

WINTER + SPRING

2023

Reflections in the Wilderness, 2021, Takeyee Walter, Oil on board | 2021.028.0.001



**ADIRONDACK
EXPERIENCE**

The Museum on Blue Mountain Lake

Winter/Spring 2023
Newsletter

ARTISTS & INSPIRATION IN THE WILD



TAPS & TRIVIA

A New Collaboration Series with Local Breweries

The ADKX was excited to collaborate with local breweries this winter to bring our new “Taps & Trivia” program to different towns across the Adirondack Park (and beyond)! Public Programs Coordinator Liz Belyea traveled to six different breweries hosting Adirondack-themed trivia nights, engaging with local communities, and challenging their knowledge of local history, art, the High Peaks, and even the ADKX itself.

Belyea, herself a fan of trivia nights, was inspired to create this truly authentic experience from her time browsing the exhibits at the ADKX, crafting many questions based on our *Work in the Woods* exhibit and the logging industry. Questions covered topics such as the tools used in logging, the history of local legend and icon Anne LaBastille, and a fun glimpse into our online photo collection. Each trivia question was accompanied by an image from our collection, many of which are not currently on display, allowing participants a special peek into our extensive collection. We were thrilled to see a packed house at each event, with enthusiastic and engaged teams competing while enjoying local beer. The ADKX hopes to continue this series in 2024, bringing this fun and unique trivia series to more communities in and around the Park. We would like to thank all of the breweries that participated in our inaugural “Taps & Trivia”: Common Roots Brewing Company, Great Sacandaga Brewing Company, Hex & Hop Brewing, Lake Placid Pub & Brewery, Mean Max Brew Works, and Raquette River Brewing.

UPCOMING: Taps & Trivia Rochester Edition: Saturday, June 10th from 7–9pm at Three Heads Brewing, 186 Atlantic Ave. Bring your team! Prizes available!

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HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE ADIRONDACKS AND THE ADKX?

Test your knowledge with these sample trivia questions below!

At 3,820 feet, this is the lowest High Peak in the Adirondacks:

- a. Nye
- b. Colvin
- c. Porter
- d. Couchsachraga

American businessman, philanthropist, and author Harold Hochschild opened this cultural history museum, located in the central Adirondacks, on August 4, 1957:

- a. View
- b. The Adirondack Experience
- c. The Wild Center
- d. The Adirondack History Museum

In 1929 this well-known hermit declared himself the Mayor of Cold River City (*Population: 1*). His cabin is currently on display at the Adirondack Experience.

- a. Noah John Rondeau
- b. Ira Gray
- c. John Henry Hill
- d. Seneca Ray Stoddard

Answers: d. Couchsachraga, b. ADKX, a. Noah John Rondeau





CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Artists & Inspiration

Wonder what has been going on behind the construction fence that you saw last season? Walls are going up, ceilings are coming down, and doors are getting installed to welcome you to ADKX's newest exhibition—opening July 1! ADKX staff went to Manassas, VA this winter to review the exhibits and interactives being built by Capital Museum Services.



Staff have also been checking in on the construction progress with tours of the soon-to-be finished gallery spaces. Big changes are happening every day. **Scan the QR code for a behind-the-scenes peek at the construction.**

Think art exhibitions may not be for you? Think again! *Artists & Inspiration in the Wild* will be a must-see for the whole family—with opportunities to piece together your own painting, test the weight of an artist's packbasket, and use your hands to explore a tactile recreation of an A. F. Tait painting. We couldn't bring this exhibit to you without the support of our members and donors—thank you. We hope you'll join us on July 1 for a not-to-be-missed opening celebration. Mark your calendars today!



ART IN THE ARTISTS' OWN WORDS

Artists & Inspiration

Works of art have tremendous ability to wordlessly communicate—how artists appreciate the world around them, their thoughts about contemporary issues, or how they interpret traditions that have been passed down through generations. The viewers decide what is being said through their own lens and how they personally see the work; the voices of the artists themselves are not often heard. *Artists & Inspiration in the Wild* is proud to feature the words of artists talking about their own works. Every living artist whose work is in the exhibition shared their personal thoughts about their creations. Here's what some of them have to say.



