

# WINTER +SPRING

2022

Smith's Lake, Adirondacks, N.Y., 1883, Levi Wells Prentice 1966.023.0002



**ADIRONDACK  
EXPERIENCE**

The Museum On Blue Mountain Lake

Winter/Spring 2022  
Newsletter

ARTISTS & INSPIRATION IN THE WILD

COMING JULY 1, 2023

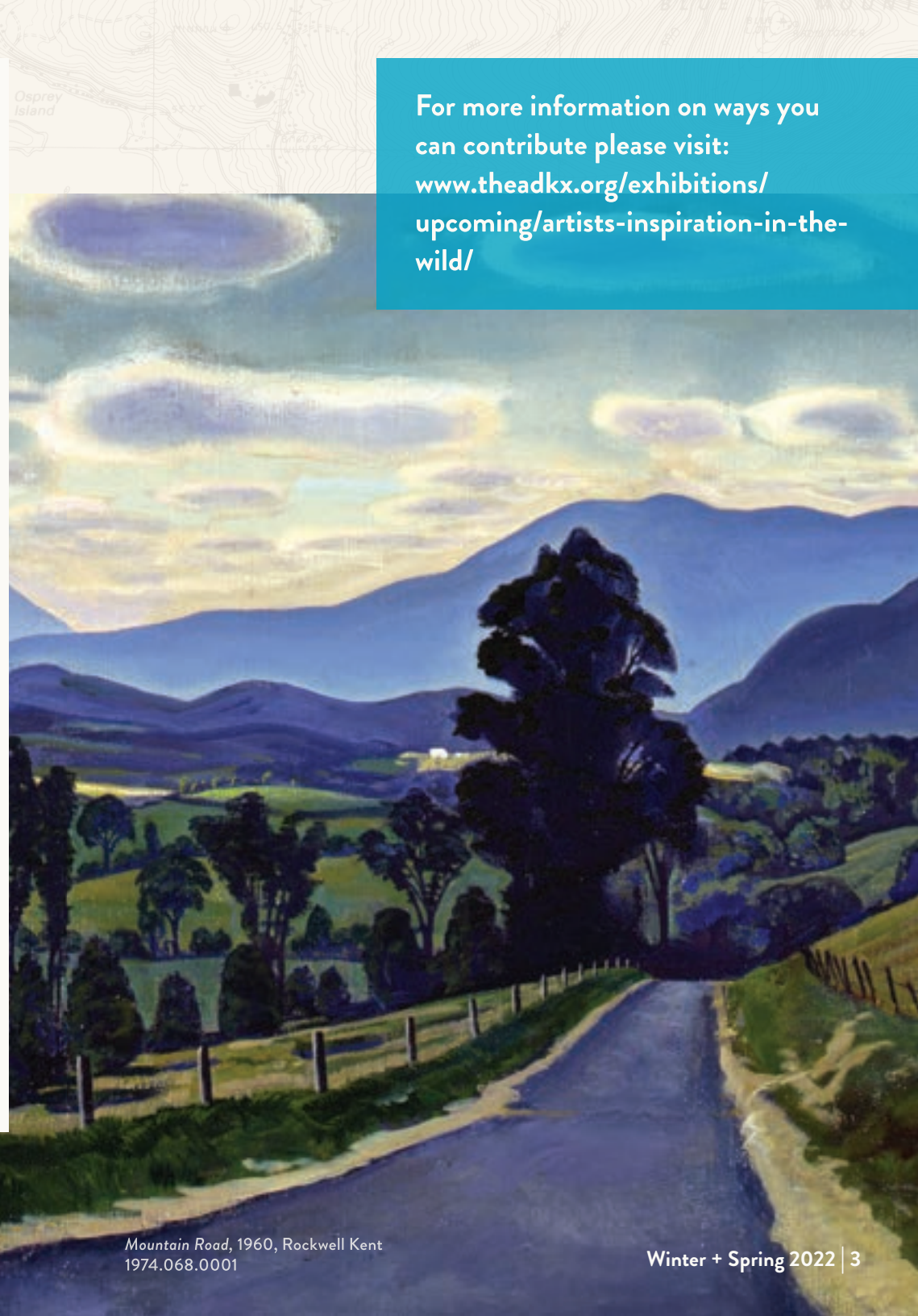
## ARTISTS & INSPIRATION IN THE WILD

The ADKX has recently received a \$500,000 grant from the *Challenge Grants* program of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), a federal agency. This grant was secured following a highly competitive application and review process. The NEH receives funding requests from across the U.S. and makes grants to only a select few. Just eight Challenge Grants were made at the \$500,000 level or more in the current round of NEH funding.

