cropsey, James Hart, William Hart, John Kensett, Homer D. Martin, David Johnson, John Casilear and George Inness. In conjunction with the upcoming exhibit, *Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Art, and Culture*, some paintings by Hudson River School artists will be on view in the Lansing Gallery, while others will be incorporated into the Hudson River exhibit.

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EVENTS AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

JANUARY

Friday, January 16, 1:30–4:30 pm

FAMILY PROGRAMS: HOMESCHOOL PROGRAM

Polar Possibility

Looking closely at Marcia Clark's exhibit, *In Search of Ice*, students will combine perspective, landscape, and color to create drawings, paintings, and collage. Fee: \$15 for non-members, \$10 for members, includes museum admission and art materials. Registration is required and payment is due at the time of registration. ASL interpretation is offered for this program. Age requirement is 8 years and older. For information, contact Barbara Collins, education coordinator, at (518) 463-4478, ext. 405, collinsb@albanyinstitute.org.

Sunday, January 25, 2:00 pm

GALLERY TALK: *IN SEARCH OF ICE*

Join us for a "chilling" Gallery Talk hosted by landscape artist Marcia Clark, whose exhibit, *In Search of Ice*, is currently on display. Free with museum admission. Art-making activities will be offered in the Children's Studio. Call (518) 463-4478 for information.

Sunday, January 25, 1:00–4:00 pm

FAMILY PROGRAM: WEEKEND ART ADVENTURES

Children ages 3 to 12, and accompanying adults, are welcome to stop by for gallery activities and art-making fun. Art Adventures begin in the galleries and are followed by an art-making activity in the studio. Free with museum admission. For information, contact Barbara Collins, education coordinator, at (518) 463-4478, ext. 405, collinsb@albanyinstitute.org.

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 7, Noon–5:00 pm

OPENING: *Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Art, and Culture*

Don't miss the grand opening of this landmark exhibit celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Hudson River. Call (518) 463-4478 for information.

Sunday, February 8, 1:00–4:00 pm

FAMILY PROGRAM: Girl Scout Badge Program, Quadricentennial Badge

Working within a museum setting, Junior Girl Scouts will learn the many ways artists work and are inspired. Program includes tour of *Hudson River Panorama* exhibit and other collections. Participants receive a Quadricentennial Badge, a certificate of art appreciation from the Albany Institute, and a free family pass. Registration required through Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York, 1-888-4GSNENY, or (518) 489-8110. For information, contact Barbara Collins, education coordinator, at (518) 463-4478, ext. 405, collinsb@albanyinstitute.org.

Sunday, February 8, 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm

GALLERY TALKS

Enjoy a docent-lead tour of the Albany Institute's current exhibits and the new exhibit, *Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Culture, and Art*. Free with museum admission. Times vary by date. Call (518) 463-4478 for information.

Thursday, February 12, 1:30–4:30 pm

FAMILY PROGRAMS: HOMESCHOOL PROGRAM

Hudson River Gyotaku

Participants will learn about fresh-water fish from the exhibition, *Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Art, and Culture*, and create Gyotaku, an 18th-century Japanese art form that combines three-dimensional fish replicas and printmaking practices. Fee: \$15 for non-members, \$10 for members, includes museum admission and art materials. Registration is required and payment is due at the time of registration. ASL interpretation is offered for this program. Age requirement is 8 years and older. For information, contact Barbara Collins, education coordinator, at (518) 463-4478, ext. 405, collinsb@albanyinstitute.org.

Saturday, February 14, 1:00–4:00 pm

FAMILY PROGRAM: Egyptian Family Festival

Bring your daddy and bring your mummy to the Albany Institute for a day of Egyptian fun. Learn from Egyptologist, Dr. Peter Lacovara, as he presents stories and facts from his adventures in Egypt. Make your own mummy and sarcophagus in our children's art studios. See the Albany Institute's authentic Egyptian mummies during a tour of our Egypt gallery. The Egyptian Family Festival is free with regular museum admission. For information, contact Barbara Collins, education coordinator, at (518) 463-4478, ext. 405, collinsb@albanyinstitute.org.

Saturday, February 14, 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm

GALLERY TALKS

Enjoy a docent-lead tour of the Albany Institute's current exhibits and the new exhibit, *Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Culture, and Art*. Free with museum admission. Times vary by date. Call (518) 463-4478 for information.