2018.017.0002
"I am happy to keep our tradition alive by continuing to create baskets at the young age of 88."
 –Barbara Watso, Abenaki



2021.062.0001
"Utilizing my Haudenosaunee influences and my own knowledge, this became a striking black and red hollow-body guitar." – Glenn Hill, Akwesasne Mohawk



2019.034.0001
"I paint the people and places in my life that I love." – Joe Remillard



2013.024.0001
"It was the very nature of nature that provoked me to design this chair."
 –Jonathan Sweet



2022.044.0001
"My jewelry explores the natural world through surface texture and color."
 – Margaret Jacobs, Akwesasne Mohawk



2021.019.0001
"Through painting, I am interested in creating a way to connect emotionally with weighty contemporary issues."
 –Susan Hoffer



2017.036.0001
"Outside Lake Placid, under a canopy of clouds in flux, I was struck by what I considered a rare event in the Adirondacks: a large flat field."
 – Thomas Paquette



2018.075.0001
"I will continue to make baskets to carry my tradition on to my children."
 – Tiann White, Akwesasne Mohawk

MAKING ART AT THE ADKX

Artists & Inspiration

Experience art up close and personal this year at the museum. We are focusing on creativity and artistic expression throughout the season with many artists on campus, new creative workshops, daily art-making activities, and special events.

A new Adirondack Artist-in-Residence program will bring regional artists such as Takeyce Walter, Sandra Hildreth, Paul Lakata, and more to the museum in July and August. Visitors will have the opportunity to chat with working artists as they create and discover more about their creative process and inspiration. The Indigenous Artist-in-Residence returns this year with Mohawk creators visiting weekly in July and August. Several new artists will join this year's residency including Emma Thompson, Victoria Ransom, Margaret Jacobs, and Trevor Brant, plus returning favorites— Carrie Hill, Glenn Hill, Wilma Cook Zumpano, Natasha Smoke Santiago, and Robin Lazore.

As part of the new *Artists & Inspiration* exhibition, visitors will be able to make their own art in the ADKX Art Lab. This makerspace may include activities such as stitching nature journals, watercolor painting, piecing paper quilts, and printmaking. Planned workshops will include taxidermy, landscape painting, drawing with pastels, and observational sketching during guided hikes with Ed Kanze and Sandra Hildreth. Be sure to check our website for more information on these activities and workshops scheduled for July, August, and September.

The ADKX will also feature artists, artisans, and makers throughout the season and during the Adirondack Artisans Festival, Celebrate Akwesasne Artists, Rustic Furniture Fair, and the Photography Showcase.



NEW ACQUISITIONS

For nearly 70 years the Adirondack Experience has been celebrating the work of artists inspired by the natural beauty of the Adirondacks. In anticipation of the opening of *Artists & Inspiration in the Wild*, here are some of the newest additions to our collection. **Come see them in person beginning July 1!**

William Trost Richards (1833-1905)

John Brown's Grave Site at North Elba, New York, ca. 1864

Oil on board, 7.5" x 11"
2022.036.0001



The psychological effects of war extend far beyond combatants. When a nation is at war with itself, the psychic scars run even more deeply. William Trost Richards expressed his sorrow over the Civil War in this small sketch, which he likely painted on the spot.

John Brown's battle to end slavery resulted in his execution in Charles Town, VA, in 1859. He is buried near Lake Placid on the grounds of his family farm. Richards's melancholy view depicts Brown's grave as a sacred site, the shadow cast across the headstone as an allusion to the violence and war that followed Brown's death.

Jonathan Swartwout (b. 1971)

Corner cupboard, 2007

Maple, spruce, pine, 86" x 29.5" x 17.5"

2021.065.0001



Jonathan Swartwout learned to paint at an early age, but it wasn't until much later that he discovered his true creative calling as a furniture maker. Since 2005 he has been making furniture by hand in his Johnstown studio. His love of fishing and the outdoors is reflected in two paintings on this corner cupboard: a leaping trout at the top and a lake view with two figures rowing on the water on the upper cabinet door.

