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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

May 18, 2015

The Saturdays at 11am

Starting June 13<sup>th</sup> and continuing every Saturday  
through October 31

Advance tickets at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)

Olana Partnership announces

*Artists on Art Tours* at Olana State Historic Site

HUDSON, NY –

The Olana Partnership announces special artist-led tours to illuminate the exhibition “River Crossings: Contemporary Art Comes Home.” *Artists on Art Tours* are offered at Olana every Saturday from June 13 through October 31, 2015.

The artists include a multi-disciplinary and diverse group who live and work in the Hudson Valley region. Each artist’s tour will add a new sensibility to the experience of Olana, and the special exhibition. Each will focus on specific rooms, landscapes, art, and objects of their choosing, making this very different from a traditional Olana house tour. Participants could attend each artist’s tour and never have the same experience twice; eleven artists are delivering twenty one tours throughout the season.

Artists offer a unique lens with which to “read” an artist’s home & landscape; in this program, each artist is given “poetic license” to talk about Olana and the exhibition with concepts and connections that inspire them. This tour is an educational program of The Olana Partnership and the artist-led tours will be accompanied by Amy Hufnagel, TOP’s Director of Education. Tickets purchased online or at Olana’s Museum Shop. Advance purchase is encouraged as these tours are very small and will likely sell out quickly.

“This is not your traditional house tour and I want to make that very clear,” says Hufnagel. “Working artists can teach us about Olana in ways we might not have even imagined, and artists living in this region are logical “guides” to Olana. The Olana Partnership wants to expand the narrative of Olana, and this exhibition allows for a new set of conversations to emerge. “

The participating artists (alphabetical order) and their tour dates follow:

September 5

October 10

**Yura Adams** is an artist and teacher who came from New York City to reactivate and run a historic hotel on banks of the Hudson River in Athens, New York and to establish her studio and painting practice. Her paintings are a composite of painterly and personal elements – abstract and figurative together, sacred and intimate, pop culture and beauty – playing with messages of cultural and poetic experiences. In 2010 she created The Walking Project - paintings created about the experience of walking the village of Athens; her work is multi-disciplinary in nature and she has been exhibited as a painter, and intermedia artist including performance art throughout the United States in venues such as The New Museum in New York, Experimental Intermedia, Franklin Furnace, New Music America, Real Art Ways and the John Davis Gallery in Hudson, New York. <http://yuraadams.com>

July 4

September 12

**Kenseth Armstead** is a multimedia installation artist. His works have been exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art; the Brooklyn Museum; The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; the Studio Museum in Harlem; the Berlin VideoFest; and the MIT List Visual Arts Center. His videos, drawings and sculptures are included in the collections of the Centre Pompidou, African American Museum in Dallas, Texas and numerous public and private collections. The New York Times, L Magazine, Art in America, Village Voice, The Boston Globe and The Washington Post have favorably reviewed his videos, sculptures and multimedia installations. <http://www.kensetharmstead.com/>

October 17

October 31

**Tim Davis's** wry photographs find the sublime in the quotidian. Whether shooting an abandoned pair of sneakers, the streets of a nameless suburb, or the corner of a framed painting in a museum, Davis captures the peripheral, everyday beauty of our daily life. While a recipient of a 2008 Rome Prize Fellowship, Tim Davis documented Rome's classical ruins and the detritus from tourists that envelop them in relation to contemporary urban life. By doing so, he created a world where time has collapsed. Expanding his scope to include iconic landscapes in other countries, Davis compiled all of the images to create The New Antiquities, his most recent series. A writer and teacher as well as a visual artist, Davis's work has been reviewed by a myriad of publications, including the New Yorker and Art in America. Photographer and poet Tim Davis was born and raised in Malawi, Africa and attended Bard and Yale University for his degrees in Fine Art. <http://www.davistim.com/>

June 13

September 19

At the intersection of aesthetics, the Internet and land art, **eteam** coordinates collective happenings and conceptual transactions between the earthly plane and the realms of the interweb, often reconstructed in hypnotic video work, radio plays, or more recently novellas. Their projects have been featured at PS1 NY, MUMOK Vienna, Centre Pompidou Paris, Transmediale Berlin, Taiwan International Documentary Festival, New York Video Festival, International Film Festival Rotterdam, the 11th Biennale of Moving Images in Geneva, and the International Film Festival Rotterdam, among others. eteam has received

grants from Art in General, NYSCA, Rhizome, Creative Capital and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and were residents at the CLUI, Eyebeam, Smack Mellon, Yaddo and the Mac Dowell Colony. <http://meineigenheim.org/>

October 3

October 24

Born in Marseille in 1976, **Laetitia Hussain** has lived in France, Syria, New York City and the Hudson Valley. Her installations are elaborations of emotional responses to social and environmental issues. She is a multimedia artist and works in sculpture, painting, video, sound and photography. A graduate of SUNY Purchase (BFA). She currently lives and maintains her studio in Hudson NY. She is represented by John Davis Gallery in Hudson, NY. [www.laetitiahussain.com](http://www.laetitiahussain.com)

