

FILM : HUDSON RIVER VALLEY ARTS

INTRO

Establishing an overview of the arts in the entire Hudson Valley is of great importance. The Hudson River Valley has been labeled culturally from the arts of the turn of the century, which has been remarkable in its history, but it is not sustainable unless we provide a contemporary view.

The area is blossoming culturally east to the western boundaries including Cragmoor, the home of the Cragmoor Art Colony. The real estate boom in NYC and now the COVID Pandemic has made living upstate more attractive and affordable. The demands are high for venues especially the arts and entertainment. It began with the arts and should continue with the arts with the highest of standards.

The Hudson River School vs The Colonies

1. Hudson River School - 1825 and 1870

- a. large group of American landscape painters
 1. Early - Thomas Doughty, Asher Durand, and Thomas Cole
Jasper F. Cropsey, Frederic Church, George Inness Sr.,
 2. West. - Thomas Moran, Albert Bierstadt, John Banvard, Henry Lewis.
- b. The Hudson River School remained the dominant school of American landscape painting throughout most of the 19th century.
- c. Museums of the Hudson Valley
 1. The Thomas Cole Museum
 2. Olana State Historic Site and the collection
- d. Filming of the opening of the "Walkway" The connection of The Thomas Cole House and Olana State Historic Site and the collection.
- c. Thomas Cole - Betsy Jacks, Director interview
Frederic Church - Will Coleman, Director interview

2. The Art Colonies

- a. Interview with Tom Wolf
- b. Cragmoor. -
 1. As early as the 1870's, a new group of seekers began to discover the beauty of the Schwangunk Ridge. "Before 1880 artists summered at scattered points in the Hudson Valley, but in the 1880's they began to cluster in colonies..." (Rhodes 90). Cragmoor is one, if not the earliest example of this movement.

2. It was not necessarily the wild untamed landscape depicted by many of the artists of the Hudson River School such as Cole, Church and Bierstadt who preceded them earlier in the century. After all, Thomas Botsford had already created the first tourist attraction at Sam's Point in 1858 when he built an observatory on the summit (Botsford).
3. The Artists -- Edward Lamson Henry, Eliza Pratt Greatorex, Eliza Hartshorn, Dellenbaugh, George Inness Jr, Charles Curran, Helen Turner.

c. Other Colonies

1. Bronxville

Bronxville's attractiveness and proximity to Manhattan has long been a magnet for all sorts of creative people. While never an artists' colony perse, the artists' component to Bronxville's history is quite significant.

William Henry Howe, William R. Hamilton.

2. Snedens Landing

Snedens Landing lies in Rockland County 12 miles north of the George Washington Bridge, amid the Palisades and one of the Northeast's busiest corridors. *Robert K. Sneden*, Mary Lawrence, François Tonetti, The list of denizens could go on and on: Aaron Copland, John Dos Passos, Laurence Olivier, and Gerald and Sara Murphy, who were F. Scott Fitzgerald's inspiration for *Tender is the Night's* Dick and Nicole Diver.

3. The Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild

a vital, multi-faceted artistic force — began as the Byrdcliffe artists' colony in 1903. www.woodstockguild.org

3. The Collections

a. Cragsmoor

In July 1913, a library committee composed of winter and summer residents created the Cragsmoor Free Library. On August 19, 1914, an eponymous Association was formed and by September 1, Mrs. Julia Inness was president, with Misses Von Eltz, Keir, Buxton and Feary completing the board. Miss Lisbeth (Libby) Wright became librarian, followed in 1916 by Miss Pfister. In December 1915, the New York State Education Department granted the library a provisional charter. Mr. Dellenbaugh submitted his plans, envisioned as a "well organized library for both winter and summer residents," to the Board of Trustees on July 22, 1922, with ground-breaking authorized on July 28. The cornerstone was laid on August 27, 1923.