Cassius Marcellus Coolidge (1844-1934)

Sketchbook, ca. 1870

Pencil sketches, 6.5" x 10.25"
2019.072.0002



Though hunters and anglers were common sights in the Adirondacks by 1870, traveling through the mountains could still be quite arduous. Cassius "Cash" Coolidge commemorated his hunting adventures with a sense of humor, drawing in pencil the challenges of overturned canoes, runaway wagons, and monstrous mosquitoes. His handmade sketchbook, which uses a Rochester, NY seed company poster for a cover, contains 28 pages. Coolidge is best remembered for his paintings of dogs playing poker, which he created for an advertising firm in the early 1900s.

Glenn Hill Jr. (b. 1979)

A'no'wa:ra O'no'wa, 2021

Maple and walnut
2021.062.0001



Musician and instrument maker Glenn Hill built this hollow body guitar during the COVID-19 pandemic. During the shutdown he also took the opportunity to learn more about his Mohawk heritage. His learning experience is reflected in the instrument's design, which features a cut flame maple inlay of an oh'stawa (rattle), skydome inlays, and a 12th fret "ancient one" with a rattle. The back features traditional Mohawk tattoo patterns. The name of the piece comes from a'no'wa:ra, meaning turtle, and o'no'wa, meaning guitar.

Suzanne C. Porter (1839-1936)

Untitled: Lake Placid, Adirondacks, ca. 1879

Oil on canvas, 7.5" x 11.25"
2020.044.0002



Few women in the 19th century achieved fame or even earned a living as artists. Expected to become wives and mothers, most married and raised families, pursuing art as a hobby or abandoning it altogether. Suzanne C. Porter (née Roberts) was an exception.

Although the bulk of her work focused on European views, Porter visited the Adirondacks in the 1870s when she painted this view across Lake Placid to the southeastern slope of Whiteface at left and Sunrise Notch at right.



ADKX WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEE

Dennis J. Phillips

Dennis J. Phillips has been a partner with the law firm of McPhillips, Fitzgerald & Cullum LLP, located in Glens Falls, NY, for over forty years. In his early years, Dennis was raised on the rolling beauty of the hills and rivers of the western Adirondacks, but after college and a six-year tenure in New York City where he studied law and was on the faculty of the Dalton School, the draw of the mountains brought him back to the Adirondacks.

Over his professional career, Dennis has been fully engaged in the legal issues of his time and has committed his energy and experience to helping landowners, organizations, and communities navigate the complexities of Adirondack law, including land use and succession planning, as well as litigating important property and tax matters in the courts of the North Country. At the same time, he has served on the board of the Charles R. Wood Foundation where he was involved in foundation decision-making that resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars of grants to Adirondack charitable organizations. Currently, Dennis and his firm serve as General Counsel to the Empire State Forest Products Association, Inc., a non-profit dedicated to the sustainability of New York's forest product industry.

Dennis and his wife, Patricia, frequent the entire Adirondack Park on a regular basis—from Lake George to Old Forge to Saranac Lake and all points in between—but for them, Blue Mountain Lake is their touchstone, the place where they owned property and had a camp for almost four decades. As one of the museum's most dedicated Gala attendees and overall supporters, the ADKX is thrilled to welcome Dennis onto the Board.

Do you enjoy history? Love the great outdoors? Then come work at the ADKX this summer!

We have a variety of positions available during our open season that are perfect for those looking for something fun and unique. Interact with the public and teach them about the history of the Adirondacks as an



Interpretation Assistant, welcome visitors to the museum as a Membership Representative, work in the ADKX Café or Store, and more! We offer a variety of perks that make for a fun summer! Visit our website to see all of our employment opportunities.

WE'RE HIRING!





2022 ADKX DONORS MADE A TREMENDOUS DIFFERENCE!

Thanks to all who made a financial commitment to the ADKX in 2022. **The overall funds raised in 2022 through membership, the annual fund, special project fundraising, and the annual Gala fundraiser exceeded \$3.5M.** Your dedicated support enables us to continue to offer an unparalleled experience for all ages and explore the cultural history of the Adirondacks. The donors listed below have moved the museum forward with donations to general operations or special initiatives, joining or renewing their membership, and or naming the Adirondack Experience in their estate plans.

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Join or renew now and become a part of the place you love. Your membership support allows the museum to continue to preserve Adirondack cultural heritage and share important stories. You'll also be helping us fulfill our mission by funding collections care and acquisition, educational programming, and so much more.



Your membership is good for **FREE** admission for the entire 2023 season, and you will be among the first to know about this year's events and museum plans!

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