

EXHIBITIONS

Recycled & Refashioned: The Art of Ruby Silvius

JANUARY 25 – JUNE 7, 2020

Artist Ruby Silvius begins her creative process with a cup of tea. For the past five years, Silvius has been painting and drawing on tea bags that have been steeped in hot water, emptied, and dried. The stained paper (and occasionally cloth) of the tea bags offers a distinctive canvas for her miniature paintings, which present a visual journal of her life and travels—a watercolor of breakfast or flowers encountered on a walk, a street scene of a French town, or a museum gallery and its art-loving crowds.

Her adventure with tea began as a test of self-discipline in January 2015. As Silvius explains, “My goal was to see if I had the discipline to create something every day for an entire year using tea as my subject.” For the first week, she took photographs of her tea consumption, but after a few days she began to experiment with the used tea bags themselves and soon learned that the tea-stained material offered a beautiful canvas for her illustrated journal. The year-long study in self-discipline led to her first series of paintings and her book, *363 Days of Tea: A Visual Journal on Used Tea Bags*. Silvius was hooked and her work on recycled tea bags continued with subsequent series: *52 Weeks of Tea*, *26 Days of Tea in Japan*, *9 Days of Tea in Spain*, and more.

Even before her experiment with tea bags, Silvius had been using recycled products in her art. She is particularly fond of pistachio shells and eggshells, which offer fragile surfaces for her imaginative and whimsical designs.

In 2019, Silvius took a step in another direction, making shoes from colorful scraps of salvaged paper. Her gorgeous footwear are enough to satisfy any shoe aficionado and even caught the attention of *Vogue Italia*, which featured her Gogo Dots Pumps (see below) made from scraps of handmade and banana leaf papers. As if paper shoes weren't enough, Silvius has also created kimonos and stylish dresses from printed tea bags, and, to go underneath, origami paper brassieres (her Oribrami series) constructed from recycled restaurant food wrappers and other rescued paper.

Fashion has informed much of Silvius's work and will be featured alongside tea bags, egg shells, and other reclaimed items in the exhibition *Recycled and Refashioned: The Art of Ruby Silvius* that runs January 25 through June 7, 2020.



Hay Bales, Ruby Silvius, 2019, watercolor and gouache on used tea bags, courtesy Ruby Silvius



Ink and watercolor on eggshells, Ruby Silvius, 2019, courtesy of Ruby Silvius



Gogo Dots Pumps, Ruby Silvius, 2019, paper and cardboard, courtesy of Ruby Silvius



Folded Nathan's Famous food wrapper, Ruby Silvius, 2019, courtesy of Ruby Silvius

EXHIBITIONS

Telling Her Story: New Acquisitions

FEBRUARY 8 – JUNE 7, 2020

In honor of the one hundredth anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States, this exhibition highlights women's lives in New York's upper Hudson Valley and Capital Region. The objects chosen were drawn exclusively from those acquired by the Albany Institute over the past five years for inclusion in the museum's permanent collection.

In this exhibition, you will learn about the perils of living in rural upstate New York during the American Revolution as recorded in the poems of Ann Eliza Bleecker. You will page through the scrapbooks compiled by Clara Harris Rathbone who was a guest of President Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd Lincoln at Ford's Theatre, and in their theater box with her husband, the night Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth. Clara pasted mementoes of that horrific night into her scrapbook. You will peek into the wardrobe and library of Athena Lord, an author, community activist, and mother whose parents settled in the Capital Region from Greece. From schoolgirl uniforms to art by contemporary women artists, this exhibition will showcase objects recently acquired by the museum that help illustrate the many contributions and accomplishments of women in our region from the eighteenth-century to the twenty-first century.



Clara Harris Rathbone (1834-1883), by John Goldin, Washington, D.C., c.1865, AIHA Purchase and Partial Gift of the Estate of the great-granddaughter of Clara Harris Rathbone, Bettina Rathbone Hartley Tierney and her children, by Philip Tierney

Painting the American Southwest: The Work of Otto Plaug

THROUGH JULY 5, 2020

In 1920, Saratoga County artist and designer Otto Plaug (1898–2000) made his first journey to the American Southwest at the suggestion of his friend and fellow artist Winold Reiss. Both were born and trained in Germany, and both brought to the United States a modernist style that emphasized bold, graphic lines and solid passages of color. During Plaug's excursion, he spent several months at the Laguna Pueblo in west central New Mexico, where he befriended several of the residents who sat for him for portraits. A few years later, in 1925, he returned to Laguna to paint the landscape. The nearly twenty works produced during that visit capture the desert's surprising array of colors and explore in tempera paint the time-eroded, geometric mesas that fill the terrain with rugged beauty.

