

THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

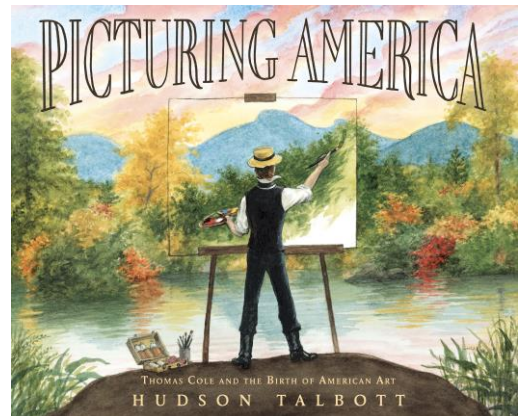
Contact: Jennifer Greim, jgreim@thomascole.org
Director of Advancement and External Affairs

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site Announces Opening of “Hudson Talbott: Shining Objects” - A Career Retrospective of the Acclaimed Artist Hudson Talbott

Catskill, NY – April 13, 2026 – The Thomas Cole National Historic Site announced today the opening of “Hudson Talbott: Shining Objects” – a retrospective of the acclaimed artist’s career. The exhibition celebrates the work of the late, award-winning artist Hudson Talbott, whose talents have inspired audiences for decades through his children’s picture books.

Talbott’s artistry was interwoven with that of legendary fellow artists. His book *We’re Back! A Dinosaur’s Story* was adapted into an animated film by Steven Spielberg. Talbott illustrated the Newbury Honor Book *Show Way* by Jacqueline Woodson, and he adapted Stephen Sondheim’s musical “*Into the Woods*” into a book for young readers. James Lapine, the musical’s Tony Award-winning librettist, told The New York Times, “Both Steve and I loved what he did, and the book remains my favorite gift to anyone who has a child.

Talbott, who died on January 22nd, was at the time the longest-serving member of the Board of Directors of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site, having served on the Board for more than 20 years. One of his books – *Picturing America: Thomas Cole and the Birth of American Art*, introduces new generations to Cole and the legacy of the artist. Another, *River of Dreams*, tells the story of the Hudson River.



The exhibition will run through May 24 in the New Studio, the reconstructed 1846 building designed by Thomas Cole as his own studio. The exhibition presents more than 75 of Talbott’s works, including a selection of his original paintings and sketches, his painting table, examples of his more than 30 books for young readers, and a selection of his early commercial work. Access to the exhibition is free. See thomascole.org/visit for hours.

Talbott won the American Library Association’s Schneider Family Book Award for *A Walk in the Words. Leonardo’s Horse*, which he illustrated, was an ALA Notable Book.

Picturing America takes readers on a unique journey through the life of Thomas Cole (1801-1848), founder of the influential American art movement known as the Hudson River School of landscape painting. In doing so, it highlights his pioneering passion for the environment and celebrates a love of painting that will inspire readers to draw and paint the landscape around them. *Picturing America* was published in hardback in 2018 by Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House. The paperback version is the first children's book published by the Thomas Cole National Historic Site. His final book, "The Next Shiny Object," will be published this summer.

"Hudson Talbott was a renowned artist with an extraordinary gift for engaging young readers," said Maura O'Shea, Executive Director of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site. "We at the Thomas Cole Site were very fortunate to call him our beloved and longstanding friend and were fortunate, too, that he applied his enormous talents to introducing Thomas Cole and the role of the artist to young readers. His lasting legacy will include all of his works and those inspired by him. What a superb way to help new generations, in their own way, picture America!"

"This retrospective reveals the extraordinary range and breadth of Hudson Talbott's artistry," said Amanda Malmstrom, Associate Curator of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site. "It's stunning to see it in one setting, especially a setting designed by Thomas Cole, who deeply inspired Hudson's work and continues to galvanize new generations of artists."

Thomas Cole National Historic Site

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site showcases the life and work of Thomas Cole (1801-1848), whose American landscape painting defines an enduring visual identity for the nation. Inspired by the natural beauty that surrounds the site, Cole founded the influential Hudson River School art movement. The site's six-acre campus in Catskill, NY, includes Cole's home and two studio buildings; the Cole Center, a new visitor center designed by Architectural Digest 100 Stephen Shadley; gardens and grounds with panoramic views of the Catskill Mountains; and a scenic walkway over the Hudson River connecting the site with Olana, the historic home of artist and Cole student Frederic Church. The Thomas Cole Site hosts exhibitions as well as art-making activities and innovative school and public programs. Visitors experience first-hand the themes that Cole explored, from the power of art to landscape preservation to the restorative properties of nature. The Thomas Cole Site is a National Historic Landmark and an affiliated area of the National Park System, and it operates as an independent 501c3 nonprofit organization.

Visitor Information

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site is open year-round, and hours vary by season. For details see: thomascole.org/visit. The grounds are open every day for free from dawn to dusk. Keep in touch on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube at [@thomascolesite](https://www.instagram.com/thomascolesite).