June 20

July 11

**Chad Kleitsch** is a photographer whose work has been featured in numerous exhibitions in museums and galleries throughout the United States such as The Art Institute of Chicago, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum CT, CCS Bard Hessel Collection NY, The Center for Photography at Woodstock NY, Berkshire Museum MA, Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art NY, Ariel Meyerowitz Gallery NYC, Yancy Richardson Gallery NYC and Carrie Haddad Gallery Hudson NY. In 2010 he received The Center for Photography Woodstock Photographers Fellowship Fund Award Fellowship. Kleitsch was born and raised in New Jersey. He earned his B.A. in photography at Bard College in New York in 1991. He has since lectured Yale University, Sarah Lawrence College, and The Center for Photography at Woodstock. <http://chadphoto.com/>

August 15

A multidisciplinary artist, **Melissa Auf der Maur**, aka MAdM, was a member, songwriter and bass player for the Indy band Hole culminating in the album "Celebrity Skin". In 2000 she joined The Smashing Pumpkins for their farewell world tour. In 2004 "Auf der Maur", her first solo album, was released by Capitol Records / EMI worldwide. In 2010 MAdM released her new multimedia project "Out of Our Minds", featuring the Album, Film and Comic Book. She is currently focusing her efforts as Director and Co-Founder of Basilica Hudson. Established in 2010, Basilica Hudson is a rapidly growing nonprofit multidisciplinary arts center in Hudson, NY, supporting the creation, production and presentation of arts, culture and sustainable community. Located in a reclaimed 19th century factory, Basilica's broad range of programs includes the acclaimed Basilica SoundScape, a weekend of music and art, experimental film screenings, unconventional art events and large-scale community gatherings. [www.basilicahudson.com](http://www.basilicahudson.com) and [www.xmadmx.com/news](http://www.xmadmx.com/news)

June 27

August 1

**Michael Oatman**, an artist and professor of architecture at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, is considered central to the Capital Region arts landscape, where he has lived on the Hudson River for decades. Oatman calls his practice 'the poetic interpretation of documents'. His collages and installations integrate thousands of found, modified and handmade components, including artifacts of material culture, painting, drawing, video,

and food. His installations are 'context-specific', and demand from him a total immersion into physical location, sonic/haptic realms, local history and the personal stories of those he encounters while working. He has exhibited extensively in the US and abroad. Oatman received his BFA from RISD, and his MFA from the University of NY at Albany. He has taught at Harvard, UVM, University of NY at Albany, St. Michael's College, and Vermont College. <http://www.bigtowngallery.com/artists/michael-oatman#6>

July 25

August 29

**Shehbaz Safrani** is a scholar-artist, independent curator, and lectures on art and art history; with an expertise in 18-20th century American & European Art. Safrani has worked as a lecturer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and served as the head of education at Sothobey's in the 1980s. Safrani has designed film sets, lectured in many museums, and has organized a number of exhibitions both in NYC and internationally. He lives and works in New York City and weekends in Hudson River Valley.

July 18

September 26

Artist **Linda Weintraub** is also a curator, educator, and author of several popular books about contemporary art. Her current art practice engages the plants, animals, soils, insects, and microbes she cultivates on her homestead in upstate New York. Her recent writing explores the vanguard intersection between art and environmentalism, including the series, Avant-Guardians: Textlets in Art and Ecology and TO LIFE! Eco Art In Pursuit of a Sustainable Planet (University of California Press). Weintraub established Artnow Publications in order to apply environmental responsibility to the book's material production. She is also the author of In the Making: Creative Options for Contemporary Artists and Art on the Edge and Over: Searching for Art's Meaning in Contemporary Society. Weintraub served as the Director of the Bard College museum where she curated over sixty exhibitions. She was the Henry Luce Professor of Emerging arts at Oberlin College. <http://www.lindaweintraub.com/>

August 8

August 22

**Tricia Wright** was born and raised in England and attended art school in London, until relocating to New York in 1999. She divides her time between NYC and her studio in upstate New York. Tricia works as an Artist Guide and Museum Educator at Judd Foundation, NYC, and DIA Beacon, NY. She has worked at two National Trust for Historic Preservation sites: Lyndhurst, NY, where she trained and managed a team of guides; and the Philip Johnson Glass House, CT, where she designed the Art Focus Tour. Tricia is also an independent Art Guide, creating private, specialized tours of New York City art museums and contemporary galleries. Her artworks are in museum, corporate, and private collections in the UK and the US. <http://triciawright.com/>

Details: \$18/person, \$12 for students/members. Appropriate for ages 10 and up. Meet at the Visitor Center outside the Museum Shop 15 minutes before tour start time.

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**About Olana and The Olana Partnership:** The eminent Hudson River School painter Frederic Edwin Church (1826-1900) designed Olana, his family home, studio, and estate, as an integrated environment incorporating architecture, art, landscape, and conservation ideals. Considered one of the most important artistic residences in the United States, Olana is a 250-acre artist-designed landscape with a Persian-inspired house at its summit, embracing unrivaled panoramic views of the vast Hudson Valley.

Olana State Historic Site, a historic site administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Taconic Region, is a designated National Historic Landmark and one of the most visited sites in the state. The Olana Partnership, a private not-for-profit education corporation, works cooperatively with New York State to support the restoration, development and improvement of Olana State Historic Site. 2016 will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this public/private partnership. To learn more about Olana and The Olana Partnership, please visit [www.olana.org](http://www.olana.org). -END-