Sunday, February 15, 1:00–4:00 pm

FAMILY PROGRAM: Weekend Art Adventures

Children ages 3 to 12, and accompanying adults, are welcome to stop by for gallery activities and art-making fun. Art Adventures begin in the galleries and are followed by an art-making activity in the studio. Free with museum admission. For information, contact Barbara Collins, education coordinator, at (518) 463-4478, ext. 405, collinsb@albanyinstitute.org.

Sunday, February 15, 3:00 pm

GALLERY TALKS

Enjoy a docent-lead tour of the Albany Institute's latest exhibit, *Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Culture, and Art*. Free with museum admission. Times vary by date. Call (518) 463-4478 for information.

Weds., Thurs., Fri., February 18, 19, 20: 9:00 am–noon (6-8 years old), 1:00–4:00 pm (9-13 years old)

FAMILY PROGRAMS: Vacation Art Break

During school vacation week, children's art workshops will be offered each day from 9 am to noon for 6- to 8-year-olds and from 1 to 4 pm for 9- to 13-year-olds. Classes frequently incorporate gallery visits to instill both content and context to lessons. Fee: \$15 for members, \$20 for nonmembers. Registration required. For information, contact Barbara Collins, education coordinator, at (518) 463-4478, ext. 405, collinsb@albanyinstitute.org.

Saturday–Sunday, February 21–22, 10:00 am–5:00 pm

Russian Winter Festival Preview: An Exhibition of Traditional Russian Costumes from the 18th, 19th, and Early 20th Centuries

Get a sneak peek at the first annual Russian Winter Festival of the Capital District (to be held in Loudonville on Feb. 28) when the Albany Institute hosts a pre-festival exhibition of traditional Russian costumes. The display will be on view in the Institute's Key Cultural Center and includes 15 genuine Russian costumes from a private collection in Moscow. Noted for their richness and diversity of form, the costumes reflect the stylistic

features of each represented region and high artistic mastery. The exhibition will include musical performances by the Ensemble of Russian Folk Instruments, “Razdolie.” The exhibition is free with paid museum admission. Call (518) 463-4478 for information. For more on the first annual Russian Winter Festival, visit www.newrussiacycenter.org/winter_festival.htm.

Saturday, February 21, 1:00–4:00 pm

FAMILY PROGRAM: Weekend Art Adventures

Children ages 3 to 12, and accompanying adults, are welcome to stop by for gallery activities and art-making fun. Art Adventures begin in the galleries and are followed by an art-making activity in the studio. Free with museum admission. For information, contact Barbara Collins, education coordinator, at (518) 463-4478, ext. 405, collinsb@albanyinstitute.org.

Saturday, February 21, 2:00 pm

GALLERY TALKS

Enjoy a docent-lead tour of the Albany Institute's latest exhibit, *Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Culture, and Art*. Free with museum admission. Times vary by date. Call (518) 463-4478 for information.

Sunday, February 22, 2:00 pm

BOOK-SIGNING AND LECTURE

Jennifer Lemak, author of *Southern Life, Northern City: The History of Albany's Rapp Road Community* (SUNY Press, 2008), and a senior historian and curator of African-American history at the New York State Museum, describes the inspirational odyssey of a devoted group of former African-American sharecroppers from Shubuta, Mississippi, to Albany, New York. The lecture and book-signing is free with museum admission. Call (518) 463-4478 for information.

Sunday, February 22, 1:00–4:00 pm

FAMILY PROGRAM: Girl Scout Badge Program, Art in 3D

Working within a museum setting, Junior Girl Scouts will learn the many ways artists work and are inspired. Program includes tour of *Hudson River Panorama* exhibit and other collections. Participants receive an Art in 3D Badge, a certificate of art appreciation from the Albany Institute, and a free family pass. Registration required through Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York, 1-888-4GSNENY, or (518) 489-8110. For information, contact Barbara Collins, education coordinator, at (518) 463-4478, ext. 405, collinsb@albanyinstitute.org.

Sunday, February 22, 3:00 pm

GALLERY TALKS

Enjoy a docent-lead tour of the Albany Institute's latest exhibit, *Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Culture, and Art*. Free with museum admission. Times vary by date. Call (518) 463-4478 for information.

Saturday, February 28, 2:00 pm

GALLERY TALKS

Enjoy a docent-lead tour of the Albany Institute's latest exhibit, *Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Culture, and Art*. Free with museum admission. Times vary by date. Call (518) 463-4478 for information.

