

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

Albany Institute of History & Art

125 Washington Avenue Albany, NY 12210

T: (518) 463-4478; F: (518) 462-1522

www.albanyinstitute.org

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Elizabeth Bechand

Museum Shop Manager

museumshop@albanyinstitute.org

(518) 463-4478 ext 455

Aine Leader-Nagy

Marketing Associate

leader.nagya@albanyinstitute.org

(518) 463-4478 ext 408

AN EVENING WITH JANE AUSTEN: TALK AND TEA

ALBANY, NY – On Thursday, March 13, enjoy the ambiance of the historic Rice House while you sip tea and celebrate the world of Jane Austen. Guest speaker, David Shapard will share fascinating facts about the clothing, architecture, landscapes, homes, and gardens in Austen's novels, and will answer your most pressing questions. This event will take place at 6PM and is free and open to the public as part of the Institute's *Evenings at the Institute* initiative.

Shapard has a PhD in European History from UC Berkley, and is the author of five books on Jane Austin, including *The Annotated Pride and Prejudice*, *The Annotated Emma*, and the recently published *The Annotated Northanger Abbey*. He has taught at several colleges and his specialty is the eighteenth century. He lives in upstate New York.

The Albany Institute of History & Art is now open for free on Thursday evenings from 5PM-8PM. These extended hours, which started as a trial this past fall, offer the public the opportunity to visit the museum after work and explore the exhibitions, shop at the museum shop, and participate in special activities. Special activities already planned for this spring include live readings of letters in the museum's collection, art making in the galleries and art studio, guided gallery tours, author events, and library open house events.

The Albany Institute has scheduled special activities for some of the upcoming free *Evenings at the Institute*. The activities are listed below:

- ❖ **March 20, 2014** *Art on Thursday Night: Playing with Type*
Director of Education, Erika Sanger, will roll out the Vandercook #1 hand-cranked press with the wood type for visitors to explore the relationship of text to page old school style. Visitors will be able to typeset a line of text and print multiple copies.

❖ **March 27, 2014** *Guided Gallery Tours*

Explore the current exhibitions, including GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies, with museum docents as your guide!

❖ **April 3, 2014** *Seeing Double: Stereoviews, Monumental Sculptures, and "Free Viewing"*

Join the fun as local authors Russell Dunn and Barbara Delaney discuss the history of stereography, share their amazing images of the magnificent works of art on the Empire State Plaza, and lead a brief workshop on "free viewing" in 3D.

❖ **April 10, 2014** *Guided Gallery Tours*

Explore the current exhibitions, including GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies, with museum docents as your guide!

❖ **April 17, 2014** *Voices of the Past: Live Readings of Pruyn Family Letters*

The Albany Institute's Library is rich with stories of the past. Join us as we share some of those stories by reading letters from the collection. This Thursday, we will read the December 29, 1864 letter from Robert Hewson Pruyn home to his wife. Pruyn was an Albanian who was appointed the second U.S. minister to Japan by Abraham Lincoln and he served there from 1862-1865.

❖ **April 24, 2014** *Art on Thursday Night: Art for Arbor Day*

Join us in the studio for drawing, painting, and collage inspired by trees created by Hudson River School artists.

Stay up-to-date with Thursday night activities, and all activities at the Albany Institute of History & Art, by visiting our website: www.albanyinstitute.org.

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GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies is the largest exhibition on Ancient Egypt ever presented in New York's Capital Region. Art and artifacts from around the world, combined with advanced medical technologies help unravel the mystery of the Albany Mummies. Acquired directly from the Cairo Museum in 1909, the Albany Institute's mummies have kept secrets that only recently have been revealed. Visit the exhibition to discover how new research, new technologies, and a team of experts have helped uncover their hidden stories. Learn about their lives and the ancient practice of mummification, all at the Albany Institute of History & Art.

- **From Cairo to Albany** highlights the 1909 acquisition of the two mummies and their coffins from the Cairo Museum.
- **Preparing for the Afterlife** examines the science of mummification through interactive stations and shows the results of new CT scans and x-rays taken at Albany Medical Center.
- **Ankhefenmut and His World** explores the daily life and culture of ancient Egypt during the 21st Dynasty.
- **Egyptomania** will showcase our ongoing fascination with ancient Egypt.

Interactive stations include: How to Make a Mummy, Pharaoh for a Day, Learn Hieroglyphs, and more!

Family Festivals, Art for All activities, and an **International Lecture Series** will be offered.

A special **Museum Shop** will offer Egyptian-themed items.

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 Albany Institute members;

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\$10/adults; \$8/seniors and students with ID; \$6/children 6-12; FREE/children under 6. Admission is free on Thursday nights (5PM-8PM). For more information, visit www.albanyinstitute.org or call (518) 463-4478.

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 lectures, outstanding educational and family programming, and special events, 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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