

FROM THE DIRECTOR



A MESSAGE FROM TAMMIS

There is not enough space to say everything that could be said about the spring and summer of 2020 and how it has deeply impacted all of us. It has been a time of sadness and hardship, fear and uncertainty, and it has also been a time of love, appreciation, reflection, and resolve.

I want to take a moment to give you my heartfelt thanks for your support of the museum and our recent initiatives as we have tried to adapt to new communication channels, program structures, revenue streams, and on-site protocols. This year, the museum has had to rely on the generosity of our supporters to help offset some of our income loss when the museum needed to close due to COVID-19 and postpone our gala. We have been able to re-open, but our visitation, like so many museums, is lower than usual. We have also reimaged our spring and fall fundraisers as a single event called "An Artful Evening" (see more in this newsletter). We appreciate all of your donations, your membership renewals, and your class and event registrations this year and hope that you will continue to stay connected with us as we approach 2021.

While we cannot tell you the future, we can still shed some light on the past and help celebrate the present. Our fall exhibitions explore a cache of political broadsides recently "rediscovered" in our library; highlight the cleaning process of a selection of 300 year old portraits; feature the work of contemporary artists in our region; and use sound to orchestrate an imagined conversation through historic technology. Information about visiting the museum is available on our website and please use our website, email, and social media channels to check for updates to any of our scheduled activities. We do not plan to host any onsite programming through the end of the year, but we hope you will join us for some of the virtual programs we are planning to offer this fall. In addition, we will be sharing information

about the exhibitions in our emails and on our social media channels, so if you are unable to visit the museum in person we will give you an opportunity to experience the museum from home.

This spring, we developed an actual Museum From Home initiative that focused on staff-generated blog posts that looked at behind-the-scenes stories, offered instructions for creative art activities, highlighted educational resources for teachers and students, explored the archival collections, and more. The posts are still available through our website (www.albanyinstitute.org/museum-blogs.html). As part of the Museum at Home initiative, we were also able to digitize our popular exhibition *The Hudson River School: Landscape Paintings from the Albany Institute* (learn more in this newsletter). We also shared paintings from that exhibition and other artwork from our collection as part of the #MuseumMomentofZen movement on social media channels (don't we all need a moment of quiet and reflection these days?).

As we move into the latter part of 2020, we continue to adapt and learn and grow as an organization and we look forward to having you with us on the journey. If you are a member, please RSVP for our virtual Annual Meeting of the Membership on September 21 and catch up with some of our plans. As always, feel free to reach out. We love hearing from you.

Stay curious, be creative, and take care of each other.

Tammis

MEMBERS MATTER

Looking for ways to support the museum? Consider membership! Whether you join, renew, or even upgrade your membership, your support makes such a difference and helps us continue our mission of preserving and sharing the art, culture, and history of the Upper Hudson Valley. Find out more on our website or call us at (518) 463 - 4478 ext. 402.

PLANNING YOUR NEXT VISIT

The Albany Institute of History & Art is committed to providing a safe and welcoming museum experience. Here are some updates related to our re-opening:

Museum Galleries and Museum Shop are open Wednesday–Saturday 10AM–5PM and Sunday 12–5PM. The Museum Cafe is open Wednesday–Saturday 10AM–3PM and Sunday 12–5PM. Limited indoor and outdoor dining is available. The Research Library is open by appointment only. The Art Studio and Explorer's Gallery are closed. We are not currently accepting group tours or hosting onsite programs.

We have policies in place for visitors and staff while at the museum:

- **Wear a mask or face covering** if over the age of 2, per New York Executive Order 202.17
- **Practice social distancing** by maintaining a minimum of six feet from those outside your party
- **Utilize hand sanitizing stations** and thoroughly wash hands in restroom
- **Follow** directional markers and **observe** occupancy limits for all spaces



Also, if you are **sick** or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, we ask that you visit us another time.

We suggest purchasing **timed tickets** at least 24 hours in advance (link on our website), but we also welcome walk-in visitors. For a full list of policies and procedures, as well as frequently asked questions, please go to www.albanyinstitute.org/visit.html.

Learn more and stay up-to-date!

Visit our website (www.albanyinstitute.org), sign up for our emails, follow us on social media, or give us a call at (518) 463-4478.

SAVE THE DATE



Join us on **Wednesday, November 4, 2020** for **An Artful Evening** to celebrate the vibrant cultural landscape of our region. This year we have combined our two signature events – our spring Museum Gala and fall Work of Art – into one. An Artful Evening, chaired by Deborah Groesbeck Bennett and Dr. John Bennett, will either be virtual or have onsite components, depending on where the fall takes us. Our Museum Gala and Work of Art account for a significant portion of the museum's annual operating budget. By combining our two signature events, we will significantly reduce overhead so that your support will go directly to exhibitions and education programs at a time when we need it most. Your support of An Artful Evening will enable us to continue fulfilling our mission of connecting people to art and history and each other.