MARCH

Sunday, March 1, 2:00 pm

LECTURE

Joe Bruchac: “First Voices of the River, American Indian Stories and Traditions of the Hudson.” The lecture is free with museum admission. Call (518) 463-4478 for information.

Sunday, March 1, 1:00–4:00 pm

FAMILY PROGRAM: Weekend Art Adventures

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Sunday, March 1, 3:00 pm

GALLERY TALKS

Enjoy a docent-lead tour of the Albany Institute's latest exhibit, *Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Culture, and Art*. Free with museum admission. Times vary by date. Call (518) 463-4478 for information.

Friday, March 6, 5:00–9:00 pm

1st FRIDAYS and Hudson River Panorama ribbon-cutting and reception

As part of 1st Fridays, the arts walk that showcases the thriving and lively art scene in downtown Albany, the Albany Institute will remain open until 8:00 pm and offer free admission to our galleries from 5 to 8 pm. On Friday, March 6, the Albany Institute will host a reception in honor of the new exhibit, *Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Art, and Culture*. The event is free and open to the public from 5 to 8 p.m. Please call (518) 463.4478 for more information.

Saturday, March 7, 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm

GALLERY TALKS

Enjoy a docent-lead tour of the Albany Institute's current exhibits and the new exhibit, *Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Culture, and Art*. Free with museum admission. Times vary by date. Call (518) 463-4478 for information.

Sunday, March 8, 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm

GALLERY TALKS

Enjoy a docent-lead tour of the Albany Institute's current exhibits and the new exhibit, *Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Culture, and Art*. Free with museum admission. Times vary by date. Call (518) 463-4478 for information.

Friday, March 13, 1:30–4:30 pm

FAMILY PROGRAMS: HOMESCHOOL PROGRAM

Hudson 400 Clay Characters

Learn about stories and legends from objects on view in the exhibit, *Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Art, and Culture*. In the studio, the instructor will place emphasis on hand-building techniques and design to create your favorite characters. Fee: \$15 for non-members, \$10 for members, includes museum admission and art materials. Registration is required and payment is due at the time of registration. ASL interpretation is offered for this program. Age requirement is 8 years and older. For information, contact Barbara Collins, education coordinator, at (518) 463-4478, ext. 405, collinsb@albanyinstitute.org.

Saturday, March 14, 1:00–4:00 pm

FAMILY PROGRAM: Weekend Art Adventures

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GALLERY TALK

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Sunday, March 15, 1:00–4:00 pm

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Sunday, March 15, 3:00 pm

GALLERY TALK

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Saturday, March 21, 1:00–4:00 pm

FAMILY PROGRAM: Weekend Art Adventures

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Saturday, March 28, 2:00 pm

GALLERY TALK

Enjoy a docent-lead tour of the Albany Institute's latest exhibit, *Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Culture, and Art*. Free with museum admission. Times vary by date. Call (518) 463-4478 for information.

Sunday, March 29, 1:00–4:00 pm

FAMILY PROGRAM: Hudson 400 Family Festival

Celebrate the Hudson River's birthday with docent-led tours of the exhibit, Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Art, and Culture; art-making activities in the Children's Studio, and a performance by storyteller Jonathan Kruk and folk balladeer Rich Bala, who will perform tunes and tales illustrating the Hudson's many-faceted role in forging our nation. Art-making activities in the Children's Studio will include Gyotaku fish prints, a Japanese art form that teaches participants about fresh water fish by using realistic fish replicas made of rubber, rolling the replica with block printing ink and applying it to cloth and paper. The Hudson 400 Family Festival is free with regular museum admission. For information, contact Barbara Collins, education coordinator, at (518) 463-4478, ext. 405, collinsb@albanyinstitute.org.

Sunday, March 29, 3:00 pm

GALLERY TALK

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Founded in 1791, the Albany Institute of History & Art (AIHA) is a 501(c) 3 cultural and educational institution dedicated to public service. As a museum, its mission is to collect, preserve and interpret the art, history and culture of Albany and the upper Hudson Valley region from the 17th century to the present. AIHA acquires collections, conducts research, produces publications, and offers a wide range of exhibitions, educational and public programs that appeal to diverse audiences ranging from pre-K to senior citizens. The museum is open year round, Wednesday-Sunday. Admission is free to members and children under 6, \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and students and \$4 for children ages 6-12. The Albany Institute of History & Art is accredited by the American Association of Museums and chartered by the New York State Department of Education.