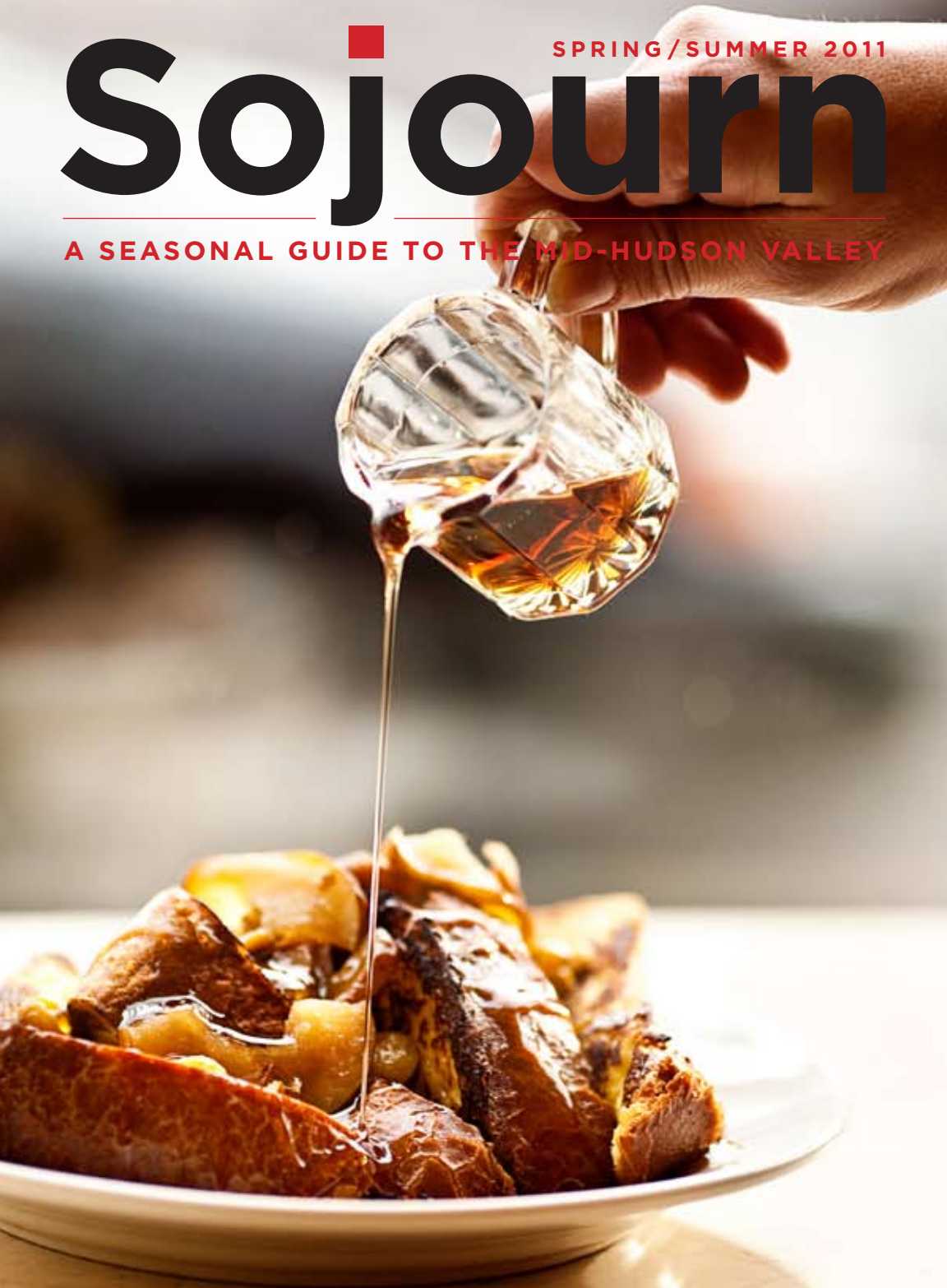


SPRING/SUMMER 2011

Sojourn

A SEASONAL GUIDE TO THE MID-HUDSON VALLEY



BREAKFAST IN THE HUDSON VALLEY

A guide to early morning eats

BIKE TOURS & FOOT RACES

Compete or just enjoy the scenery this season

A WALK IN THE GRAVEYARD

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FROM COLE

EXPLORING THE MUSEUMS OF THE HUDSON VALLEY

BY TRACI L. SUPPA

To get a sense of the importance of fine art in the Hudson Valley, look no further than *Prometheus Bound*. This 1847 oil painting by Thomas Cole, currently hanging in the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, symbolizes the vitality of the Hudson River School, America's first national painting movement.

Fast forward to the present. Striking modern art, typified by Alexander Calder's monumental *Arch* sculpture, standing at the Storm King Art Center in Washingtonville, has an equally strong presence among the region's major arts institutions.