Our Museum Gala honorees are **Peter and Rose-Marie Ten Eyck** of Indian Ladder Farms, an apple orchard, cider mill, and retail farm market near Voorheesville, NY. Peter and Rose-Marie have been generous supporters of the Albany Institute for over 30 years. During his more than 10 years of Albany Institute Board service, Peter served as Vice Chair of the Board and Chair of the Collections Committee. The museum is proud to have many items in its collection related to the Ten Eyck family.

Our Work of Art honoree is **Amy Biancolli**, a former *Times Union* reporter who has enthusiastically covered the art, history, and culture of the Capital Region for over 15 years. Her consistent and thoughtful coverage has enhanced this region's rich and diverse cultural offerings. Amy will remain in Albany as she begins her new job this fall for Mad in America, a nonprofit webzine covering the experiences of people in the mental-health system.



While some details still need to be decided, we do know that An Artful Evening will feature a **silent auction** of works by contemporary artists, continuing the Institute's support of our vibrant community of regional artists. Proceeds from the auction are shared between the Albany Institute and the artists.

2 For more information about submitting artwork to the silent auction or about An Artful Evening, please visit our website or call Ellie at (518) 463-4478 ext. 402.

THANK YOU

With our first newsletter back, we wanted to take the opportunity to thank our incredible base of members and donors for their support during the museum's closure. Our **#GivingTuesdayNow** campaign in May was one of our most successful ever, raising nearly \$50,000 including a \$15,000 match from our Board of Trustees. In addition to support from individuals, we are happy to announce that we have received several grants. We were awarded two grants that were part of the federal CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) including \$10,000 from **Humanities New York** with support from the **National Endowment for the Humanities**, and \$50,000 from the **National Endowment for the Arts**. We also received notification of an award from the **Bender Family Foundation** for \$20,000 per year for the next three years to redesign and rebuild our current website, digitize collections, and increase our server capacity. This support comes at a critical time as we are relying more and more on our technical infrastructure and virtual resources to connect with audiences. We are also pleased to announce a recent grant from **Stewart's Shops** for our art-making programs. As steady supporters of art-making activities at the museum, we are grateful for their continued support.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Attention Teachers! Virtual Field Trips Now Available

Bring the museum into your classroom through virtual field trips! The Albany Institute of History & Art will be offering virtual tours for schools beginning in Fall 2020. Available programs include:

- Ancient Egypt: Art & Culture
- Art, Artists, and Nature: the Hudson River School
- Hudson River School STEAM: Art & The Environment
- Traders & Culture: Life in Colonial Albany

Virtual programs are 45 minutes and include an interactive gallery presentation followed by a Question & Answer session. Each program is led by a museum educator who engages students and answers questions in live chat. Post-visit materials will be provided to help extend these programs to meet your curriculum goals.

Zoom, Google Meet, and Microsoft Teams options are currently available.

Virtual field trips are priced per program. Grant funding is available to support classrooms in many areas. Inquire today by emailing waldronv@albanyinstitute.org.



Relief of a Granary, Egyptian, Middle Kingdom, Dynasty 11, ca. 2055-1985 BC, limestone, gift of Heinrich Medicus, 2013.1.22

AT-HOME PROJECTS

NEW!

Quilling Art Kit: An Art Workshop in a Bag



Art Kits contain a special project that can be done on your own schedule. The Albany Institute's first Art Kit is a fun quilling project inspired by a lovely quilled tea caddy in the museum's collection. Quilling involves using paper strips to create decorative designs. The Quilling Art Kit includes detailed instructions, a craft box to decorate, paper quilling strips, simple quilling tools, and glue. A link to a short video introducing the quilled tea caddy in the museum's collection is also included.

Cost per kit is \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members. Purchases may be made online at www.albanyinstitute.org and kits can be picked up at the museum during open admission hours. Questions? Give us a call at (518) 463-4478 or email Sarah at clowes@albanyinstitute.org.



Detail: Quillwork Tea Caddy, 1804, S. Forman, Troy, NY, mahogany, paper, bronze powder, gift of the estate of Marjorie Doyle Rockwell, 1995.30.13

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This fall, the museum will host virtual programs. For up-to-date information about our events (including new event announcements), please check our website www.albanyinstitute.org. You can also sign up for our emails or follow us on social media: Facebook (facebook.com/albanyinstitute), Instagram ([albanyinstitute](https://instagram.com/albanyinstitute)), and Twitter ([@AlbanyInstitute](https://twitter.com/AlbanyInstitute)).