Plaug's remarkable western portraits and landscapes had unfortunately been lost to history until art collector and researcher Albert B. Roberts rediscovered the aging artist in the 1990s. *Painting the American Southwest: The Work of Otto Plaug*, will reintroduce Plaug's work by drawing from the large collection of paintings, sketches, photographs, and manuscript material that Roberts recently donated to the Albany Institute. Plaug will rejoin the ranks of Georgia O'Keeffe, Gustave Baumann, Robert Henri, Winold Reiss, and other well-known American modernists who found the American southwest a source of inspiration and astonishing beauty.



Woman and Pueblo, Otto Plaug (1898-2000), 1921 or 1922, tempera on cardboard, promised gift of Albert B. Roberts

EXHIBITIONS



Joan Steiner's Look Alikes® Dioramas
THROUGH FEBRUARY 23, 2020

**A Brilliant Bit of Color:
The Work of Walter Launt Palmer**
THROUGH JUNE 7, 2020

**The Hudson River School:
Landscape Paintings from the Albany Institute**
ONGOING

Ancient Egypt
ONGOING

STAFF NEWS

Meet Development Manager Ellie Burhans

We are pleased to welcome Ellie Burhans to the Albany Institute as a new member of the museum's Development Department. She will be assisting the department with sponsorships, memberships, and special events. Ellie previously worked in development and communications for a maritime museum downstate.

Ellie received a Masters in Public History from SUNY Albany in 2015. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Museum of Political Corruption and the Board of Trustees for the Friends of Fort Crailo. She served on the organizing committee for Researching New York in 2016 and presented at that conference twice. Her undergraduate degree from SUNY New Paltz is in Philosophy and Creative Writing. She has published a few poems in New Paltz's literary journal *Exit 18*.

In her spare time, Ellie studies the cultural and social aspects of warfare using data visualization and material culture as a lens to study race and gender in the First and Second World War. She lives in Guilderland, NY with her husband and their two birds.



GALLERY TOURS



(Above) *Landscape*, William Hart (1823–1894), c. 1855–1860, oil on canvas attached to panel, Albany Institute of History & Art, gift of Arthur H., Bertha, and Ethel Lloyd in memory of their parents, Thomas Spencer Lloyd and Emily B. Pulling Lloyd, 1958.1.14

(Left) Detail of kitchen diorama by artist Joan Steiner

Exhibition Highlights

Most Saturdays and Sundays, 1PM | *Included with admission*
Led by volunteer Docents

January 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26

February 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29

Junior Interpreter Tours

Saturdays, 10AM-12PM | *Included with admission*
Led by youth volunteers

Enjoy a family-friendly gallery tour of the exhibitions led by our teen volunteers, the Junior Interpreters. These tours are a fun, engaging experience for visitors of all ages.

January 4, 11, 18, 25 | February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ONGOING

DROP-IN ART MAKING

Art for All

Most Saturdays, 10AM–4:30PM |

Included with admission

Bring your family to the museum and spend the day being creative. January's project will take inspiration from Joan Steiner's Look-Alikes® dioramas. In February, we'll create art related to the work of artist Ruby Silvius, which is on view in the Recycled & Refashioned exhibition.

January 4, 11, 18, 25: Paper Dioramas

February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Recycled & Refashioned Shoes

This season of Art for All is sponsored by the Sonneborn family.



on Main Street collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and state humanities councils nationwide. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress.



FREE ADMISSION DAY

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, January 20, 10AM–5PM | Free

Drop-in art making from 10AM–4:30PM



This Martin Luther King, Jr. Day visit the Albany Institute of History & Art for free, courtesy M&T Bank! While you are here, come make art with us and explore warm and cool colors using tempera paint sticks. *Sponsored by M&T Bank*

FEBRUARY

JANUARY

FREE ADMISSION

1st Friday Albany

Friday, January 3, 5–8PM | Free

Enjoy free admission to the museum galleries as part of 1st Friday Albany.



