



Masters on Main Street
Greene County Council on the Arts
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Walking Salon

Masters on Main Street's Walk and Talk

CALENDAR: Saturday, September 14, 10:30 brunch, 11 AM Walking Salon, a guided tour and conversation led by Kate Menconeri, curator of Eastern Standard: Indirect lines to the Hudson River School, Masters on Main Street's storefront exhibit. Meet at 356 Main Street, Catskill, NY. Call 518/943-3400 or go to www.greenearts.org for maps and more information.

Consider the salon... a 16th century adaptation of a High Renaissance Italian idea where people gathered under the roof of an inspiring host to amuse one another, on the one hand, and refine each others' tastes and increase knowledge, in the optimum. The concept was born from Aristotelian ideals of beauty and Platonic goals involving truth, midwived by the great Roman philosopher Horace's definition of the aims of poetry "either to please or to educate."

Move on to the present day and the new concept of a "walking salon" pioneered by the already inventive Masters on Main program wedding small town economic development with storefront arts exhibition... where a crowd comes out to join artists and curators as they stroll Catskill's Main Street, initiating and following a conversation on what the art on view means... along with the greater role culture plays in the contemporary lives of communities like Catskill.

These events started two summers ago with an impromptu session involving local artist/conceptualists Matt Bua and Brian Dewan, went on to include various figures from the Occupy movement come north for Wall Street to Main Street, and later involved leading art teachers from the region's top arts masters programs and, last autumn, New York Foundation for the Arts project coordinators and artists Chad Weckler, Keiko Sono and Michael Asbill.

Next on the bill, on Saturday, September 14 at 11:00 a.m., a new Walking Salon will explore the current exhibit, *Eastern Standard: Indirect Lines to the Hudson River School* discussing artists ideas about today's landscape art ideas as well as land use, development and ecology issues that inform the work with exhibit curator Kate Menconeri and some of the participating exhibitors: Carolyn Marks Blackwood, Tim Davis, Sandy Gellis, Joel Griffith, Ruth Hardinger, Kysa Johnson, David La Spina, Alex McKay, Nadja Verena Marcin, Alan Michelson, Jason Middlebrook, Ben Ruggiero, Lisa Sanditz, Ann Katrin Speis, Lauren Sansaricq, Susan Wides and Linda Weintraub.

On Saturday, September 14, 10:30 AM, arrive early, wearing good walking shoes, with umbrellas in hand in case of foul weather. This event begins with a bagels and coffee brunch at Main Street's newest storefront business at 356 Main Street hosted by interior designer & lighting specialist Bradford Ellis. Expect to spend two hours walking and talking... and come away with both new ideas and new friends.

Call the Greene County Council on the Arts at 518/943-3400 or visit www.greenearts.org for maps or more information.

Photo Credit: Buddhist Nun, Aree Saekho admiring Nadja Verena Marcin's installation, *The Last Mohican* at the Catskill Community Center, part of Masters on Main Street's storefront exhibit on view through September 20.