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**The Olana Partnership and CCCA
Art Exhibition, Reception and Auction to cap off 4th Annual *En Plein Air* Painting Event:
Addition of Education Programs and Tent Sale to Further Highlight Multi-day Celebration
July 9–12, 2015**

Photo Captions and Credits:

1. High School students sketching en plein air, May, 2015. Children participating in Olana's upcoming Panorama program will paint along with the adult colleagues as part of Plein Air at Olana. Photo: Amy Hufnagel, 2015
- 2 Plein Air Artists will capture the spectacular views at Frederic Church's Olana, Photo: Carri Manchester, 2009

30 ARTISTS, ART EXHIBITION & LIVE AUCTION

Columbia County Council on the Arts (CCCA) and The Olana Partnership will host the 4th annual en plein air event, "Creating Landscapes within the Landscape," held at Olana State Historic Site from Thursday, July 9 through Sunday, July 12 2015

Thirty artists from across the country have been competitively selected to participate, and will be painting the views within and from Frederic Church's 250-acre artist designed landscape. Throughout the event visitors to Olana will be able to engage with the artists as they seek to capture spectacular vistas on canvas, which will then be exhibited at the Wagon House Education Center for a **live auction on Saturday, July 11 from 4-6 pm**. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the artists, as well as the education programs of The Olana Partnership and the Columbia County Council of the Arts. Tickets for the Saturday exhibition, reception and live auction are \$10 and include entry, reception with live music, and an auction paddle. Advance tickets are encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome. **The final day of Plein Air happens on Sunday, July 12 from 10 am – 2 pm** as artists will continue to sell works created both at Olana and at other locales under the big tent behind Olana's Wagon House Education Center.

On Friday, July 10, from 10-11:30 am, participating painter Maria Kolodziej-Zincio will conduct an artist's led tour which will focus engaging with participating plein air artists at work in the landscape. This tour is an exciting way to learn about the history of outdoor painting and have conversations with the artists about their work. Tour participants should convene at the Museum Store/Visitors' Center at the top of the hill at Olana. Tickets are \$12 for non-members and \$10 for member of The Olana Partnership and Columbia County Council on the Arts. Pre-registration is required by July 9 at www.olana.org

Also on Friday, from 2:30-3:00 pm, there will be a Student Art Reception held in the Wagon House Education Center. Earlier in the week, 20 students of Olana's Panorama summer arts program will be painting plein air with past award winning Olana Plein Air artist, and art teacher, Joshua Brehse from Germantown, NY. Students will then display the art they made while at Olana. There will be food made from locally sourced ingredients by local chefs and students, and visitors are welcome to come see the student plein air paintings and talk to the young people about their experience and what they learned.

Amy Hufnagel, Director of Education for The Olana Partnership explains, "My job is to help young people fall in love with Olana. We start by building a 'sense of place' where students can be inspired and awed, then we add in artists, amazing teachers, and activities that give youth the feeling of personal or individual growth. Artists, embedded in the Olana environment, are a great way to wrap so much up in a package and hand it to the next generation."

Cynthia Mulvaney, Executive Director of Columbia County Council on the Arts, and an artist herself adds, "It is exciting in this fourth year of Plein Air at Olana to expand the involvement of our talented painters to educational programs for both adults and children. All can learn about the important legacy of plein air painting in America, begun more than a century ago by artists such as Frederic Church. These new events serve as a wonderful complement to the Saturday exhibition and auction, which always draws a great group of attendees.

On Saturday, July 11, the final day of painting, artists will bring their canvases, some still wet from the field, to the Wagon House Education Center at Olana. The works will be put on exhibition, and then the real fun ensues. Reception attendees are invited to chat with the artists and view the art while enjoying refreshments supplied by Fairview Wines and Liquors, and catered by Carlucci Simons. Guitarist Aaron Civic will provide live music for the evening. Guests may submit their vote for the Viewers' Choice Award to be given to one deserving artist. Awards for Best in Show, Second Place and Third Place will also be selected by special guest judge, Bob Bahr, Editor of the weekly e-newsletter *PleinAir Today* and regular contributor to *PleinAir Magazine*.

At 5 pm sharp distinguished and spirited auctioneer Rupert Fennell of Stair Galleries in Hudson, NY, will start the live auction and the action does not stop until all 30 works are sold!

"I am always excited to see what the artists will choose to capture within Olana's fantastic landscape. We have just restored the sweeping southern view from the main house – a favorite location for our artists to set up their easels," says Olana's Associate Curator Valerie Balint, one of the event's organizers. "Auction attendees get the chance to own a bit of history; not only a singular work of art, but often a record of the continuing restoration efforts we pursue here. As Olana approaches the 50th anniversary of its initial preservation in 2016 it is wonderful to see contemporary artists continuing to be inspired here."

Selected artists will capture Church's Olana, one of the most famous sites in America, which includes the Hudson River School painter's nineteenth-century home, studio and artist-designed landscape. The 250-acre historic estate features a Persian-inspired mansion, elements of a

working farm and orchard, native woodlands, a ten-acre man-made lake, and spectacular views of the Hudson River and Catskill Mountains. Artists and visitors can enjoy the recently restored views throughout the property, as well as rediscovering the farm area where the event will be focused on Saturday evening.

Make plans to visit Olana during the Thursday through Sunday afternoon event during Olana's hours of 8 a.m. – dusk. Attend the reception and auction for \$10 on Saturday, October 18, 4-6 pm. Visitors without cars may also take advantage of the Saturday Shuttle between Hudson, Catskill, Olana and the Thomas Cole Site offered jointly by both museums. See either website for details.

For more information, full event schedule and tickets see www.olana.org, www.artscolumbia.org or call 518 828 1872 ext. 103.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

SUPPORTERS (Still in formation)

Carlucci Simons Catering, Fairview Wine and Liquors, J. Damiani Gallery, Hudson, Price Chopper, Shop Rite

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS:

Scott Thomas Balfe, Patricia Bellerose, Arlene Boehm, Matt Chinian, James Cramer, Carol Douglas, Olive Farrell, Tarryl Gabel, Jamie Williams Grossman, Robin Guthridge, Frank Hanley, Rosemary Hanson, Sandra Hildreth, Janet Howard-Fatta, Danielle Kelling, Gretchen Kelly, Maria Kolodziej-Zincio, Richard Lisle, Jeffrey Markowsky, Robert Masla, Patrick McPhee, Dominique Medici, Steven James Petruccio, Joseph Pierson, Judy Reynolds, Kendra Schieber, John Slivjak, Gregory Summers, Glenn Tunstull, and Catherine Whitehead.

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 embracing 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. To learn more about Olana and The Olana Partnership, please visit www.olana.org

About Columbia County Council on the Arts: The CCCA's mission is to produce programs that advance the arts and engage the county's residents and visitors; to provide services that support the county's cultural organizations, artists and resident participation in the arts and to build collaborative partnerships within the county and beyond so that the vision becomes a reality. To learn more about the CCCA, please visit www.artscolumbia.org ###