SEPTEMBER

MEMBER EVENT

Annual Meeting of the Membership

Monday, September 21, 5:30 – 6:30PM | *Free, RSVP required*
Postponed from March 23, 2020

Members are invited to join the Albany Institute Board of Trustees for a virtual meeting to learn about the museum's accomplishments in 2019 and its plans for the rest of this year. Free, but reservations required. Please RSVP to Ellie Burhans at burhanse@albanyinstitute.org or (518) 463-4478, ext. 402.

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Art du Jour: A View of the Catskill Mountain House

Wednesday, September 23, 1PM | *\$10 Suggested Donation*

Take a break! This virtual program features a relaxed, explorative discussion of *A View of the Catskill Mountain House* by Sarah Cole. Participants will be guided through a contemplative analysis of the painting by a member of the education staff. The guided discussion will be approximately 30-45 minutes, perfect for a break from your busy day at work or at home. No background in art is required to enjoy this program, but reservations are required and may be made through our website.



A View of the Catskill Mountain House, Sarah Cole (1805–1857), 1848, oil on canvas, 15 1/3 H x 23 3/8 W, Albany Institute of History & Art Purchase, 1964.40

BOOK & ART CLUB

September Book: *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf

Thursday, September 24, 7PM | *Free, RSVP required*
Register through the Albany Public Library's website



Join Albany Public Library and Albany Institute of History & Art for an exciting book and art discussion that focuses on works held locally by the Albany Institute and complementary books. Led by a museum educator and a librarian, this online program explores the intersection of books and art with examples, insight, and enjoyable conversation. September's book, *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf, has been popular with readers in 2020.

OCTOBER



Detail: T.F. Toohey, 39 South Pearl Street, unidentified photographer, 1886, toned gelatin silver print, 8 H x 9 1/2 W, Albany Institute of History & Art Library, Main Photo Collection, DI 941

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Last Night: A Prohibition-Style Party

Friday, October 2, 6–7PM | *\$40 Members; \$45 General Public*

Across the nation, one hundred years ago, Americans prepared for the beginning of the era of Prohibition by having one last drink. The dry years that were to follow were filled with bootleggers, booze runners, and clandestine gatherings. Join guest speakers Emmanuel Treski of Speakeasy 518 and Maeve McEneny of Discover Albany for a night of lively virtual conversation featuring expert guidance on crafting your own Prohibition-style cocktails and an informal discussion of Albany's unique relationship to infamous gangster Legs Diamond. Submit your questions in

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

advance for a special Q&A session. Tickets include choice of one of three cocktails or a mocktail plus a cheese platter, which will be available for pick up (details available at sign-up). Reservations required by September 25. Register online or contact Ellie Burhans at (518) 463-4478, ext. 402.

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Art du Jour: Ariantje Coeymans Verplanck

Wednesday, October 14, 1PM

\$10 Suggested Donation

Take a break! This virtual program features a relaxed, explorative discussion of Ariantje Coeymans Verplanck attributed to Nehemiah Partridge. Participants will be guided through a contemplative analysis of the painting by a member of the education staff. We will also explore recent conservation treatments to this painting. The guided discussion will be approximately 30-45 minutes, perfect for a break from your busy day at work or at home. No background in art is required to enjoy this program, but reservations are required and may be made through our website.



Ariantje Coeymans (Mrs. David) Verplanck (1672-1743), 1718 or c. 1722-24, oil on canvas; 71" x 39" Bequest of Miss Gertrude Watson. 1938.5

BOOK & ART CLUB

October Book: TBA

Thursday, October 29, 7PM | Free, RSVP required

Register through the Albany Public Library's website



Join Albany Public Library and Albany Institute of History & Art for an exciting book and art discussion that focuses on works held locally by the Albany Institute and complementary books. Led by a museum educator and a librarian, this online program explores the intersection of books and art with examples, insight, and enjoyable conversation. The October book selection will be announced soon. Check our website, or go to the Albany Public Library's Calendar of Events.

Looking for a book to add to your reading list?

Reach out to our Museum Shop for a great selection of local authors and topics! Call (518) 463-4478 ext. 459 or email museumshop@albanyinstitute.org.



Explore more make-at-home projects by visiting our Museum Makers blog on our website: www.albanyinstitute.org/museum-makers.html.

ONGOING

FAMILY PROGRAM

Art for All: Art to Go!