These funds will help support the \$2.25M construction cost of the *Artists & Inspiration in the Wild* project, which aims to renovate a 5,800-square-foot space for the permanent exhibition of the museum's fine and decorative arts collection. The completed galleries will be dedicated to the most comprehensive showing of our collection of art in the museum's 60-plus-year history. It will include masterpieces from the museum's painting, decorative arts, furniture, print, drawing, and photograph collections placed in the context of the landscape that inspired their creation.

As part of the Challenge Grant requirements, ADKX must match the funds 3:1. This project has a total price tag of \$4.5M; with your help, we'll raise the \$1.2M still needed to meet the Challenge Grant and complete this core exhibition. As we enter the final phase of fundraising for this important project, we are asking our friends and supporters to help us meet this challenge. Every gift is essential to this project, and we need your help to reach our goal.

For more information on ways you can contribute please visit:  
[www.theadkx.org/exhibitions/upcoming/artists-inspiration-in-the-wild/](http://www.theadkx.org/exhibitions/upcoming/artists-inspiration-in-the-wild/)



# COME FOLLOW IN FRITZ'S FOOTSTEPS!

Art collector and Adirondack lover John Fritzing (Fritz) enjoys when his two passions come together. That is why Fritz stepped forward this past December to support the Adirondack Experience's plans to create a new exhibition, *Artists & Inspiration in the Wild*, which will put the museum's greatest masterpieces out on permanent view.

As a dedicated friend of the museum—Fritz was a Trustee from 1998 to 2003 and chaired the board from 2003 to 2009—he knows the importance of the museum's art collection. Over the years he has helped raise funds for temporary art exhibitions, given generously himself, and even lent his own pieces to our shows. His current gift of \$50,000, combined with other donations and grants the museum has secured, brings the museum even closer to reaching our \$4.5 million goal for this new exhibition. We have \$1.2 million left to go before the 2023 opening!

Fritz spends as much time as possible at his camp in Keene Valley and makes it to the museum often, staying very involved as an Honorary Trustee. He's thrilled with all the improvements and transformations the museum has undergone over the past six years and believes the *Artists & Inspiration in the Wild* exhibition will round out every visitor's experience.

***“I certainly have seen how adept the museum is at planning and developing major exhibitions as they did with “Life in the Adirondacks”. It's great to know that same attention to detail, creativity, and focus is being applied to the upcoming installation.”***

***“I look forward to hearing that the remaining funds have been raised, allowing the exhibition to unfold at the highest level.”*** – John Fritzing



If you would like to join Fritz and support *Artists & Inspiration in the Wild*, visit our website or give us a call at (518) 352-7311, ext 125.

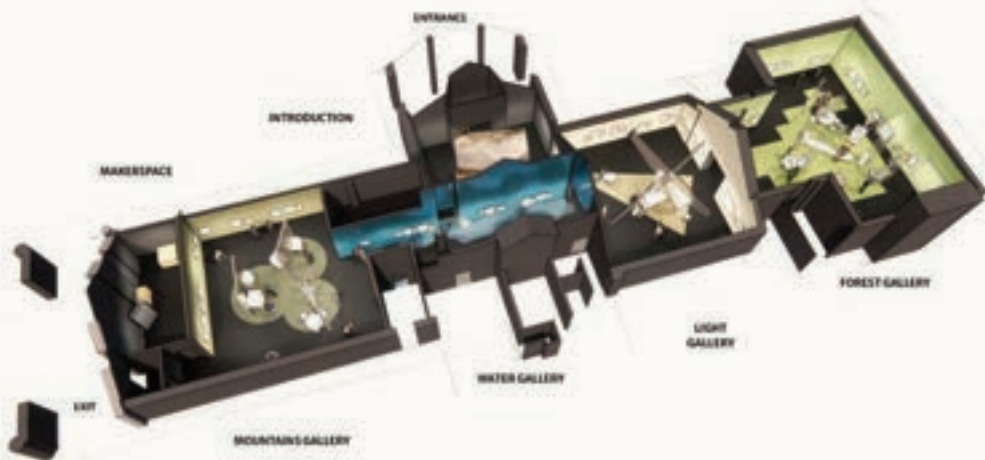
Naming opportunities are available, gifts can be spread over multiple years, and those who donate \$1,000 or more will be recognized within the exhibition.

# DESIGN + OBJECTS

*Artists & Inspiration in the Wild*, housed in the Lynn Boillot Art Galleries, will have four main galleries that illustrate how the natural features of the Adirondacks—light, forests, water, and mountains—have sparked the creative visions of painters, sculptors, and expert artisans. Here, Adirondack style, an artistic tradition unique to this region, will be celebrated.