As you travel the Hudson Valley in search of world-class art, you'll notice the evolution from those early American pastoral canvases to contemporary collections that take account of changing tastes and a broader worldview.

Major museums now reflect a range of periods and style, from antiquities to present-day modernism. Artists from every corner of the globe are represented. However, the Hudson Valley remains an important destination for homegrown art, and many collections showcase local talent.

Located in the heart of a dynamic college town, the **Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art** on the **SUNY New Paltz** campus offers an affordable afternoon to enjoy extraordinary regional art. Two ongoing programs focus specifically on local artists; the annual Hudson Valley Artists

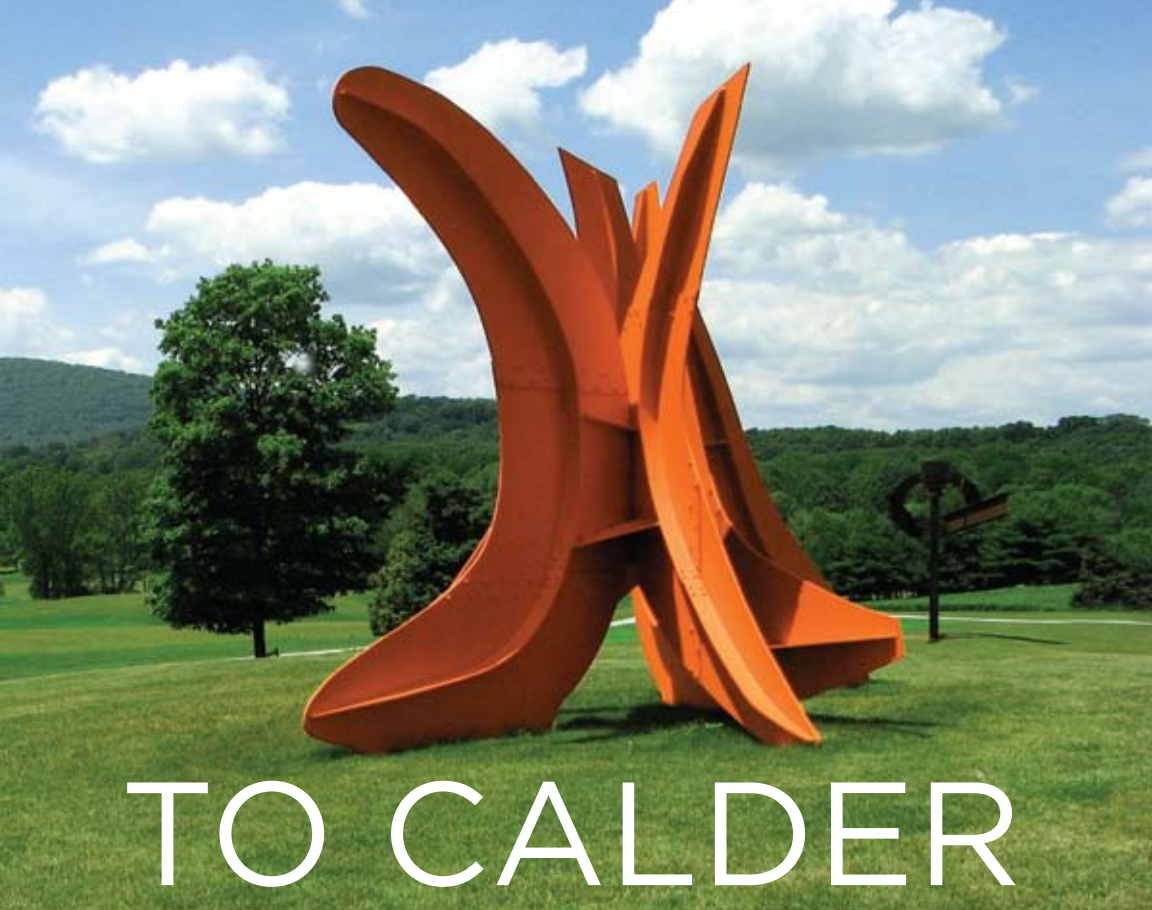
juried exhibition for emerging artists, and the Hudson Valley Masters exhibition of renowned artists who reside here.

