EXHIBITIONS

Fashionable Frocks of the 1920s
CLOSING JANUARY 2, 2022

The exhibition *Fashionable Frocks of the 1920s* showcases more than twenty-five rarely-seen dresses from the Albany Institute's historic clothing collection to explore fashion trends and transformations from an infamous era. With inspiration from French fashion plates and rich colors, fascinating fabrics, and eye-catching accessories, this exhibition is not-to-be-missed! As visitors will see, fashion of the 1920s amounted to much more than the quintessential flapper's dress.

*Thank you to our exhibition sponsors* | This exhibition is 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 and *Times Union*. Additional sponsors include William H. Harris and Holly A. Katz, Alan P. Goldberg, Magda and Gus Mininburg, The Costumer, Douglas L. Cohn, D.V.M., Barbara K. Hoehn, Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Marwill, Nancy and Donald Newkirk, Mrs. Arlen Westbrook, Christine Miles Kelliher, Mr. and Mrs. John Walsh, Ill, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hershey, Ms. Evelyn D. Trebilcock, and Mr. and Mrs. F. Michael Tucker.

The Wyeths: Three Generations
Works from the Bank of America Collection
CLOSING 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 daughter Henriette 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.

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

*Additional sponsors include* William H. Harris and Holly A. Katz, Alan P. Goldberg, Mr. and Mrs. John Walsh, Ill, and Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Marwill.

Rip Van Winkle, cover illustration, N.C. Wyeth (American, 1882-1945), 1921, oil on canvas, Bank of America Collection
EXHIBITIONS

Romancing the Rails: Train Travel in the 1920s and 1930s
THROUGH FEBRUARY 2022

The 1920s and 1930s 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. 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


Joan Steiner’s Look Alikes®
NOVEMBER 26, 2021 – FEBRUARY 27, 2022

These miniature scenes offer fun for all ages. The more you look, the more you see! A selection of the popular miniature dioramas by the award-winning illustrator Joan Steiner will once again be on display at different locations throughout the museum. These meticulously crafted scenes were created from everyday objects and edible treats, and photographed for Steiner’s Look-Alikes® books, first published in 1998.

UPCOMING EXHIBITION
Leigh Li-Yun Wen: Constant Motion and Currents
JANUARY 29–JUNE 18, 2022

Constant Motion and Currents by Taiwanese artist Leigh Li-Yun Wen explores the four elements of nature: water, fire, earth, and air. Her monumental paintings, mixed media works, fashions, and ceramics highlight the supernatural power found in nature and the simplicity and harmony that exists in the chaos of the world. Wen’s imagery is dominated by her process of subtraction from darkness to light. When she paints, she works quickly, covering a small section of canvas with dark paint, and then, using a stylus, she removes the paint to reveal a light-colored ground. Hundreds of carefully calculated rhythmic lines etched into paint creates a surface constantly in motion. Wen feels that something of the self is lost in this resulting tangle of lines, is regained, and lost again. She describes her works as “deeply autobiographical.”

The exhibition reflects different phases throughout her 35+ year career. Wen has exhibited nationally and internationally since the early 1980s. Born in Taipei, Taiwan, she received her BFA from Washington State University and her MA and MFA from the University at Albany. She has strong ties to the Capital Region, where she lived for a number of years. In addition to numerous awards and recognitions, solo and group exhibitions, and representation in public and private collections, her paintings have been selected to be in over 15 American Embassies around the world as part of the Art in Embassies Program of the United States Department of State. She currently splits her time between studios in New York City and Taipei.

Untitled VI, Leigh Li-Yun Wen, 1997, Oil on canvas, 84 H x 168 W, 1998 Mohawk-Hudson Regional Exhibition Purchase Prize, 1998.16
For up-to-date information about Albany Institute activities, policies, and procedures, 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), and Twitter (@AlbanyInstitute). Thank you!