2020 ALBANY CHEFS' FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

Wine & Dine for the Arts

January 16-18, 2020 | Tickets available www.albanywinefest.com

Various locations in downtown Albany, NY

LECTURE

What is a Waterway Anyway?

Sunday, January 19, 2PM | *Included with admission*

Daniel Rinn, PhD candidate, University of Rochester

This lecture will encourage the public to reflect on the terms we use to describe our environment. By looking at a handful of historic "waterways" in New York, Rinn will examine the division between what is "natural" and "unnatural."

The New York tour of the Water/Ways exhibition (currently on view at the Hudson River Maritime Museum) is made possible by the Museum Association of New York. The exhibition and programming was made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, Hadley Exhibits, Inc., the New York State Canal Corporation, the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, and the Hudson Valley National Heritage Corridor. Water/Ways is part of the Museum



PUBLIC PROGRAM

Teaching Black History through Theater

Saturday, February 1, 2PM | *Included with admission*

In this hour long program, re-enactors Donald Hyman, Penny Meacham, Walter Simpkins, and Clifford Oliver will portray prominent local and national African Americans including Judge James C. Matthews, Sojourner Truth, Moses Viney, and Solomon Northrup. Each presenter will provide insight into how theatrical performances and re-enactments help tell the often unknown stories of these important historical figures. A performance by the gospel choir from Israel AME Church will be featured during this event. For more information and presenter bios, please visit the event listing on www.albanyinstitute.org.

ADULT COLORING NIGHT

#ColorOurCollections

Thursday, February 6, 5:30–7:30PM

\$5 members; \$10 non-members

See description in Programs section for registration information.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FREE ADMISSION

1st Friday Albany

Friday, February 7, 5–8PM | Free

Enjoy free admission to the museum galleries as part of 1st Friday Albany.

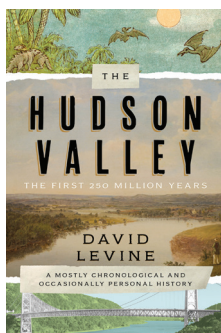
BOOK TALK & SIGNING

The Hudson Valley: The First 250 Million Years

Friday, February 7, 6PM | Free

David Levine, Author

From the dinosaurs and the glaciers to the first native peoples and the first European settlers, from Dutch and English Colonial rule to the American Revolution, from the slave society to the Civil War, from the robber barons and bootleggers to the war heroes and the happy rise of craft beer pubs, the Hudson Valley has a deep history.



The Hudson Valley: The First 250 Million Years chronicles the Valley's rich and fascinating history and charms. Often funny, sometimes personal, always entertaining, this collection of essays offers a unique look at the Hudson Valley's most important and interesting people, places, and events. A light reception will accompany the event.

SPECIAL EVENT

Winter Exhibitions Opening Celebration

Tuesday, February 11, 5:30–7:30PM

Free for Albany Institute members; \$10 non-members

Join us for hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar to celebrate the opening of two new exhibitions: *Recycled & Refashioned: The Art of Ruby Silvius* and *Telling Her Story: New Acquisitions*. RSVP online or by calling Ellie Burhans at (518) 463-4478 ext. 402.

MUSEUM AFTER DARK (MAD) TOUR

Galentine's before Valentine's

Thursday, February 13, 6PM | \$10 members; \$12 non-members

In this tour, we will talk all about the ladies: from feminists to fine artists! The tour will include activities, little known stories about our collections, and mind-blowing facts! Space is limited and registration is required. Register online at www.albanyinstitute.org.