*Artists & Inspiration* will offer a deep look into the diverse people who have worked in the Adirondacks and whose visions have inspired the works of other artists and artisans. From the renowned—men such as Asher B. Durand, Thomas Cole, Arthur Fitzwilliam Tait, Seneca Ray Stoddard, and Rockwell Kent—to the groundbreaking—Edna West Teall, Dorothy Dehner, Margaret Bourke-White, Bumpei Usui, Natasha Smoke Santiago, and Takeyce Walter—the exhibition will offer an inclusive and wide-reaching interpretation of Adirondack art.

After exploring the main galleries, visitors will end their journey in a makerspace created in collaboration with Adirondack artist Barney Bellinger. Visit *Artists & Inspiration in the Wild* in 2023 to make new memories, and take a piece of the Adirondacks home with you.



*St. Regis Reservation*, 1937, Amy Jones  
1986.065.0001



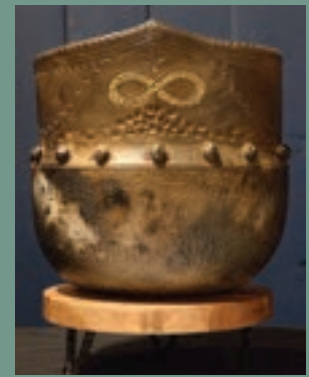
*Giant*, 1922, Harold Weston  
2005.024.0001



*Fishing Through the Ice*, 1854, Arthur Fitzwilliam Tait  
2006.008.0001



*Near Saranac Lake, Adirondacks*, 1874, Levi Wells Prentice  
2017.011.0001



*Stolen/Broken Connections*, 2021, Natasha Smoke Santiago  
2021.082.0001

# ARTISTS & INSPIRATION SPEAKER SERIES

*Artists & Inspiration in the Wild* will be a truly Adirondack experience. But the magnificent collection highlighted in the exhibition has significance well beyond this region; it speaks to American art at a national level. Over the past year, ADKX audiences have heard from scholars, artists, and visionaries from within and just beyond the Blue Line to across the country and even across borders. Together, these speakers have considered the collection from multiple perspectives and shared its importance to diverse artistic traditions.

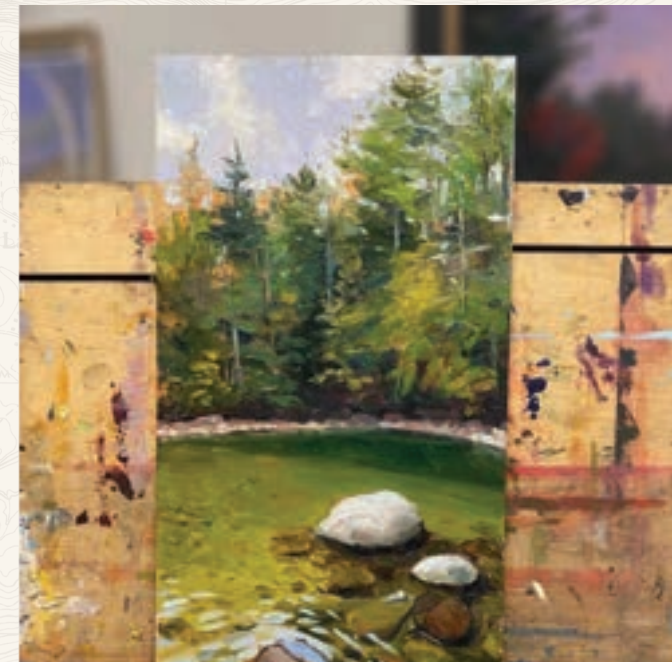
The free, monthly Artists & Inspiration speaker series started where all things should—at the beginning. Gallery owner and fine art dealer Deede Wigmore once sold museum founder Harold Hochschild a painting by Albert Blakelock, a work now in the ADKX collection. Over the course of the April 2021 conversation between Ms. Wigmore and former ADKX Library Director Ivy Gocker, viewers enjoyed nostalgic memories that touched on Hochschild's passion for the Adirondacks and the artistic legacy from the region. Hochschild's collection serves as the foundation from which this new exhibition is taking shape.

Since the inaugural program, ADKX has invited experts in American paintings, photography, Indigenous scholarship, and decorative arts to examine the collection and speak to unique pieces found within it. Artists whose work will be featured in the new exhibition—including Carla and Babe Hemlock, Barney Bellinger, and Takeyce Walter—have shared how the Adirondacks inspires them and why the region is such a fertile landscape for creativity and artistic expression.

