

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Hudson River School Art Trail Opens Its 18th Site in the Hudson River Valley

The Latest Site is at the Catskill Center's Platte Clove Preserve in the Town of Hunter in Greene County

Catskill, NY – July 24, 2018 – The Hudson River School Art Trail has opened its 18th site in the Hudson River Valley. The site is located at the Catskill Center's Platte Clove Preserve, 208 acres of pristine wilderness – open to the public for quiet enjoyment – with beautiful waterfalls and trails at the head of the rugged and scenic Platte Clove in the Town of Hunter in Greene County. The site reveals the same view depicted in 19th-Century Hudson River School paintings by renowned artist Asher B. Durand. The Hudson River School Art Trail was first launched by the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in 2005 with seven stops on the trail. This year's expansion was prepared for New York State Water Resources Institute and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Hudson River Estuary Program, with support from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund.



The view of Platte Clove from Site #18 on the Hudson River School Art Trail

A ribbon-cutting ceremony formally unveiled the stunning site and magnificent view, the interpretive panel that accompanies it, and the bronze medallion by Catskill-based artist Patti Ferrara that officially designates the site. Participating in the ceremony on July 18 were the following:

- The Hon. Chris Tague, Member of the New York State Assembly;
- The Hon. Aidan O'Connor Jr., Member of the Greene County Legislature;
- The Hon. David Kukle, Member of the Hunter Town Board and Trustee of the Catskill Center;
- Fran Dunwell, Hudson River Estuary Coordinator for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation;
- Patti Ferrara, the artist who has created the artwork for the bronze medallions on the Art Trail;
- Elizabeth Jacks, Executive Director, Thomas Cole National Historic Site;
- Jeff Senterman, Executive Director, Catskill Center.



From left to right: Aidan O'Connor Jr., Betsy Jacks, Jeff Senterman, Assemblyman Chris Tague and Fran Dunwell. Photo by Heather Phelps-Lipton

The Hudson River School Art Trail makes accessible through free online maps and educational materials many of the views that inspired Thomas Cole – founder of the Hudson River School of painting, America's first major art movement – his legendary student Frederic Church, and other artists of the Hudson River School such as Asher B. Durand. The Art Trail is a collaborative project across multiple organizations that was established in 2005 to facilitate a connection between the landscapes that inspired Hudson River School artists and contemporary audiences. The Art Trail is presented by the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in partnership with Olana State Historic Site, The Olana Partnership, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the National Park Service Rivers & Trails program, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and New York State Parks, and the Greene County Tourism & Planning Department.

For additional information on this new site and the Art Trail, visit www.hudsonriverschool.org.

THE THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE is an international destination presenting the original home and studios of Thomas Cole, the founder of the Hudson River School of painting, the nation's first major art movement. Located on 6 acres in the Hudson Valley, the site includes the 1815 Main House; Cole's 1839 Old Studio; the recently reconstructed New Studio building; and panoramic views of the Catskill Mountains. It is a National Historic Landmark and an affiliated area of the National Park System. The Cole Site's

activities include guided tours, special exhibitions of both 19th-century and contemporary art, printed publications, extensive online programs, activities for school groups, free community events, lectures, and innovative public programs such as the Hudson River School Art Trail—a map and website that enables visitors to visit the places that Cole painted. The goal of all programs at the Cole Site is to enable visitors to find meaning and inspiration in Thomas Cole’s life and work. The themes that Cole explored in his art and writings—such as landscape preservation and our conception of nature as a restorative power—are both historic and timely, providing the opportunity to connect to audiences with insights that are highly relevant to their own lives.

VISITOR INFORMATION: The hours for Thomas Cole’s home, studios and special exhibitions vary by season. For details see: www.thomascole.org/visit. Keep in touch on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at [@thomascolesite](https://www.instagram.com/thomascolesite).

THE CATSKILL CENTER

Since 1969, the Catskill Center has protected and fostered the environmental, cultural and economic well-being of the Catskill region. The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development’s (Catskill Center) mission is to foster and protect the environmental, cultural and economic well-being of the Catskill region. It is guided by the understanding that responsible conservation creates opportunity and it is the major force advocating for both the Catskill Park and entire region. The Catskill Center’s activities involve arts and culture, education, natural resources and economic growth. These are pursued through three program areas: Regional Collaboration, Stewardship of public and Private Lands, and Inspiration for Responsible Economic Growth. Formed in 1969 and headquartered at the Erpf Center* in Arkville, NY, the Catskill Center is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501C(3) corporation. It employs an executive director and staff and is guided by an all volunteer board of directors with representation from local, regional and New York City metropolitan areas. For more information, visit www.catskillcenter.org.