FREE ADMISSION DAY

President's Day: Fun with Books

Monday, February 17, 10AM–5PM | Free courtesy M&T Bank

Drop-in Art Making 10AM–4:30PM

Story Time with Albany Public Library 2PM

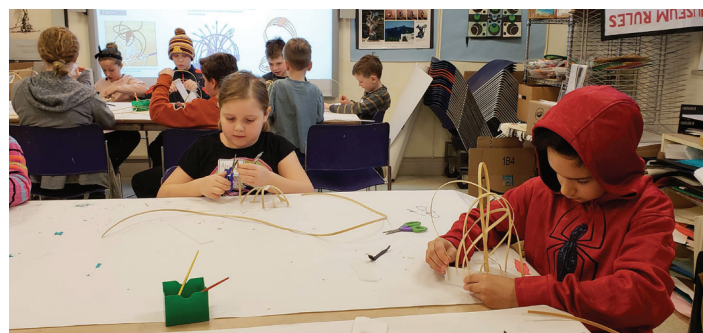
Clifford the Big Red Dog Birthday Party 11AM, 1PM, 3PM

(Registration required for Clifford event)

This President's Day, we're celebrating books and literacy with some fun activities for the whole family. In the Art Studio, we'll design our own bookmarks with drawings and tassels. In our Research Library, we will have special objects on view. Plus, our friends from the RED Bookshelf will be on hand to give all children in the area the opportunity to own their own books and become readers, and Albany Public Library will lead a fun story time (great for ages 2-5) too!



We are also hosting *Clifford the Big Red Dog* birthday parties throughout the day. WMHT will be at the museum for a special screening of a birthday episode and we will make crafts and even get a chance to take pictures with Clifford! Space per session is limited and registration is required. Register online or call (518) 463-4478 ext. 403.



VACATION ART BREAK

Marvelous Miniatures

Tuesday, February 18–Thursday, February 20, 9AM–Noon

Ages 6-12 | \$55 members, \$70 non-members

See description in Programs section for registration information.

PARTNER PROGRAM

Cathedral in Bloom

Friday, February 21–Sunday, February 23, Various Times

Tickets start at \$10 and are available online at

www.cathedralofallsaints.org/cathedral-in-bloom

The grand flower show at The Cathedral of All Saints blends historic architecture with fresh floral designs. Learn more on their website.

PROGRAMS

Sketch Club

Enjoy the tradition of sketching from original works of art in the museum's collection and special exhibitions. Artist Carol Coogan will offer insights on drawing techniques and observational skills and will be on hand for personal guidance as you complete your drawings. Basic drawing materials are provided and all skill levels are welcome. More details online.

Program Dates: January 12, February 9, March 8 | Sessions are held from 2–4PM

Cost: \$15 members, \$20 non-members

Space is limited and registration is required. Register online at www.albanyinstitute.org.

Sponsored in part by the Upstate Coalition for a Fairgame Arts Grant



ADULT COLORING NIGHT

#ColorOurCollections

Thursday, February 6, 5:30—7:30PM | \$5 members; \$10 non-members | Register online at www.albanyinstitute.org

Registration includes packet of coloring sheets and museum admission



Enjoy a relaxing night as you add your own color to images from the Albany Institute's collections! Each participant will receive six images from the museum's collection printed on cardstock and will have the opportunity to use diverse coloring media such as water soluble pencils and crayons, colored pencils, and colored pens to embellish the images.

#ColorOurCollections is a week-long coloring fest on social media organized by libraries, archives, and other cultural institutions around the world and is celebrated this year from February 3-7.

VACATION ART BREAK

Marvelous Miniatures (Ages 6-12)

Tuesday, February 18–Thursday, February 20 | 9AM–Noon

\$70 non-members; \$55 members

Come get inspired by miniature dioramas created by artist Joan Steiner for her Look-Alikes® books. In this three-day drop-off program, students will craft their own miniature structures and scenes using a variety of edible and traditional materials. Tuition includes materials and museum admission. Registration is required and space is limited. Register online at www.albanyinstitute.org.



Save the Date!

Spring Art Connects Programs



Holding Back the Dark, Willie Marlowe, 1985, acrylic and mixed media on paper, 22 H x 30 W, Albany Institute of History & Art Purchase via the Contemporary Art Collections Fund, 1992.38.2

The Art Connects program is designed for people affected with early to mid-stage Alzheimer's and other cognitive deficits and their care givers. Visits to the museum to look at paintings, sculptures, and artifacts may rekindle memories and emotions and are special social occasions for men and women who live with this disease. We use our collections to renew and build social connections in which all can participate and enjoy. Art Connects does not require a background in art, nor does it rely on memory.

