

# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

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## NEWS

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## ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART EXTENDS THOMAS COLE EXHIBITION

**Thomas Cole's Paper Trail has been extended through November 25, 2018**

ALBANY, NEW YORK — In 1818, the youthful Thomas Cole emigrated from his native England to begin a new life in the United States. After several years struggling as an engraver and designer for his parents' short-lived floor cloth and wallpaper manufactories, he finally embarked on a career as painter of landscapes and settled in the thriving port city of New York. There he found patrons and a welcoming audience for his works that were exhibited at the National Academy of Design and other venues. Now, during the bicentennial year of Cole's arrival in the United States, this naturalized American artist is being publicly recognized once again at museums and historic sites on both sides of the Atlantic.



Preliminary sketch for *The Voyage of Life: Childhood*, Thomas Cole (1801-1848), c. 1837, gift of Mrs. Florence Cole Vincent, 1958.28.103

The Albany Institute is participating in this international celebration by presenting the exhibition, *Thomas Cole's Paper Trail*, which looks at this renowned landscape artist mainly through the paper materials he left behind. The exhibition, which opened on June 16, was originally scheduled to close on October 28, 2018. The Albany Institute, however, has decided to extend the run of the show for an additional month.

"People have been talking about Thomas Cole all year and we are happy to offer an opportunity to continue the conversation by keeping the exhibition up through the end of November," says chief curator Doug McCombs. "November is one of our busiest months and we would like to have as many people as possible

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see these rarely shown works on paper before they return to storage. They are really wonderful examples of an artist's process and the evolution of his remarkable career."

Selections of Cole's drawings, prints, letters, hand-written poems, and published works, now part of the collections of the Albany Institute, trace the artist's career from his first tree studies drawn near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1823 to letters of condolence sent to his family following his sudden and premature death in 1848. The exhibition also includes the seldom seen painting, View of Featherstonhaugh Estate near Duaneburg (1826), along with two letters written by Cole to his early patron and fellow English immigrant, George William Featherstonhaugh, who invited Cole to spend the winter of 1825/26 at his home near Duaneburg, New York. The painting and letter are on loan for this exhibition from the Featherstonhaugh Family Trust and offer a rare look at Cole's early commissions.

Other paintings by Thomas Cole and works from fellow landscape artists such as Frederic Church, Asher Durand, and Jasper Cropsey can be seen in the adjoining exhibition The Hudson River School: Landscape Paintings from the Albany Institute of History & Art.

**Upcoming Program** On Sunday, September 16 at 2PM, chief curator Doug McCombs will give a lecture about the exhibition Thomas Cole's Paper Trail. The lecture is included with museum admission. Seating is limited and attendees are required to get a wristband from the Admission Desk the day of the lecture.

**Exhibition Support** Exhibition support is provided by Chester and Karen Opalka, Mr. and Mrs. James Featherstonhaugh, William M. Harris and Holly A. Katz, Donna and Fred Hershey, Richard and Karen Nicholson, Martha Waddell Olson, Sara and John Regan, Bart and Patricia Trudeau, Trudeau Architects, Sabrina Ty and Brian Fitzgerald, and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Season exhibition support is provided by Phoebe Powell Bender, Mr. and Mrs. George R. Hearst III, Charles M. Liddle III, and Lois and David Swawite.

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The Albany Institute of History & Art is located at 125 Washington Avenue in Albany, New York. Free parking is available in the museum's lot at the corner of Elk and Dove Streets.

The exhibition galleries, Museum Shop, and the Museum Café at the Albany Institute are open Wednesday 10am-5pm, Thursday 10am-8pm, Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, and Sunday noon-5pm. In addition, the café and museum shop are open Tuesdays from 10am-5pm. The Research Library is open on Thursdays from 1pm-4:30pm and by appointment.

Current admission rates are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students with ID, \$6 for children aged 6-12, and free for children under 6. Albany Institute members are admitted for free. There is no charge to visit the café or museum shop. The museum offers free admission to the galleries on Thursdays from 5pm-8pm and on the First Fridays of the month from 5pm-8pm. To learn about other discounts and free admission days, please refer to the Visit section of [www.albanyinstitute.org](http://www.albanyinstitute.org).

For more information, visit [www.albanyinstitute.org](http://www.albanyinstitute.org) or call (518) 463-4478.

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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. Among the museum's best-known and most-loved collections are the 19<sup>th</sup> century Hudson River School landscape paintings by artists like Thomas Cole and Frederic Church, the 19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.albanyinstitute.org) and be sure to follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute](https://www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute)), Twitter (@AlbanyInstitute), and Instagram (albanyinstitute).

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