

EXHIBITIONS

Romancing the Rails: Train Travel in the 1920s and 1930s

JUNE 12, 2021 – FEBRUARY 2022



THE *New* 20th CENTURY LIMITED
NEW YORK-16 hours-CHICAGO
NEW YORK CENTRAL SYSTEM

The New 20th Century Limited, from original painting by Leslie Ragan (1897-1972), Lithograph by Latham Litho. Co., Long Island City, NY, 1938, half-tone print, gift of the New York Central Railroad, 1959.130.168

The 1920s and 30s were a kind of golden age for rail travel in the U.S., a period when railroads were portrayed as modern amenities that carried passengers to romantic getaways in luxury and comfort. Yet the story of railroads and rail travel during the period is much more complex, involving talented individuals, hardworking people, engineering accomplishments, celebrations, and momentous events.

Railroad history of the 1920s and 30s is also linked to automobiles. During the period the rise in automobile ownership presented the single greatest threat to railroads. Indeed, automobiles reduced demand for short-haul rail service because Americans could easily drive from one town to the next, but the unpaved surfaces of most roads and the uncertainty of amenities like gas stations and wayside restaurants made train travel for long distances the more convenient and preferred method of transportation. Making long-distance rail travel comfortable required a growing number of porters and staff who catered to passengers' every whim. Porters aboard Pullman sleeping cars comprised one of the nation's largest employment opportunities for African Americans. During the 1920s, more than 20,000 African Americans worked as porters or other railroad personnel, and in 1925 they organized the first Black labor union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

During the same decades, railroads like New York Central embarked on new advertising campaigns to confront the growing threat from automobiles. Posters, calendars, and magazine advertisements presented images that romanticized train travel, their destinations, and the sleek, new streamlined locomotives that moved passengers. New York Central hired industrial designer Henry Dreyfuss, who redesigned not only their locomotives and passenger cars but nearly everything the passenger may encounter from tableware to matchbooks.

The 1930s was also a decade of celebrations that showcased America's railroads. In 1931, New York Central celebrated its centennial and in 1939 and 1940, America's railroads were presented to millions of visitors at the 1939 World's Fair in the form of a musical, *Railroads on Parade*, presented by the Eastern Railroads. The musical featured a sound score composed by Kurt Weill and a choreographed performance that included actors and real locomotive engines on stage.

Romancing the Rails features objects and library materials from the Albany Institute's railroad collections, including rare photographs, posters, locomotive models, and objects designed for New York Central's 20th Century Limited that debuted in 1938 and ran from New York City to Chicago in sixteen hours.

Thank you to our exhibition sponsors

William H. Harris & Holly A. Katz, Alan P. Goldberg, Mr. & Mrs. John Walsh, III, and Elizabeth A. Lee

EXHIBITIONS

A Sense of Time: The Historical Art of L. F. Tantillo

CLOSING JULY 25, 2021

Artist Len Tantillo is recognized for his ability to capture specific moments and visualize places of the past through his paintings. The exhibition *A Sense of Time: The Historical Art of L. F. Tantillo* highlights the artist's forty-year career and brings together a selection of over 90 works of art by one of the most noted painters of historical subjects and marine views of our time. *A Sense of Time*, which features 97 works of art from fifty-three institutions and collectors, provides insight into his artistic process and pairs some of Tantillo's works with preparatory sketches, models, and videos.



Morning Mist on the Hudson, Len Tantillo, 1999, oil on canvas, private collection

Thank you to our exhibition sponsors | Major funding has been provided by Bruce and Jenny McKinney. This program is supported as a part of the Dutch Culture USA program by the Consulate General of the Netherlands in NY. Leading support has been provided by Donald and Ann Eberle, William M. Harris and Holly A. Katz, Vicary and Peter Thomas, Richard and Karen Nicholson, George and Kathleen McNamee, Alan P. Goldberg, Peter and Rose-Marie Ten Eyck, Evelyn Trebilcock, Daniel Wulff, Jan and Stan Smith, and Douglas L. Cohn, D.V.M.



UPCOMING EXHIBITION

Fashionable Frocks of the 1920s

OPENING AUGUST 28, 2021

Just before arriving in Albany for a week of fashion shows and talks in 1925, French fashion authority Marceline D'Alroy commented, "I have heard women in Albany are as smart, as up to date, as keen about styles and fashion as the women of New York City." The upcoming exhibition *Fashionable Frocks of the 1920s* will showcase twenty-five rarely-seen dresses from the Albany Institute's historic clothing collection to explore fashion trends and transformations from an infamous era. As visitors will see, fashion of the 1920s amounted to much more than the quintessential flapper's dress.