Ongoing, beginning October 1st | Included with admission

Enjoy your visit to the museum and then bring home an art activity inspired by the exhibitions and collections. Art for All: Art to Go! activities can be picked up at the front desk and both children and adults are invited to participate. Instructions are included with the materials.

FAMILY PROGRAM

Virtual Building Challenge

2020 Theme: Towers & Arches

Monday, October 5–Monday, October 19: Submissions taken

Friday, October 23: Entries on view on the museum's website and social media

Get creative and build by yourself, or with your family!

Take inspiration from arches and towers on view in Thomas Cole's paintings in the museum's *The Hudson River School:*



Landscape Paintings from the Albany Institute exhibition.

Towers may be built out of Legos, recycled materials, or any other materials you may wish to use. Full challenge details (and links to paintings for inspiration) will be shared in the Museum Maker's blog on the museum's website.

EXHIBITIONS

2020 Exhibition by Artists of the Mohawk Hudson Region

SEPTEMBER 19, 2020 – JANUARY 3, 2021

Celebrating its eighty-fourth year, the 2020 Exhibition by Artists of the Mohawk-Hudson Region, hosted by the Albany Institute of History & Art, highlights the work of the best visual artists in the region. This juried exhibition is sponsored jointly by the Albany Institute of History & Art, the University Art Museum, University at Albany, and The Hyde Collection, Glens Falls, New York. The exhibition is open to all visual artists residing within a 100-mile radius of the Capital District and Glens Falls.

The 2020 Juror is Susan Cross, Senior Curator at MASS MoCA. She received her Master of Arts in Art History from Williams College and previously worked at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in Spain, and the Deutsche Bilbao in Berlin. Since her arrival at MASS MoCA in 2006, Cross has organized major exhibitions, commissions, and performances. These include Alex Da Corte, Liz Deschenes, (Marcos Ramirez) ERRE, Spencer Finch, Liz Glynn, Katharina Grosse, Allison Janae Hamilton (co-curated with Larry Ossei-Mensah), Steffani Jemison, Guillaume Leblon, Richard Nonas, Ledelle Moe, Cauleen Smith, and Simon Starling, among others. Her curated group exhibitions have included: *The Lure of the Dark: Contemporary Painters Conjure the Night* (2018), *In the Abstract* (2017), *The Dying of the Light: Film as Medium and Metaphor* (2014), *Invisible Cities* (2012), and *The Workers* (2011), co-curated with Carla Herrera-Prats. Cross edited the first monographs on Da Corte, Crowner, Finch, and Glynn and is the co-editor of *Sol LeWitt: 100 Views*.



The exhibition features 73 artists and 108 works ranging from paintings and drawings to prints, photography, collage, sculpture, textiles, and installation works. A catalogue of the exhibition will be available. A selection of works are featured on the cover of this publication, which are also referenced in Susan Cross' illustrated essay for the catalogue.

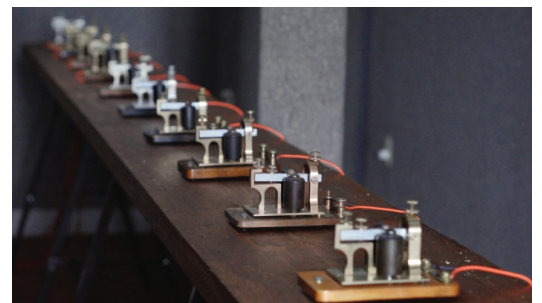
Credits: (From left to right and top to bottom, starting at the top left corner) 1918, Amy Silberkleit, stone lithograph, 2020, 12 x 12 inches; CstUdY, Jane Ehrlich, acrylic and Flasche on canvas, 2020, 21 x 40 inches; Swallows Hunting, Mike Glier, oil on canvas, 2017, 55 x 90 inches; The Lives of Others 14, Gregory Slick, acrylic and charcoal on wood panel, 2020, 24 x 20 inches; Fallen Log, Jeff Wigman, oil on linen, 2020, 36 x 28 inches; (detail) Waste Not 4, Kathy Greenwood, discarded clothing, thread, felt, polyfill, 2017, 48 x 48 inches; Yours, Mine, Ours, Deborah Zlotzky, Vintage scarves, 2020, 52 x 31 inches

Summerland: A Sound Installation by Matthew Ostrowski

SEPTEMBER 19, 2020 – JANUARY 3, 2021

During the 1840s, the world of scientific invention and the spirit world overlapped. Summerland, a sound installation by artist Matthew Ostrowski creates imagined dialogues between these two worlds and explores the “elusive promise of communication.”