NOVEMBER

PARTNER PROGRAM
Train-Themed Storytime with Albany Public Library
Saturday, November 6, 10:30AM | YouTube Premiere | Ages 2-8

All aboard! Albany Public Library’s storytime is taking its inspiration from the trains in the museum’s Romancing the Rails: Train Travel in the 1920s and 1930s exhibition in this exciting partner program! Children and their families will enjoy multiple train picture books, as well as a fun suggested art project. Craft bags are available by registration through Albany Public Library at https://tinyurl.com/APLstory or you may use your own materials at home. This pre-recorded program will premiere on APL’s YouTube channel at 10:30am: https://tinyurl.com/YouTubeAPL

ADULT ART WORKSHOP
Paint & Learn: Adirondack Mountains
Saturday, November 6, 2:30–4:30PM
$30 members, $35 non-members
Led by artist Noreen Powell

Join us for a fun adult art workshop! Powell will lead participants through a guided painting experience, taking inspiration from the painting Adirondack Mountains Lake Placid by Walter L. Greene currently on view in the exhibition Romancing the Rails: Train Travel in the 1920s and 1930s. All materials are included with the registration fee. Registration is required and is available on our website.

Please note that while this program is scheduled to be onsite at the museum, we are following Covid-19 safety protocols and reserve the right to convert this event to a virtual platform.

VIRTUAL ART DU JOUR
On the Sea Wall with John Paul Jones
Wednesday, November 10, 1PM | $10 suggested donation

Take a break! This virtual program features a relaxed, explorative discussion of On the Sea Wall with John Paul Jones by N.C. Wyeth. 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. Register online.

HOLIDAY HOURS
Museum Open
Thursday, November 11, 10AM-5PM  | Regular admission
Free admission for military veterans and active-duty personnel and their families

The museum galleries and shop will be open for visitors to enjoy. We will also have drop-in art making (see next page).

Drop-In Art Making Opportunities
All ages are invited to get creative with us at the museum! Our hands-on art programs take place in the museum’s large multi-purpose room which provides ample space to spread out, socially distance, and be creative. Details available on our website: www.albanyinstitute.org.

Family Art Making projects are sponsored in part by Stewart’s Shops.
FAMILY ART PROGRAM
Federal Holiday Drop-In Art Making: Ornaments
Thursday, November 11, 10AM–4:30PM | Included with admission
November’s project follows the Albany Institute of History & Art’s tradition of preparing for the holiday season by crafting festive decorations. Decorate small plastic bulb ornaments by filling the inside with cheerful colors or gluing on pictures.

FAMILY ART PROGRAM
Second Saturday Drop-In Art Making: Ornaments
Saturday, November 13, 10AM–4:30PM | Included with admission
This month, make festive decorations with small plastic bulb ornaments by filling the inside with cheerful colors or gluing on pictures. Sponsored in part by Stewart’s Shops.

ONSITE BOOK TALK & BOOK SIGNING
John Ham: From Grand Central to Albany
Sunday, November 14, 2PM | $10 per person (includes museum admission)
John Ham will be joined by railroad historians Roger A Liller, Eugene C. Dauner, Leonard Kilian, and Ernie Mann for a Q&A session following Ham’s presentation.
Join renowned railroad historian John Ham for a high-speed visual presentation of many of the 650 images from his newest book, From Grand Central to Albany: New York’s Water Level Route. In addition to including photography by many of the most noted rail photographers of the 20th century, Ham’s presentation will include a never-before-seen video of trains from the New York Central’s “glory years.” At the end of the screening, Ham will be available for questions and conversations. He will be signing copies of his newest book, which is available in the Museum Shop. Register online.

VIRTUAL BOOK & ART CLUB
The Picture of Dorian Gray
Thursday, November 18, 7PM | Free, RSVP required
Register through the Albany Public Library’s website
This month, we are reading The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde. Led by a museum educator and a librarian, this program explores the intersection of books and art with examples, insight, and enjoyable conversation. Participants can register for this discussion and receive access to no cost audio book and e-books through the Albany Public Library webpage. Link and details online.