Supported by The Michele L. Vennard Hospitality Grant Program of the Albany County Convention and Visitors' Bureau Fund of the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region.

Rose Chiffon Dress labeled: "Bab, La Robe de Jeunesse, Hand Made in France, Paris", c. 1925, silk with beads and sequins, Albany Institute of History & Art, gift of Mrs. John C. Duncan, 1943.29.16.1-2

UPCOMING EXHIBITION

The Wyeths: Three Generations Works from the Bank of America Collection

SEPTEMBER 11, 2021 – JANUARY 2, 2022

For three generations, the Wyeths have created art that captures the imagination and admiration of a wide audience. This exhibition presents more than sixty paintings, drawings, and illustrations by N.C. (Newell Converse) Wyeth, his son Andrew Wyeth, and his grandson Jamie Wyeth. The works – from the early 1900s to the early 2000s – reveal the breadth of the Wyeth family's creative output and illuminate both common themes within the works and the artists' individual styles.



Eight Bells (Clyde, Stanley and Andrew Wyeth about Eight Bells), 1937, N.C. Wyeth (American, 1882-1945), oil on hardboard, Bank of America Collection



This exhibition has been loaned through the Bank of America Art in Our Communities® program.

SUMMER ART PROGRAM

Artful Mornings

VIRTUAL SUMMER ART PROGRAM FOR AGES 6–12

Weekly sessions: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10–11:30AM

Cost per session: \$70 non-members; \$55 members

Tuition includes materials and instruction. Registration is required and space is limited.

Register online at www.albanyinstitute.org.

In these weekly, three-day morning programs, children ages 6–12 will create vibrant works of art inspired by our summer exhibitions and the museum's permanent collection. Program sign-ups include material kits and live instruction via Zoom, as well as extension activities that can be completed independently. Class techniques will include drawing, painting, sculpture, and collage as we explore topics like nature, Ancient Egypt, trains, and more.



SESSION DATES & THEMES

Registration for each session will be closed the Friday of the week before so that art kits can be coordinated for pick up.

WATER & WAVES | JULY 13–15

Let's explore the color and movement of water in art! We'll use paint and drawing media in both realistic and expressive styles to explore color, mark-making, and implied texture. We'll learn traditional art methods and experiment with unusual action-art techniques too.

SUNRISE, SUNSET | JULY 20–22

Create glowing works of art inspired by sunrise and sunset scenes in the museum's collections. We'll create our own designs and also participate in a fun paint-along project!

TRAINS! ANGLES & PERSPECTIVE | JULY 27–29

All aboard! We love trains and are excited to explore train artwork this week. We'll see how train artwork that is on view in our *Romancing the Rails* exhibition is an excellent example of the use of angles and perspective in artwork. Then, we'll emulate those techniques in our own train artwork.

ANCIENT EGYPT | AUGUST 3–5

Discover the beauty of Ancient Egyptian art and culture! This class will virtually tour our Ancient Egypt galleries and have a blast creating art inspired by what we observe. We'll discover exciting myths and create Ancient Egyptian styled artwork. We will base our artwork on artifacts on view, such as canopic jars, ornate sarcophagi, and a mask of a lion god.

COLOR & LIGHT: TRANSLUCENT FORMS | AUGUST 10–12

Let the light shine in as we explore the impact of light and color through translucent shapes as we create works that play with light, color, and translucent and opaque forms. We'll use special polymer clay that allows light to go through it to make unique sculptures, and we'll create sculptures and sun catchers out of see-through materials like paints, plastics, and tape.

VASES & VESSELS | AUGUST 17–19

Watch your artwork take shape as we create vases and vessels out of air-dry clay, folded paper, and upcycled materials. We'll look at antiquities like tiny Egyptian juglets that are thousands of years old, as well as contemporary pieces with big patterns and interesting textures. Extension activity options will include directions to create paper flowers to fill your creations!

STAMP! BLOT! PRINT! | AUGUST 24–26

Discover the world of printmaking with us this summer! Explore a variety of printmaking techniques as we create our own relief printing plates to create multiple editions of prints, print with found objects, and put our own impression on things with monotypes!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For up-to-date information about our events (including new event announcements), please check our website at 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)).

JULY

VIRTUAL PROGRAM

Rare Book Specialist Kenneth Gloss

Thursday, July 8, 6:30PM | \$10 suggested donation

Kenneth Gloss, proprietor of the internationally known Brattle Book Shop in Boston's Downtown Crossing section.

