

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

Albany Institute of History & Art

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2013

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“IT’S A WRAP!” FAMILY FESTIVAL CELEBRATES CLOSING OF ANCIENT EGYPTIAN EXHIBITION

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2014 from NOON – 5 PM

ALBANY, NY – The Albany Institute of History & Art invites families in the capital region to an upcoming family festival, *It’s a Wrap! GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies Closing Celebration*. This day of engaging and exciting activities will take place at the Albany Institute of History & Art on Sunday, May 18, 2014 from Noon-5PM. The museum has planned a purr-fect day of exploration of animals in ancient Egypt. There will be storytelling related to the animals of ancient Egypt, face painting, and hands-on animal-inspired art-making. Join us as we enjoy the last days of this remarkable exhibition!

There will be animal-themed crafts in the art studio from Noon until 4:30PM. Storyteller Mary Murphy will share tales of ancient Egyptian animals at her 1PM and 3PM performances. Plus, participants can get their faces painted by Bria Arpante from 2PM until 4PM. In addition, the museum’s galleries, including *GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies*, will be open for visitors to explore.

This special family program is FREE with museum admission. The Albany Institute’s exhibition, *GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies*, explores the life and culture of ancient Egypt through the world of Ankhefenmut, a 21st Dynasty mummy in

the Institute's collection. It is the largest exhibition on ancient Egypt ever presented in the capital region and it combines ancient artifacts and art with new scientific research and technologies.

The Albany Institute of History & Art is located at 125 Washington Avenue in Albany, New York. There is limited parking available in the museums lot, located at the corner of Dove and Elk Streets in Albany (just behind the museum). There is also on street parking available. The Albany Institute is open Wednesday-Saturday 10AM-5PM, Thursday until 8PM*, and Sunday Noon-5PM. On Tuesdays, the museum is open to registered groups only. The museum is closed on Mondays and some holidays. Admission is FREE for Albany Institute members; \$10/adults; \$8/seniors and students with ID; \$6/children 6-12; FREE/children under 6. The museum is now offering free admission on Thursdays from 5PM-8PM. For more information, visit www.albanyinstitute.org or call (518) 463-4478.



Bria Arpante paints the face of a young participant at the Mummy Birthday Celebration at the Albany Institute of History & Art on November 10, 2013. Photo by Aine Leader-Nagy.

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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.

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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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