Home for the Holidays Kick-Off Weekend
Friday, November 26, 10AM–5PM
Saturday, November 27, 10AM–5PM
Sunday, November 28, 12PM–5PM
Regular admission rates apply
Enjoy the holiday season at the Albany Institute! Beginning the weekend after Thanksgiving, bring friends and family to explore our outdoor art exhibition; discover decorated trees; admire a selection of miniature dioramas by Joan Steiner, the award-winning illustrator of the Look-Alikes® books; pick up take-home crafts; shop for handmade and one-of-a-kind gifts in our Museum Shop; explore our current exhibitions; and more! Most seasonal activities will be available during the museum’s regular open hours through January 2, 2022.

FAMILY ART PROGRAM
Drop-In Art Making: Ornaments
Saturday, November 27, 10AM–4:30PM | Included with admission
Join us to continue the museum’s tradition of preparing for the holiday season by crafting festive decorations. Decorate small plastic bulb ornaments by filling the inside with cheerful colors or gluing on pictures. Sponsored in part by Stewart’s Shops.

(Left) 20th Century Limited, William Harnden Foster (1886–1941), 1917, oil on canvas, Albany Institute of History & Art, gift of New York Central Railroad, 1959.130.159
DECEMBER

FOR MEMBERS

Sip & Shop
Thursday, December 2, 5:30–7PM | Free, but RSVPs requested

Looking for the perfect gift? Join other museum members for an evening of browsing and holiday sweets! Our Museum Shop will be open late to help you find gifts from local artists or inspired by the museum’s collections. Knowledgeable staff will be available to make recommendations while you sip sparkling wine and enjoy sweets and treats. Museum members receive 15% off! RSVP online or contact Sarah at (518) 463-4478 ext. 414 or kirbys@albanyinstitute.org.

VIRTUAL PRESENTATION

Narrative Realism and American Illustration: Wyeth, Parrish, and Rockwell
Sunday, December 5, 2PM | $10 suggested donation

Stephanie Plunkett, Deputy Director/Chief Curator, Norman Rockwell Museum

Plunkett will discuss the art of narrative storytelling for the covers and pages of American publications through the art of N.C. Wyeth, Maxfield Parrish, Norman Rockwell, and other noted illustrators. Plunkett is Chief Curator at the Norman Rockwell Museum, which studies, collects, and exhibits American Illustration. She has organized many illustration-based exhibitions, including Keepers Of The Flame: Parrish, Wyeth, Rockwell and the Narrative Tradition. Register online.

VIRTUAL ART DU JOUR

Evening Snow Scene by Clinton Loveridge
Wednesday, December 8, 1PM | $10 suggested donation

Take a break! This virtual program features a relaxed, explorative discussion of Evening Snow Scene by Clinton Loveridge. 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 required. Register online.

FAMILY ART PROGRAM

Second Saturday Drop-In Art Making
Saturday, December 11, 10AM–4:30PM | Included with admission

Have you seen the ornate beaded designs in the Fashionable Frocks of the 1920s exhibition? We’ll use the 1920s beaded patterns in the exhibit as inspiration to create our own wall hanging designs by gluing small beads onto fabric. Sponsored in part by Stewart’s Shops.

VIRTUAL BOOK & ART CLUB

The Girl Who Wrote in Silk
Thursday, December 16, 7PM | Free, RSVP required

This month we are reading The Girl Who Wrote in Silk by Kelli Estes. Led by a museum educator and a librarian, this program will explore the intersection of books and art with examples, insight, and enjoyable conversation. Participants can register for this discussion and receive access to no cost audio book and e-books through the Albany Public Library webpage. Link and details online.
Remembering Director Emeritus Norman Rice

On the morning of October 22, 2021, Norman Rice, Director Emeritus of the Albany Institute of History & Art, passed away at the age of 95.

Known for his connoisseurship, impeccable scholarship, and community involvement (and love of bow ties) he was passionate about art, decorative arts, architecture, and history, as well as his great love, the Albany Rural Cemetery. He was a beloved member of our museum family and his passions connected him to friends everywhere he went.

Executive Director Tambris Groft reflects: "Norman was an icon of Albany art and history and he was my mentor, colleague, and dear friend for 45 years." We will miss him dearly.

