

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 Reiss
Director of Development
reisse@albanyinstitute.org
(518) 463-4478 ext 402

Aine Leader-Nagy
Marketing Associate
leader.nagy@albanyinstitute.org
(518) 463-4478 ext 408

ALBANY MUSEUM TO HOST FESTIVE, FUN, AND FREE THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

ALBANY, NEW YORK- The Albany Institute of History & Art will be decorated and ready to welcome locals and out-of-area guests to the museum for their “Home for the Holidays” event this Thanksgiving weekend. The museum, which in the past has hosted holiday-themed events such as the beloved Festival of Trees, is rekindling that holiday spirit with a three-day extravaganza of holiday programs, specialty vendors, and of course, trees. Home for the Holidays is sponsored by Times Union.

“Whenever I’m in the community and talking with people from the area, they speak fondly of the Festival of Trees,” says the museum’s Executive Director Tammis Groft. “Home for the Holidays will have that seasonal flair, plus lots of great activities, shopping opportunities, and time to visit with family and friends. Thanksgiving weekend is a time when people want something fun and festive to do and we invite everyone to enjoy the start of the holiday season at the museum.”

Visitors can see trees decorated by community members, purchase ornaments from a special tree decorated by artists from this year’s Exhibition by Artists of the Mohawk-Hudson Region, and make their own ornaments in the art studio. They can also go on guided gallery tours and view the results of the museum’s Quilt Wall Hanging Challenge. People will be able to take the time to enjoy the Victorian charm of the museum’s historic Rice House, one of the last intact Beaux Arts mansions in Albany. It will have decorated mantles, holiday trees, and seasonal displays- a perfect backdrop for photos with family and friends.

Some of the special activities happening at Home for the Holidays include: Saint Nicholas and a live reindeer on Friday; needlework demonstrations by the Capital District Chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America on Friday and Saturday; lecture and book signing by food historian Peter Rose on Sunday; and a miniature hooked rug demonstration on Sunday.

Special activity schedule:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28 from 10AM–5PM

- **Photographs with Saint Nicholas:** 10AM–5PM
- **Live Reindeer** on lawn near Washington Avenue: 12PM–4PM
- **Make Your Own Ornaments** (Drop-in Art Making Session): 10AM–4:30PM
- **Gallery Talks:** 1PM, 2PM, 3:30PM
 - 2PM: Chief Curator, **Doug McCombs**, will give a special tour of the museum's new exhibition Undercover: Revealing Design in Quilts, Coverlets, and Bed Hangings.
- **Demonstrations** by members of the New York Capital District Chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America: 10AM–4PM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29 from 10AM–5PM

- **Make Your Own Ornaments** (Drop-in Art Making Session): 10AM–4:30PM
- **Gallery Talks:** 1PM, 2PM, 3:30PM
 - 2PM: Executive Director, **Tammis Groft**, will give a special tour of the museum, focusing on the history of the Albany Institute of History & Art and its historic buildings.
- **Photograph Opportunity** in front of decorated mantels: 10AM–5PM
- **Demonstrations** by members of the New York Capital District Chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America: 10AM–4PM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 from Noon–5PM

- **Make Your Own Ornaments** (Drop-in Art Making Session): Noon–4:30PM
- **Gallery Talks:** 1PM, 3:30PM
- **Lecture & Book Signing** by author Peter G. Rose for her new book Delicious December: How the Dutch Brought Us Santa, Presents, and Treats: 2PM
- **Dutch treats** made by Dutch Desserts
- **Miniature Hooked Rug Demonstration** by Judith Vincent: 1PM–4PM
- **Photograph Opportunity** in front of decorated mantels: Noon–5PM

In addition, there will be lots of opportunities to shop! The museum is organizing a Children's Holiday Toy Shop with a large selection of advent calendars, art and history toys and games, puzzles, puppets, stocking stuffers, artist holiday cards, and ornaments by artists from the region and from around the world. Home for the Holidays will also be a one-stop destination for all sorts of Dutch cookies and treats, such as Speculaas Dutch windmill cookies, Dutch chocolate gold-foil

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coins, Dutch chocolate shoes, Dutch chocolate Pastilles, traditional Wilhelmina peppermints, Katjesdrop (licorice cats), Muntdrop (licorice coins), Stroopwafels, as well as a wonderful selection of traditional blue and white Dutch ornaments, candles, and gifts.

Vendors that specialize in handmade products have been invited to display their items at Home for the Holidays. They include **Kuhn Artworks**, **Brunhilde Miller Fine Art Quilts**, **Ken Miller Fine Art Woodworking**, **Erin Kaukas Designs**, **Grace & Caroline Designs**, **Christine Suruda Fabric Crafts**, **Sistah's Vintage Aprons**, **Paper Pheasant**, **Glatsical Creations**, **MsLissaLaneous**, **Julie Andrea Creations**, and **Viking Woodworking**. Additional vendor lines will be available in the Museum Shop.

For more information about the Home for the Holidays Free Thanksgiving weekend, please visit the museum's website: www.albanyinstitute.org [Schedule is subject to change.] Some current exhibitions include a special exhibition on Hudson River School artist Thomas Cole; the 2014 Exhibition by Artists of the Mohawk-Hudson Region; Undercover: Revealing Design in Quilts, Coverlets, and Bed Hangings; Ancient Egypt; Hudson River School and the 19th Century Landscape.

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. For more information, visit www.albanyinstitute.org or call (518) 463-4478.

Founded in 1791, the Albany Institute of History & Art is New York's oldest museum. Its collections document the Hudson Valley as a crossroads of culture, influencing the art and history of the region, the state, and the nation. With more than 35,000 objects and one million documents in the library, it is an important resource for the region, giving our community a sense of the part the Hudson Valley played in the American story, and our own place in history. Permanent and temporary exhibitions are open year-round and create a sense of place, allowing visitors to meet the people who helped shape this region. Over 25,000 people visit the Albany Institute of History & Art every year, enjoying the collections, workshops, school programs, and lectures, helping to build an understanding of the history and culture of our region. Among the museum's best-known and most-loved collections are the 19th century Hudson River School landscape paintings by artists like Thomas Cole and Frederic Church, the 19th century sculpture collections, and, of course, the famous Albany Mummies that came to the museum in 1909 and have been on view ever since. For more information, please visit www.albanyinstitute.org and be sure to follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute) and Twitter (@AlbanyInstitute).

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