

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

Albany Institute of History & Art

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Legacy of Currier & Ives: Shaping the American Spirit

The Albany Institute of History & Art opens a new exhibition, The Legacy of Currier and Ives: Shaping the American Spirit. The show will run from February 9, 2013 –June 15, 2013 and will display over 60 hand-colored lithographs which include a stunning array of visual references to an exciting period in national development. An illustrated catalog accompanies the exhibition and is available in the museum shop.

Opening Reception Wednesday, February 6 | 5-8 PM RSVP (518) 463-4478 ext. 469

The Legacy of Currier & Ives; Shaping the American Spirit pays tribute to the popular 19th century printmakers and their role in establishing a form of mass media that was “inexpensive and eagerly sought by ordinary people” featuring 19th Century American life the exhibition features 64 hand – colored lithographs, which include a stunning array of visual references to an exciting period in national development.

From 1834 to 1907, Currier and Ives gave testimony to national art trends, history and progress through popular prints, which hung in homes across America. Several images featured the designs of prominent artists like Eastman Johnson, Arthur Fitzwilliam Tait and George Durrie. The exhibition introduces the visitor to the firm of Currier & Ives and illustrates, through interpretive and educational materials, how their imagery became ingrained into the national consciousness. In the 72 years that Currier & Ives was in business (1834-1907) they produced more than 8,000 lithographs.

The exhibition is organized around 4 themes: Identity; Home; Success; Artist

175-page **catalogue includes the following 4 essays and forward:**

Currier & Ives: Reflecting a View of America, Steven Miller, Executive Director Emeritus of the Morris Museum in Morristown, New Jersey *'In Great Demand in Every Part of the Country: The Success of Currier & Ives*, Lauren B. Hewes, Andrew W. Mellon Curator of Graphic Arts at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts *The Artists Who Worked for Currier & Ives*, Julia Hollett Courtney, Curator of Art for the Michele and Donald D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts and the George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum in Springfield, Massachusetts *Currier & Ives and the Emergence of American Mass Culture*, Daniel Czitrom, Professor of History at Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts *Forward*, Heather Haskell, Director of the D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts

Organized by the D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts, Springfield, MA

The Legacy of Currier and Ives exhibit will be displayed at the Albany Institute of History & Art, located at 125 Washington Avenue, Albany. For more information about this event, visit www.albanyinstitute.org.

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

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