Join Kenneth Gloss as he discusses the value of old and rare books. Ken will talk about and show some of his favorite finds and describe some of the joys of the "hunt," as well as explain what makes a book go up in value. He has many fascinating anecdotes to share as well as guidelines for what to look for when starting a collection. There is also a Q&A session before the conclusion of his talk. Following the talk and question-and-answer session, Ken will give free verbal appraisals of books participants have on hand or will do so at his shop in Boston at a later scheduled date. Registration is required and is available through our website www.albanyinstitute.org.



Among the many organizations in which Kenneth Gloss is a member are the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers, the New England Antiquarian Booksellers of America, the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Antiquarian Booksellers Association, the Committee for the Boston International Antiquarian Book Fair and the Boston Society. He also is a Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society as well as serving on the Board of Overseers of the USS Constitution Museum.

Many of our virtual programs are offered free, with a suggested donation of \$10 which can be made when registering. Each program is offered live via Zoom, and often includes a Q&A session. All participants will receive the Zoom link one hour before the program to the email used during registration.



This is a People's War, Arnold Blanch (1896-1968), c. 1938-39, oil on canvas, ht. 30" x w. 48", Albany Institute of History & Art, gift of the estate of Doris Lee, 1984.33

VIRTUAL ART DU JOUR

This is a People's War by Arnold Blanch

Wednesday, July 14, 1PM | \$10 suggested donation

Take a break! This virtual program features a relaxed, explorative discussion of the painting *This is a People's War* by Arnold Blanch. Participants will be guided through a contemplative analysis of the painting by a member of the Education staff. The guided discussion will be about 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.

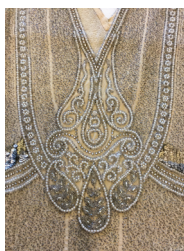
BEHIND-THE-SCENES

Sneak Peek of *Fashionable Frocks of the 1920s*

Friday, July 23, 10AM | Saturday, July 24, 2PM

Saturday, July 31, 10:30AM | Saturday, July 31, 1PM

Each session limited to 12 people | \$25 per person



Spend an hour behind-the-scenes with curator Diane Shewchuk for a close-up look at some of the dresses that will be featured in the upcoming exhibition *Fashionable Frocks of the 1920s*. To reserve your spot, please call Diane at (518) 463-4478, ext. 441.

EXHIBITION CLOSING DAY

A Sense of Time: The Historical Art of L. F. Tantillo

Sunday, July 25, 10AM-5PM | Included with admission

Be sure to see this exhibition before it closes!

AUGUST

OUTDOOR ART DU JOUR

Seven Elements by Joel Shapiro

Wednesday, August 11, 1PM | \$10 suggested donation

Take a break! This outdoor, socially-distanced program features a relaxed, explorative discussion of the sculpture *Seven Elements* by Joel Shapiro that is part of the Albany Institute's Weir Sculpture Garden. This 30-45 minute conversation will be offered live on the front lawn of the Albany Institute. Socially-distanced seating will be provided by the museum and participants will be required to wear masks.



Program will be rescheduled in the event of inclement weather. No background in art is required to enjoy this program, but reservations are required and may be made through our website.

EXHIBITION OPENING DAY

Fashionable Frocks of the 1920s

Saturday, August 28, 10AM–5PM | Included with admission

A new exhibition to start the fall season! Stay up-to-date as we announce details about events related to this exhibition. Information will be available on our website and social media.



Manhattan Sunset, Len Tantillo, 2013, oil on canvas, collection of Clara and Larry Sanders. On view in *A Sense of Time: The Historical Art of L. F. Tantillo*.

SPECIAL TOUR

IMMERSION TOUR

Native Voices

A partnership program with the Albany County Historical Association/ Ten Broeck Mansion

Immerse yourself in history! Join these special interconnected tours, allowing you to visit two of Albany's finest museums to explore the role of Native Americans in our region. It's the perfect immersive tour experience for those interested in nature, indigenous plants, Native American history, intercultural contact, and art history.

Start at the Ten Broeck Mansion to learn about their landscape before European colonization. Learn about Dirck Ten Broeck's role as a Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and his son's intercultural fluency. Next, visit the Albany Institute of History & Art to take a self-guided tour directing you to historic artifacts representing these Native perspectives. Proceed to the Albany Institute's renowned Hudson River School galleries and see these classic works with new eyes.



Etow Oh Koam, King of River Nation, Maker Jan Verelst (c.1648-1734), engr. John Simon (1675-1754), c.1710, Mezzotint, ht.16 1/4" x w.10 1/3", Albany Institute of History & Art, bequest of Mrs. Henry M. Sage, 1972.65.11

TOUR DATES

July 22, August 26, and September 23

COST

Tickets (up to \$15 per person) are available through Ten Broeck Mansion's website and EventBrite.