Cheryl Braunstein, ADKX's Director of Interpretation and coordinator of this series said, "This speaker series offers a taste of diverse artists' and scholars' perspectives—offering deep consideration of the importance of this collection and meaningful reflections from those who look to the Adirondacks for their contemporary creations." *Artists & Inspiration in the*

*Wild* will weave the expert knowledge and personal narratives voiced in the speaker series directly into the exhibition. Media and exhibit content will use first-person language of featured artists and present thoughts from those who look to the region today for inspiration.

Pictured below: Takeyce Walter's paintings, both in-progress and complete, from the Artists & Inspirations series event, Creative February—Daily Painting Demonstration.



Join us on April 18 for a conversation between Senior Curator Eleanor Harvey (*Smithsonian American Art Museum*) and ADKX Chief Curator Laura Rice as they talk about the connections between natural places and what is seen in American landscape painting.

More programs will be available this season. For recordings of past programs, visit: [www.theadkx.org/events/artists-inspiration-series/](http://www.theadkx.org/events/artists-inspiration-series/)

# ADKX WELCOMES BACK NYREE DOWDY



***“Every day is a little different. From doctors’ bags to rugs, you get to learn a little bit of the culture up here with each item.”***

Nyree Dowdy currently works in the ADKX Curatorial Department, working on a year-long grant-funded project which sees her organizing and cataloging our vast collection of Adirondack artifacts. The recipient of an ADKX Diversity Fellowship in 2019, Nyree has circled back to our museum in hopes of gaining more experience in her field, as well as taking in the beautiful scenery.

***“I really enjoy the views here in the Adirondacks” she said. “I also enjoy the less-aggressive summers.”***

Originally from Virginia, Nyree already has an impressive resume of experience—from working at the Atlanta History Center, the Virginia Living Museum, and Camp Sagamore here in the Adirondacks. Developing her love for history in high school, she pursues her career with gusto, taking in the atmosphere and knowledge wherever she goes. She was excited for her fellowship opportunity here in 2019, but admits she’d never heard of the Adirondacks before her acceptance.

***“I’d never left the South so it was a big change for me. But I had a great time that summer, bonding with mentors and really getting to know the institution and staff.”***

A self-proclaimed “glass half-full” individual, Nyree’s enthusiasm and upbeat nature really shine through as she describes the collection, highlighting a myriad of items.

***“I really love the variety of pieces here, especially the everyday items, something everyone uses. I’ve found some books I really connected with.”***

While she continues her work here at the ADKX, she’s excited to start grad school once she’s done, where she plans to pursue a career as a curator. While she’s interested in opportunities at smaller museums, she does have a particular interest in the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. We wish her the best of luck in her current role here at the museum, and in all her future endeavors!

# DONOR PROFILE

## Every Gift Makes a Difference

Annual Fund donations are the most important source of income to the Adirondack Experience. Period. These donations, in combination with ticket, store, and café sales and a conservative amount drawn from the museum's endowment, provide the baseline support for running the museum. In looking ahead, the Adirondack Experience aims to double its Annual Fund goal to ensure the continued financial health of the institution. This will mean that we will always be around to serve you and your family.

For the past 15 years, our Annual Fund goal has teetered between \$350,000 and \$550,000. In the last few years, we have broken the \$600,000 ceiling thanks to many friends generously increasing their donations or coming back to us and renewing their support. We've also seen a great number of brand new donors. We are truly grateful for this outpouring of support. If we can continue to build on this upward climb, we'll safeguard against the unexpected—like the pandemic that forced us to close for a year.

Retired Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. John DeWeese is a humble man with a wry sense of humor. John lives outside of Boston and has a camp on the shores of Raquette Lake. He doesn't get to camp as much as he would like but is happy to say his kids are making memories there now too. As a long-time member and annual donor of the ADKX, last year, John not only increased but doubled his Annual Fund gift. When talking about his support for the Adirondack Experience, he downplayed his gift-giving with the comment, "it isn't as if I'm giving millions."

To all of you John DeWeeses out there, every gift is important to the Adirondack Experience! Doubling one's gift is HUGE! It makes a tremendous impact. If only ten other donors at John's level did the same this year, \$5,000 more would be raised.

**To all of you who added an extra "0" onto your gift or hit the "x2" button on your calculator in 2021, THANK YOU!**

To make a contribution to the ADKX Annual Fund, visit [www.theadkx.org/join-support/donate/annual-fund/](http://www.theadkx.org/join-support/donate/annual-fund/)



# 2021 DONORS

The Adirondack Experience offers its sincerest **THANK YOU** to all who support the museum. Many of you are longtime donors, and we are truly grateful for your steadfast support. Others have only just begun donating to the museum, and we welcome you to our family of supporters; thank you for coming on board. The following list includes 2021 donors who gave a gift of \$500 or more.

[A list of all donors can be found on our website, www.theadkx.org](http://www.theadkx.org)

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