Welcome Andrea Belair, Archivist/Librarian

Andrea Belair joined the Albany Institute this fall as the museum’s new Archivist/Librarian. Andrea most recently held positions at Yale University and Union College, where she worked in archives and special collections. She has also worked as a reference librarian at public libraries and universities. She has experience teaching research methods and how to use primary sources for a variety of audiences in classrooms, small groups, and individual sessions. In her roles, she has come to adore outreach to community and local organizations.

Andrea is looking forward to getting to know the vast and fascinating holdings here at the Albany Institute of History & Art. She loves the process of discovery and is excited by all the interesting things she finds when she is researching projects. One of Andrea's first projects is processing records from the Kenmore Hotel, which were recently donated to the museum by author William (Bill) Kennedy. She is also hosting researchers and getting to know the ins-and-outs of her new job. Some non-library trivia about Andrea: She lives with her husband and two cats, co-owns a record store, and enjoys hiking. Say hello! You can reach Andrea by calling her at (518) 463-4478 ext. 415 or emailing belaira@albanyinstitute.org.

International Virtual Program Partnership with Experimente Cultura

The Albany Institute has been partnering with Experimente Cultura in a series of programs connecting communities around Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to the museum’s ancient Egypt exhibit. First, the program shows groups of students and seniors a video on ancient Egypt, which was produced by the Albany Institute and translated into Brazilian Portuguese. Following the video, participants engage in virtual Q & A sessions with Museum Educator, Victoria Waldron. The Albany Institute has hosted 8 programs with Experimente Cultura. These programs served approximately 160 live participants and have garnered over 5,000 views on YouTube. For more information on the work done by Experimente Cultura, visit their website: https://www.experimentecultura.com.br/ 
Class is in Session for this Year's Junior Interpreter Program

The new class of our Junior Interpreter program has been busy training to get ready to give tours in 2022. This is the fifth class for the popular program designed specifically for teenagers 13-18 years old and this year’s class has 12 members.

Participants work as a team to develop and lead fun and engaging museum tours for visitors of all ages. During training, Junior Interpreters have the opportunity to tour historic sites, meet local artists, and even take an acting class! In addition to leading public tours, Junior Interpreters have written guest blog posts, produced audio tour stops, hosted how-to videos for projects, and more. We thank them for all their hard work and for inspiring us to learn more every day.

Gift Membership Special for the Holidays

Give the gift of membership to the Albany Institute this holiday season. Members receive free admission and other benefits for one year. At the Supporter-level ($150) and higher, receive free admission to over 1,000 museums around the country through the North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) program. This holiday season, give a Supporter-level Membership and receive a free Albany Institute tote bag! To purchase a membership, visit www.albanyinstitute.org or contact Sarah Kirby at (518) 463-4478 ext. 414 or by email at kirbys@albanyinstitute.org.

Tote offer valid only for new memberships. Cut-off for holiday shipping is Friday, December 17.

Restoration Projects for Historic Rice House

This fall, the Albany Institute launched a long-awaited window and cornice restoration project for the museum’s historic Rice House building. The structure, a Beaux Arts style building, was originally built in 1894-95 as the home for the newly married couple William Gorham Rice and his bride Harriet L. Pruyn by Richard Morris Hunt, one of America’s most fashionable architects. The Albany Institute acquired the house in 1966 and converted it to offices and a library in 1970. The building is now used for programming, as special event and meeting space, and for staff offices.

The project aims to improve energy efficiency while respecting the historic architecture of the building. The work, which is supported through a grant from the Environmental Protection Fund from the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation as well as The Bender Family Foundation, is being completed under the supervision of Mesick Cohen Baker Architects, LLP of Albany, NY. The grant monies for the Rice House Preservation Project will be used to repair windows, add interior storms to increase energy efficiency, and install copper flashing to protect the elaborate cornices. For up-to-date information about this project, please check out our social media channels and/or sign up for our email list! Architecture enthusiast? Matching donations to this effort are still welcome! Contact Tammis at (518) 463-4478 ext 423 or email grofttk@albanyinstitute.org to learn more.
ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

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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
Advance ticket information is available on our website.

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