REGISTER

To learn more and to register, please visit Albany County Historical Association's website at <https://tenbroeckmansion.org/>

MORE

The Albany County Historical Association is located in the Ten Broeck Mansion at 9 Ten Broeck Place in Albany, New York. Questions? Visit them online or call (518) 436-9826.

Albany County Historical Association



CREATE

ART KITS: AN ART WORKSHOP IN A BAG Faux Gilded Frames

Our newest Art Kit will be available this July!

Are you looking to be creative? We are now offering Art Kits, with special projects that can be done on your own schedule.

Our new Art Kit debuting this summer takes its inspiration from the ornate frames on view in the museum's galleries.



Transform simple materials like air dry clay, gold paint, and a cardboard frame kit into formal glittering pieces that can be used to showcase your own household masterpieces. In addition to the materials to create your frame, the kit includes a collections coloring sheet made from frame designs in the museum's collection so you may imagine what you would place on view in your own imagined museum. Detailed instructions accompany each kit, as well as a link to a short video introducing frames in the museum's collections.

Kits may be purchased online and picked up at the museum during regular admission hours. Cost is \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members. Learn more and make your purchase on our website.



COMMUNITY

Sharing Art this Spring with Community Partners

This spring, the Albany Institute was able to collaborate on a new initiative prompted by the pandemic- bringing art out to children and families in our community.

Through the support of M&T Bank, the Albany Institute was able to connect with both the **Boys & Girls Club of the Capital Area** and the **South End Children's Cafe** to create and share special art projects for families.

In April, M&T Bank volunteers joined us at the museum to help pack 500 art kits to be delivered to the South End Children's Cafe for distribution to families in



our region. The kits included art making supplies, instructions for projects, and free family admission passes to the museum.

In addition to the distribution of the art kits, the M&T Bank sponsorship included a Family Night project plus virtual museum visits with the Boys & Girls afterschool sites in the city of Albany. In March, the Albany Institute sent out 130 take-home art projects for the Boys & Girls Club's Family Night. The project encouraged families to make their own faux stained glass window decorated with symbols that represent their family. We also hosted live virtual tours and art-making projects with five afterschool sites where we explored the Ancient Egypt galleries, had storytime, and made paper animal mummy models. All students in the program received free family admission passes to the museum too.

We are grateful to M&T Bank and our partners, the South End Children's Cafe and the Boys & Girls Club of the Capital Area, for their collaboration on these projects and thank them for their support and service to our local community.

M&T Bank
Understanding what's important®

NEWS

Welcome Sarah Kirby, Development Assistant

We are pleased to welcome Sarah Kirby to the Albany Institute as a new member of the museum's Development Department. She will be assisting the department with managing the museum's donor database, memberships, and special events.



Sarah Kirby earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History from SUNY Buffalo State College and a Master of Arts degree in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester, UK. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Schenectady County Historical Society. Sarah has previously worked in development at the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, as well as across departments for a variety of Capital Region Museums and non-profit organizations, including the National Museum of Dance in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Say hello! You can reach Sarah via email at kirbys@albanyinstitute.org or by calling (518) 463-4478 ext. 414.

MUSEUM SHOP

On Time in the Museum Shop

Newly arrived in the Museum Shop: fine art prints, cards, and postcards with vintage 1920s and 1930s images from the Albany Institute's New York Central Railroad collection, plus a wonderful assortment of train books, puzzles, toys, games, magnets and more. Whether you are a train lover or a train traveler, come to the shop to find gifts that showcase the history of train travel in America.



THANK YOU

Thank You to Our Gala Sponsors and Supporters

On Thursday, June 10, 2021, the Albany Institute of History & Art held a virtual Museum Gala to celebrate and recognize the members, donors, corporations, foundations, volunteers, and community partners that have supported us this last year.

We would like to thank our co-chairs of the event, William M. Harris and Holly A. Katz, for playing up the railroad theme and making the virtual experience so fun and personal. We want to thank all of our guests for joining us and making such generous donations. We also want to recognize our corporate sponsors for their considerable contributions and continued support. *Thank you!*

If you were unable to attend this year's event, we have uploaded select moments from the 2021 Virtual Museum Gala on our YouTube channel (search for Albany Institute of History & Art). Enjoy some fun behind-the-scenes videos and more, and most importantly thank YOU for your interest in and support of the museum.



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

The Museum Cafe is temporarily closed.

Library & Archives

The Library and Archives are open by appointment only.

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.

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 Carl E. Touhey Foundation, Inc.

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT for the **ARTS**
arts.gov

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ALBANY INSTITUTE
OF HISTORY & ART
JULY—AUGUST 2021

