

For Immediate Release

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Media: For more information, please contact Diane Shamash, Director of Minetta Brook, (212) 431-7165 or diane@minettabrook.org

**MINETTA BROOK AND THE THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE PRESENT
VIEW, AN EXHIBITION BY MATTS LEIDERSTAM, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
OPENING OF THOMAS COLE'S "OLD STUDIO"**



Matts Leiderstam, *View (West Point)*, 2003

Ribbon-cutting celebration and reception will be free and open to the public from 11 am to 3 pm on October 3, 2004. Refreshments will be served.

New York, NY – Minetta Brook and the Thomas Cole National Historic Site present a special exhibition by Matts Leiderstam titled *View* in Thomas Cole's "Old Studio" at Cedar Grove in Catskill, New York. The opening reception will take place on Sunday, October 3, 2004 from 11am to 3pm as part of the ribbon-cutting celebration and public opening for the "Old Studio," which was constructed in 1839, and has recently undergone a major restoration. Congressman John Sweeney will be the honorary chair of the event. The reception will be accompanied by the book launch for *View*, published by Minetta Brook and distributed by Distributed Art Publishers. This publication will include an essay by Dia Art Foundation curator Lynne Cook and an interview with art critic Peggy Phelan. The exhibition at Cedar Grove will continue through October 24, 2004, and will open to the public by guided tour on Fridays and Saturdays from 10am to 4pm, and on Sundays from 1 to 5pm.

View, commissioned by Minetta Brook as part of *Watershed: The Hudson Valley Art Project*, is inspired by the landscapes of Hudson River School painters such as Thomas

Cole, Frederic E. Church, Asher B. Durand, and Jasper F. Cropsey. For *View*, Leiderstam has created photographs using an instrument called “Claude Lorrain Glasses” at the Great Chain Overlook at West Point, and installed binoculars fitted with colored lenses at North Dock in Bear Mountain State Park, and at Boscobel Restoration in Garrison. For his installation at Thomas Cole’s “Old Studio,” Leiderstam has created a video projection of the photographs from the Great Chain Overlook at West Point. The original Claude Lorrain glasses will also be on display.

Matts Leiderstam’s paintings and sculptural works have examined the search for the picturesque and sublime within the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century landscape painting tradition. Leiderstam’s work is exhibited widely at such museums as Modern Museet, Stockholm; The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago; Malmö Konstmuseum, Malmö; and the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson. Matts Leiderstam lives and works in Stockholm, Sweden.

Minetta Brook is a non-profit arts organization based in New York City and Beacon, New York that presents public art projects, exhibitions, publications and discussions designed to strengthen the relationship between contemporary artists and communities throughout New York State. In May 2003, Minetta Brook opened *Watershed: The Hudson Valley Art Project*, a program of public artworks that includes projects by Lothar Baumgarten, Matthew Buckingham, Constance De Jong, Peter Hutton, Matts Leiderstam, Christian Phillipp Müller, Lynne Tillman, George Trakas, James Welling and Pae White. Organized by Minetta Brook, *Watershed* features site-specific sculptures, audio works, films, and photo-based projects at twelve locations throughout the Hudson Valley.

This October, the installation at the “Old Studio” will coincide with another *Watershed* event, **The Floating Cinema**, open-air film screenings on the Hudson River. Transforming a 40’ barge into a large outdoor screen, Minetta Brook will present three films by Peter Hutton at Waterfront Park in Hudson, New York on Friday, October 8th and Waryas Park in Poughkeepsie, New York on Saturday, October 9th from 6 to 10pm each evening. For more information, please visit www.minettabrook.org or call 212-431-7165.

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site was the primary residence and workplace of leading nineteenth-century artist Thomas Cole, founder of the Hudson River School of Art. The Site seeks to inspire and educate the public about Cole's life, career, and impact on American culture through tours, exhibitions, public programs, and special events. The Site is owned by the Greene County Historical Society and is an affiliate of the National Park Service. More information about the Thomas Cole National Historical Site and its exhibitions and programs can be found at www.thomascole.org.

Directions

From points North, South or West: Take the NYS Thruway (I-87) to exit 21 (Catskill). Make a left at the stop sign, then proceed 1,000 feet and make a left onto Route 23 East. Proceed 2 miles and make a right at the light onto Spring Street (Route 385). Cedar Grove is on the left (use the shared driveway with Temple Israel) at 218 Spring Street.

From Points East: Take the Taconic Parkway North to the Hudson Exit (Route 82 North) to Route 23 West. (Note: Route 82 also crosses the Taconic further south. Do not take Route 82 until you see the sign for Hudson.) Cross the Hudson River over the Rip Van Winkle Bridge. Make a left at the first light at the intersection of Route 23 and Route 385 (Spring Street). Cedar Grove is on the left (use the shared driveway with Temple Israel).