

# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

## Albany Institute of History & Art

125 Washington Avenue Albany, NY 12210

T: (518) 463-4478; F: (518) 462-1522

[www.albanyinstitute.org](http://www.albanyinstitute.org)

[www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute](http://www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute)

[www.twitter.com/albanyinstitute](http://www.twitter.com/albanyinstitute)

---

## NEWS

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 17, 2011

### CONTACT:

Nycole Kinns, Marketing and Public Relations

(518) 463-4478, ext. 420; [kinnsn@albanyinstitute.org](mailto:kinnsn@albanyinstitute.org)

## GEORGE WASHINGTON EXHIBITION COMING TO THE ALBANY INSTITUTE

ALBANY, NY— The Albany Institute of History & Art will be opening *First in the Hearts of His Countrymen: George Washington* on Saturday, August 27, 2011. This exhibition features objects from the collections of the Albany Institute and private collectors that memorialize and commemorate the country's first president. It showcases objects ranging from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present day.

By some, Washington is thought to be the greatest American hero and his picture inspired patriotism even during his lifetime. When George Washington died of a throat infection on December 14, 1799, the nation wept and mourned as it never had before. When the news spread abroad Napoleon ordered a week of mourning for the deceased leader, and flags throughout Europe were lowered to half-mast.

Such was the impact of America's iconic first president, whose likeness both during life and since his death has adorned and inspired thousands of artists, sculptors, and craftspeople. *First in the Hearts of His Countrymen: George Washington* will showcase an eclectic array of items from the Albany Institute's own collection, including teapots, plates, busts, documents, personal correspondence, lithographs, paintings, and even a walking stick cut from a tree near his Mount Vernon grave site, all paying tribute to this purely American hero.

The exhibition pays tribute to the most famous face in American history, and to the man who was first in the hearts of his countrymen. It will remain on display until May 20, 2012, fittingly located at 125 Washington Avenue (and just a few blocks from Washington Park).

Taking reservations now for school groups, please contact [education@albanyinstitute.org](mailto:education@albanyinstitute.org).

\* \* \* \* \*

*2011 Related Programming:*

**Gallery Talks**

Saturdays at 2:00 pm, Sundays at 3:00 pm

August 27, 28; September 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25; October 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30; November 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20; December 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18

Docent-led tours of the Albany Institute's latest exhibitions, free with paid museum admission.

**Teacher Open House**

Wednesday, October 19, 3:30-6:30 pm

Capital Region educators are welcome to join us for a tour of *First in the Hearts of His Countrymen: George Washington* and hands-on art making activities in conjunction with the exhibition.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Albany Institute's distinguished collections and acclaimed exhibitions comprise the definitive expression of the cultural, historical, and artistic heritage of Albany and the upper Hudson Valley. From its world-renowned Hudson River School collection, to the famous Albany Mummies, to the wide range of performances, lectures, and festivals, to its outstanding educational and family programming, this distinctive and engaging institution provides visitors of all ages and interests with a splendid museum experience. One of America's oldest museums, the Albany Institute of History & Art was founded in 1791, during the presidency of George Washington, making it older than the Louvre, the Smithsonian, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Visit [www.albanyinstitute.org](http://www.albanyinstitute.org) for more information, and be sure to follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute](http://www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute)) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/albanyinstitute](http://www.twitter.com/albanyinstitute)).

\* \* \* \* \*

**Media inquiries:** Nycole Kinns, Marketing and Public Relations, at (518) 463-4478, ext. 420, [kinnsn@albanyinstitute.org](mailto:kinnsn@albanyinstitute.org).

###