

Hudson Valley Landscape Painters Exhibition at the Athens Cultural Center

August 18 - October 7, 2018; Opening Reception August 25

Curator: Peter Homitzky

Co-Curator: Marne Rizika

Hudson Valley Landscape Painters, which was proposed to the Athens Cultural Center by the late Peter Homitzky a year ago, will feature landscape artists of the Hudson Valley region: Sasha Chermayeff, John Kelly, Rick Leon, Gail Nicholson, Harry Orlyk, Marne Rizika, Barbara J. Sussman, and Peter Homitzky. The show highlights the work of artists who Peter believed exhibit “a personal, chromatic and philosophical viewpoint.” It opens on Saturday, August 18th at the Athens Cultural Center, 24 Second Street, Athens, NY, with an artists reception on August 25th, 6-8pm.

Homitzky, a highly regarded and widely exhibited landscape painter, lived with his wife Bette in Athens since 1985, becoming permanent residents 11 years ago. Peter passed away recently. On weekend visits, and over many decades, he would work on pastel paintings – many of which are featured in this exhibit. Before his death, Homitzky asked his former student, dear friend, and new Athens resident, Marne Rizika, to bring this show to fruition. Honored, she visited the artists whose work Peter intended to include in the group, and organized the exhibit with the help of Bette Homitzky and the ACC.

Peter Homitzky was described by The New York Times as a “painter who can be classified as a realist, but with him, this term does not mean absolute fidelity to the scene he depicts. He relies on memory and emotion, and also the history of American landscape.” This show celebrates Peter’s work and that of other local landscape artists.

Barbara Jacob Sussman is the fourth generation of American artists in her family. She resides in Hoosick Falls, NY, painting and exhibiting throughout the area. Curator, art consultant, appraiser, Barbara was instrumental in the efforts of CiviCure to purchase the Wood Block Opera House in Hoosick Falls and restore it to its former glory.

Catskill resident **Sasha Chermayeff’s** home and studio overlooks a bend in the Catskill creek, inspiring her painting for over 25 years. As a member of the original board, Sasha was integral in saving the Thomas Cole House in Catskill for posterity. She works as a yoga instructor in Hudson, NY and shows her paintings at BCB Art in Hudson, the Sideshow Gallery in Brooklyn and at Thompson Giroux gallery in Chatham, NY.

Rick Leon and Gail Nicholson, also former students of Peter’s from the Art Students League, have been painting weekends in Coxsackie for over 10 years. They look now to a future in the Saugerties community of Powder Mill Road.

Harry Orlyk shares his attitude toward painting: “to use it as a tool to keep a viable relationship with something I feel is the most important element in our existence - the land beneath our feet”.

John Kelly states about his work: “I’m a painter drawn to a physical engagement with the landscape. I find a nourishment there. I grew up at the confluence of the Hudson and Mohawk rivers. This isn’t the only landscape I’ve painted but it has a special hold on me.” Most recently John has exhibited and is represented by Carrie Haddad Gallery in Hudson.

Marne Rizika states: “The Hudson River Valley conjures up images of paintings from the past, often site-specific, spiritual metaphoric landscapes of heroic proportions, that did not necessarily reflect the human imprint, with the clearing of trees and visitors to the region. The artists presented in this show offer unique interpretations of the natural and human structure of this remarkable region.”

The Hudson Valley Landscape Painters exhibition runs through October 7th. Gallery hours are Fridays, 5-8 PM; Saturdays, 2-7 PM and Sundays, 1-4 PM. For more information on all of the programs at the Cultural Center please visit our website at www.athensculturalcenter.org. The Athens Cultural Arts Center is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit cultural institution.