"The Hudson Valley is now—and has been since the Hudson River School painters sailed up the river in the mid-19th century—a very important destination for artists, providing both inspiration and respite," says museum director Sara Pasti. "Through its exhibitions, collections, special projects, and public programs, the **Dorsky** contributes to the region's legacy."

The **Dorsky** also features a wide range of contemporary and historic art. The museum celebrates its 10th anniversary this year with several new exhibitions, including: "Thick and Thin: Ken Landauer and Julianne Swartz," a collection of drawings, objects, sculptures, and installations from a married couple; and "Artwork from the Permanent Collections of the Hudson Valley Visual Arts Consortium," a collection of historical, modern, and contemporary works from the region.

Your Hudson Valley arts itinerary should include two additional museums housed at educational institutions, where they have grown and flourished within an environment that supports the arts. At Vassar College, the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center boasts a collection of over 18,000 works that chart the history of art from antiquity to the present.

Many of the masters you would find in a large metropolitan art institution—Cézanne, Léger, Matisse, Miró, Munch, O'Keeffe, Picasso, Pol-



TO CALDER

Opposite: Thomas Cole, *Prometheus Bound*, c. 1847, oil on canvas, on loan to Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center from the Catskill Public Library, Catskill, New York. Above: Alexander Calder, *Five Swords*, 1976, Sheet metal, bolts and paint, Courtesy Calder Foundation, New York, ©2001 Estate of Alexander Calder/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

lock, Rothko—are free to see in this manageable microcosm. The galleries are curated around themes and time periods, beginning with Middle Eastern and Asian antiquities, and progressing through pre-Renaissance works to the present. The Hudson River School painters, including Cole, Church, Cropsey, Gifford, Kensett, and Moore, are featured in a dedicated gallery. Outside, the sculpture garden is a serene and lovely spot for enjoying your lunch.

As Vassar College marks its 150th anniversary this summer, the art center is planning two exhibits: “Thomas Rowlandson: Pleasures and Pursuits in Georgian England,” a collection of 72 watercolors and prints portraying the artist’s heavy-handed humor; and “A Taste for the Modern,” a collection of post-Impressionist and modernist paintings, prints, drawings, and sculpture.

Further north on the campus on Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, the Hessel Museum garners popular and critical acclaim for its major exhibitions of work by contemporary artists. Opened in 2006 as part of Bard’s Center for Curatorial Studies and Art in Contemporary Culture (CSS Bard), the museum houses the Marielouise Hessel Collection of over 2,000 contemporary works. An extensive library and curatorial archives are also accessible to the general public.

The permanent collection highlights the 1960s to the present day, and includes major works by artists such as Janine Antoni, Paul Chan, Robert Gober, Nan Goldin, Jenny Holzer, Robert Mapplethorpe, Paul McCarthy, Kiki Smith, Rosemarie Trockel, Kelley Walker, and Christopher Wool.