When Samuel F. B. Morse's telegraph became commercially available in 1844, it changed the nature of communication. By using electromagnetic impulses that could be sent and received over a single wire, the telegraph transmitted information across thousands of miles almost instantaneously. It conflated time and space in a nearly unimaginable way. Some thought it was magic. Four years later, Maggie and Kate Fox, two sisters in upstate New York, created a series of rapping sounds to fool others into believing they were communicating with spirits. Their undisclosed hoax soon captivated others and before long a growing interest in spiritualism brought the promise of communication with departed loved ones.



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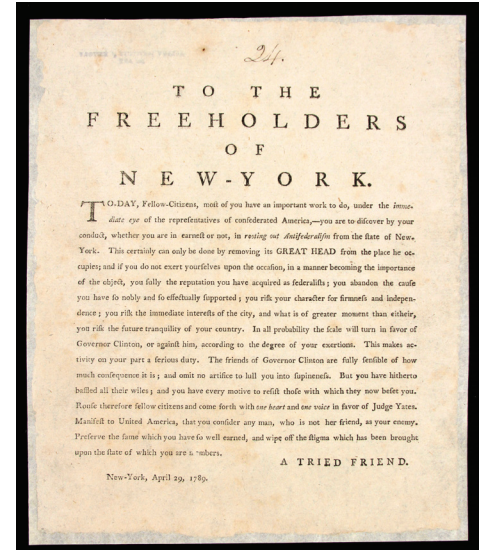
Summerland, as Ostrowski comments, is a séance—a telegraphically audible dialogue between Morse and Kate Fox—that is communicated through a series of telegraph receivers, each one tapping out its binary code.

EXHIBITIONS

Fellow Citizens! DeWitt Clinton's Broadside of the Early Republic

AUGUST 1, 2020 – MARCH 14, 2021

The Albany Institute of History & Art is home to what is likely the earliest collection of political material specifically assembled as a political collection – the DeWitt Clinton Broadside Collection, which encompasses over one hundred broadsides ranging in date from 1775 to 1813. A broadside is a single sheet of paper printed with information on one side. Donated to AIHA by Theodorick Romeyn Beck (1791-1855), the broadsides collection would be tucked away and forgotten about, rediscovered and acclaimed, and stored once more, hidden to the world at large, until a local political memorabilia collector learned about the Institute's collection in 2018, and was thrilled by the discovery. Historically, broadsides were ephemeral sources of information created to serve specific, temporary purposes. After serving their purpose they were either thrown away or repurposed and since paper was a scarce commodity in early America, their survival today is rare.



*To the Freeholders of New-York
April 29, 1789
DeWitt Clinton Broadside Collection, GR 78-10.24*

Fellow Citizens! DeWitt Clinton's Broadside of the Early Republic exhibition focuses on five New York State gubernatorial elections, the context of American life at the time the broadsides were written, and the life and legacy of DeWitt Clinton. It includes a selection of nearly twenty political broadsides, along with contemporary paintings, artifacts from the era, and a rare map of New York from 1796.

A Fresh Look at Eighteenth-Century Portraits

SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 — MARCH 14, 2021

With support from the Stockman Family Foundation, the Williamstown Art Conservation Center was awarded more than \$238,000 to conserve thirty-one of the Albany Institute's earliest Hudson Valley portraits dating from the first half of the eighteenth century. The exhibition focuses on a small group of these portraits to highlight the process of conserving works of art that are close to three hundred years old. Detailed photographs will accompany the portraits to show before and after results of conservation. The results of conservation reveal much about the materials artists used, their techniques and painting procedures, and what has been lost and revealed anew through conservation treatment.



Above: Details from the portrait of Anna Cuyler Van Schaick (1908.9.4.2) showing her left hand before (left) and after (right) conservation treatment. The left shows noticeable overpainting and the right shows the more defined hand of the original. This portrait was painted in 1720 and is 300 years old.

The leading sponsor for this exhibition is Ten Eyck Bronk Powell III. Major support is provided by Douglas L. Cohn, D.V.M.

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Hudson River School 3-D Tour Available Online

Did you know? This spring, while the galleries were closed due to restrictions related to COVID-19, we launched a new online version of *The Hudson River School: Landscape Paintings from the Albany Institute* exhibition for people to enjoy as part of our Museum at Home initiative. The 3D Tour by Hudson Reality Capture was generously donated by Tom Nardacci. Visit www.albanyinstitute.org/the-hudson-river-school.html to get started!



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–5PM |
| 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 | *Admission discount information online*
Timed ticket information is available on our website.



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.

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ALBANY INSTITUTE
OF HISTORY & ART
SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 2020

