

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

Albany Institute of History & Art

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NEWS

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ALBANY INSTITUTE OPENS CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBITION IN RENOVATED GALLERY

***Big and Bold: Contemporary Art from the Albany Institute's Collection* runs until March 2, 2014**

ALBANY, NY— The Albany Institute of History & Art just opened a new exhibition, *Big and Bold: Contemporary Art from the Albany Institute's Collection*, sponsored by Omni Development Company, Inc. The show will run until March 2, 2014. The exhibition includes 19 works by 19 artists, including paintings, collage, mixed media and sculpture and draws from the Albany Institute's collection of over 350 works of contemporary art. *Big and Bold* showcases pieces that are large in size, bold in color, and have commanding presence. It is the first exhibition in the Institute's newly renovated Lansing Gallery.

Most of the works on view were purchase prizes selected by the museum from the annual Exhibition by Artists of the Mohawk-Hudson Region. Founded in 1936, this annual juried exhibition is one of the longest running regionals in the country. Highlighting the works of artists living and working in the upper Hudson Valley, the exhibition has played an important role in documenting the rich and diverse artistic activity in the area.

The pieces included in this exhibition were made by professors and graduates from area colleges and universities, such as Skidmore College, the College of Saint Rose, and the University at Albany, SUNY. Works by the following artists are included (in alphabetical order): Sharon Bates, Colin Boyd, Scott Brodie, Marcia Clark, Jeffrey Elgin, Abraham Ferraro, Stephen Haddock, David Miller, Don Nice, Michael Oatman, Thom O'Connor, Chester Rose, Stephanie Rose, Tom Sarrantonio, Paul Sattler, Susan Stuart, Bill Sullivan, Leigh Li-Yun Wen, and William H. Wilson.

Works on display include Abraham Ferraro's *One Day I Woke Up with a Bright Idea*, an interactive oversized light-switch symbolizing the concept of idea formation; Stephen Hannock's polished oil on canvas painting *Nocturne for the River Keeper, Green Light*, part of his nocturnal River Keeper Series and painted specifically for the Albany Institute of History & Art in 2001; Colin Boyd's *American Bison 2011*, a kinetic sculpture that uses light and sound to pay tribute to the American bison; Leigh Li-Yun Wen's 7'x14' oil on canvas painting *Untitled VI*, that features an ocean wave motif based on subtraction techniques; and Chester Rose's oil on linen painting *Untitled (Trophy)*, whose hyperrealism meticulously conveys an interior domestic setting and window views of the Hudson Valley. Other works range from narratives, to landscapes, to abstractions.

The Albany Institute's Lansing Gallery is the largest gallery space at the Institute. Until recently, it was painted Pompeian red as a traditional salon-style gallery and exhibited eighteenth and nineteenth-century paintings and sculpture. This past summer, the space was renovated as the ceiling and cove were scraped, repaired, and painted. Then the walls were repainted a dark teal and the lighting track was lowered. This project was funded by the Empire State Development Corporation and facilitated by the Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region.

On Friday, February 7, 2014, a number of Big and Bold artists will be at the Albany Institute of History & Art as part of a special 1st Friday event. The public is invited to attend for free. It will be a wonderful opportunity to meet with local, contemporary artists and visit the Albany Institute.

The *Big and Bold: Contemporary Art from the Albany Institute's Collection* exhibition will be displayed at the Albany Institute of History & Art, located at 125 Washington Avenue in Albany, New York. The museum is open Wednesday-Saturday 10AM-5PM, Thursdays until 8PM, and Sunday Noon-5PM. On Tuesdays, the museum is open to registered groups only. The museum is closed on Mondays and major holidays. Admission is free for Institute members; \$10/adults; \$8/seniors and students with ID; \$6/children 6-12; FREE/children under 6. For more information, visit www.albanyinstitute.org or call (518) 463-4478.

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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. One of America's oldest museums, the Albany Institute of History & Art was founded in 1791, during the presidency of George Washington, making it older than the Louvre, the Smithsonian, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

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

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