For an educational and immersive experience, patrons are welcome to join artists and curators on scheduled gallery “walk-throughs.” All CCS Bard exhibitions and events are free, including film screenings, performances, lectures, gallery talks, and other special events. For an even larger dose of cultural indulgence, schedule your visit to the Bard campus in conjunction with a program at the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts, boldly designed by contemporary architect Frank Gehry.

This summer, CCS Bard will inaugurate the first North American retrospective of the work of German artist Blinky Palermo, in conjunction with the Dia Art Foundation.

The Dia Art Foundation plays an even larger role in the region’s embrace of modern art with its facility in the city of Beacon. Dia:Beacon’s Riggo Galleries house the foundation’s renowned collection of art from the 1960s to the present. The 240,000 square feet within a historic Nabisco box factory provide ample space for striking collections of oversize works. The open floor plan, natural light from skylights overhead, and industrial architecture add to your enjoyment of larger-than-life works by Joseph Beuys, John Chamberlain, Walter De Maria, Dan Flavin, Sol LeWitt, Andy Warhol, and others.



Photo courtesy G. Steve Jordan / gstevejordan.com

G. Steve Jordan Gallery, located in Water Street Market in New Paltz.

In addition to the much anticipated Palermo exhibition, Dia:Beacon is featuring two additional short-term exhibits through 2011. *Franz Erhard Walther: Work as Action* features a selection of 58 fabric *Handlungsstücke* (“action pieces”) from the early 1960s. Dia:Beacon is also one of three sites concurrently showing *Koo Jeong-a: Constellation Congress*, showcasing the sculpture component of the Korean artist’s playful outdoor environment.

Guided tours of Dia:Beacon, free with admission, are offered every Saturday afternoon. Free gallery talks focused on the artists in Dia’s collection take place the last Saturday of each month. There is a welcoming outdoor picnic area, and a café serving light fare with locally grown, organic ingredients.

One of the world’s most outstanding modern sculpture parks, the Storm King Art Center encompasses over 500 pristine acres of rolling hills, woodlands, and fields with more than 100 sculptures integrated into the liberating outdoor landscape. Visitors walk the grounds for close encounters with works representing many of the 20th and 21st centuries’ most influential artists, including Maya Lin, David Smith, Henry Moore, and Louise Nevelson. The monumental *Three Legged Buddha* by Chinese artist Zhang Huan is Storm King’s newest acquisition.

Here, the relationship between the landscape and sculpture is integral to a visitor’s experience, because changing light and weather conditions transform the artwork’s visual effects season to season, even hour to hour. Several pieces invite interaction; ring the bell of Mark di Suvero’s *For Chris* sculpture, or sit inside the split boulder of Isamu Noguchi’s *Momo Taro*.

Storm King continues to celebrate its 50th anniversary this summer with two exhibitions, “5+5: New Perspectives” and “The View from

Here: Storm King at Fifty.” The April through November season is enriched with a lively roster of docent-led tours, hikes, free tram tours, birdwatching, artists’ talks, family programs, concerts, and readings. The newest offerings include bike rentals and the Storm King Café.

In addition to these esteemed museum facilities, scores of galleries further expand art’s range in the Hudson Valley, making it accessible to collectors. Gallery spaces range from non-profit art and education organizations like the **Unison Arts Center** in New Paltz, to shared exhibit spaces such as the Tivoli Artists Co-op. Artists also find representation at private galleries, many of which curate genre-specific collections, like the **Mark Gruber Gallery** and the **G. Steve Jordan Gallery** in New Paltz. ■

RESOURCES IN THIS ARTICLE

CCS Bard Hessel Museum
www.bard.edu/ccs/museum

Dia:Beacon
www.diabeacon.org

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center
http://fllac.vassar.edu

G. Steve Jordan Gallery
www.mohonkimages.com

Mark Gruber Gallery
www.markgrubergallery.com

River Winds Gallery
www.riverwindsgallery.com

Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art
www.newpaltz.edu/museum

Storm King Art Center
www.stormking.org

Unison Art Center
www.unisonarts.org

For more info on other historical sites, visit www.newpaltzchamber.org.