Presently the collection can be viewed from its web site www.cragsmoorfreelibrary.info

b. Ronald Berg Collection, Interview - Ronald Berg

1. The largest collection from the Cragsmoor Artist Colony
2. <http://www.ronaldbergcollection.com/>
3. Artists:

c. Magazzino Italian Art

Farther south — an hour from Manhattan by Metro-North — is the newly opened Magazzino Italian Art in Cold Spring. It provides an almost comically sleek home for the Nancy Olnick and Giorgio Spanu collection of postwar and recent Italian art.

d. Other places of interest

1. The School

In nearby Kinderhook, Jack Shainman, who maintains two galleries in Chelsea, has turned a 1929 Federal-style brick schoolhouse into a clean white 30,000-square-foot art venue.

2. Dia: Beacon, Beacon, NY

3. Ami Arts, Ghent , NY

4. Interviews

a. Dr. Tom Wolf, Professor of Art History at Bard College

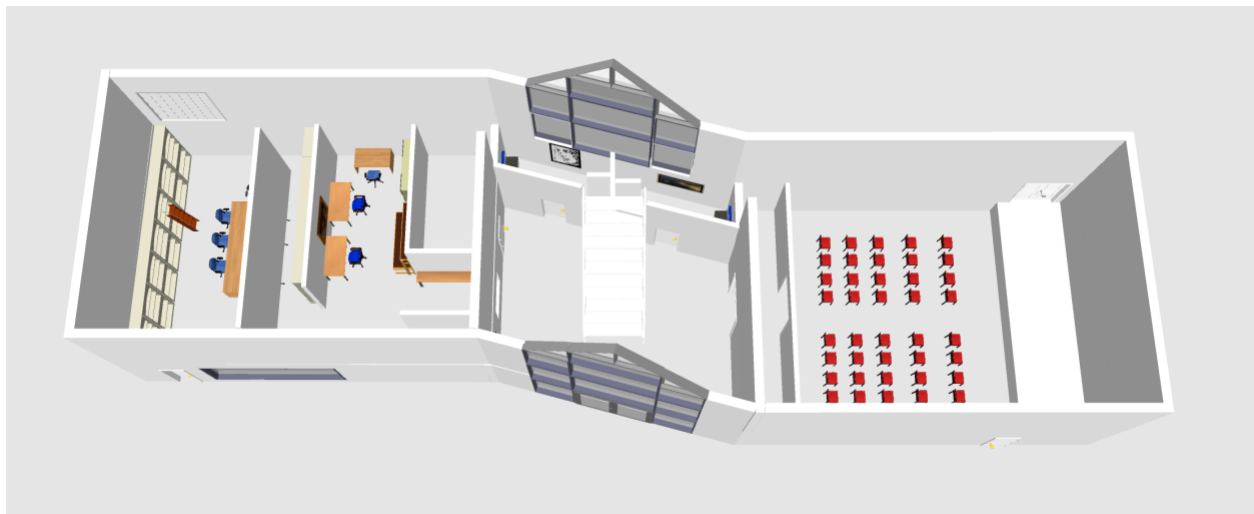
b. Frederic Church, William Coleman, Olana State Historic Site and the collection

c. Betsy Jacks, Director, Thomas Cole National Historic Site

d. Dr. Ronald Berg - Largest collection of Cragmoor Colony artists

e. Susan Wides, Tspace, 'T' Space, located in the woodlands of Rhinebeck, NY, is an arts organization focused on the arts, education, design and ecology. Founded in 2010 by the Steven Myron Holl Foundation.

5. Cragmoor Contemporary Arts





Mission

Our mission as a non-profit Art Center is to present exhibitions of a wide range of contemporary art, developed by contemporary galleries, other museums, collectors, entertainment and additional partners representing the Hudson Valley. We want to provide, with an emphasis on the presentation of contemporary art, dance and film to the area. For many years a proper exhibition space for painting and performance has not existed. Greater experimentation between artist and space will take place in two gallery spaces and a theater. The property will also exhibit sculpture outdoors.