

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

Albany Institute of History & Art

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALBANY INSTITUTE CELEBRATES 221 YEARS WITH \$2.21 ADMISSION

ALBANY, NY– The Albany Institute of History & Art is celebrating its 221st anniversary by offering a reduced admission fee of \$2.21 to all patrons visiting on February 22, 2012. As one of the oldest museums in the United States, the Albany Institute of History & Art was founded in 1791, during the presidency of George Washington. This makes it older than the Louvre, the Smithsonian, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The museum's current location at 125 Washington Avenue, one block west of the New York State Capitol and the Empire State Plaza and Convention Center, was dedicated in 1908 and opened its first major exhibitions in 1909. In 1968, the museum purchased the historic William Gorham Rice home and the Rice House Annex and remodeled the buildings to house the administrative and curatorial offices and library collections. In 2001, the museum celebrated completion of a state-of-the-art, glass-and-concrete atrium connecting the Rice House and Annex to the original museum building, providing enhanced space for the research library, educational offices and studios, auditorium, and shop. Today, the museum is a magnificent cultural nexus offering comfortable and invigorating spaces for exhibition displays, art classes, educational workshops, distance learning, lectures, performances, cultural events, social gatherings, and much more.

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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. Visit www.albanyinstitute.org for more information, and be sure to follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/albanyinstitute).

The Albany Institute of History & Art is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 AM-5 PM and Sundays NOON-5 PM. The museum is closed on Monday and open for pre-registered groups only on Tuesday. The library is open Thursdays 1:30-4:30 PM and by appointment.

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