Upcoming Dates: March 24, April 14, May 19 | Sessions are held at 11AM and 2PM

There is no fee for this tour program, but registration is required. To register, call Patrick Stenshorn at (518) 463-4478 ext. 405 or by email stenshornp@albanyinstitute.org.

Program support is provided by Upstate Services Group

THANK YOU

Home for the Holidays

Thank you to our 2019 Home for the Holidays sponsors: BBL Companies, SportClips, and Trudeau Architects for helping us host our free Home for the Holidays weekend just after Thanksgiving.

In spite of the weather, we welcomed over one thousand people to a decorated and festive museum to kick off the holiday season. We were glad to see familiar faces returning for their annual photograph with Santa and met many new visitors (babies!) who were here for the first time.



Wine & Dine for the Arts

January 16—18, 2020

The Albany Chef's Food & Wine Festival's mission is to provide sustainable funding for the support and preservation of the not-for-profit arts community in Albany, NY, through an annual 3-day Food & Wine themed Festival that markets our restaurants, chefs, and their innovative cuisine; educates consumers on healthy, sustainable agriculture; and donates all net income directly to deserving non-profit arts organizations.

The Albany Institute of History & Art is proud to be one of the beneficiaries of this remarkable event. For more information about the 2020 event and to purchase tickets, please visit www.albanywinefest.com.

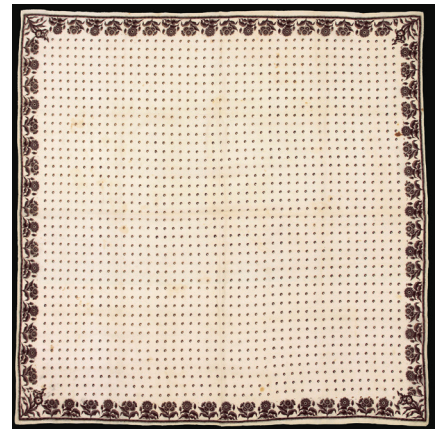


MUSEUM SHOP

Reproduction Textiles Now Available for Sale in Museum Shop

It was fashionable in the eighteenth century to wear large patterned handkerchiefs as neckwear. Last fall, the Albany Institute partnered with Burnley & Trowbridge Company of Williamsburg, Virginia, to create reproduction hand-printed and hand-finished textiles, which are now available for sale in the Museum Shop.

Two of our reproduction textiles are based on original block printed handkerchiefs in the museum's collection. The original dyes have oxidized (see right), but the purples in the reproductions replicate the beautiful colors of the originals. Three Purples Flowered Neck Handkerchief (50 inches square) and Double Purple Paisley Neck Handkerchief (34 inches square) are \$29.95 and \$24.95 respectively.



Block-printed handkerchief in Albany Institute collection, showing the oxidation of original dyes.



Three Purples Flowered Neck Handkerchief or Shawl (100% cotton and 50 inches square). Original dated to last quarter of 18th century (see above right).



Double Purple Paisley Neck Handkerchief (100% cotton and 34 inches square). Original dated 1830, although likely of earlier provenance.

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

125 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12210
(518) 463-4478 | www.albanyinstitute.org

Galleries & Shop

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	10AM–5PM
Thursday	10AM–8PM*
Friday	10AM–5PM
Saturday	10AM–5PM
Sunday	12PM–5PM

Cafe

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	10AM–3PM
Thursday	10AM–3PM
Friday	10AM–3PM
Saturday	10AM–3PM
Sunday	12PM–5PM

Admission

Members free | Adults \$10 | Seniors (62+) \$8 | Students with ID \$8
Children 6-12 \$6 | Under 6 Free | *\$5 per person admission from 5–8PM
Admission discount information online



If you miss a spot in our parking lot, consider downloading the ParkAlbany app to help keep track of your onstreet parking meter during your visit.



**Council on
the Arts**

Programmatic and exhibition support is made possible in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Season exhibition and program support is provided by Phoebe Powell Bender, Mr. and Mrs. George R. Hearst III, Charles M. Liddle III, Lois and David Swawite, and the Charles L. Touhey Foundation, Inc..

Cover image: Woman and Pueblo, Otto Plaug (1898-2000), 1921 or 1922, tempera on cardboard, promised gift of Albert B. Roberts

ALBANY INSTITUTE
OF HISTORY & ART
JANUARY—FEBRUARY 2020

