

For Immediate Release
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Winslow Homer
Watercolors
from the Permanent Collection

On Display: July 26, 2008 to October 12, 2008

Arkell Museum at Canajoharie

Canajoharie, NY - *Winslow Homer Watercolors* will be on display at the Arkell Museum at Canajoharie from July 26th – October 12th. The Arkell Museum owns 21 works by Winslow Homer. Six of his oil paintings have been on display since the museum opened in September 2007—but this is the first time the Homer watercolors will be on display together at the new museum.



Winslow Homer *On the Cliff*, 1881

Homer began his career as an apprentice with a lithographer in Boston in 1854 and first gained fame as an illustrator for *Harper's Weekly* during the Civil War. He began to seriously work in watercolors during the summer of 1873. Over the next eight years he used his summer trips to explore a single locale in watercolors. Watercolors in this exhibition include scenes in Gloucester, the cliffs at Tynemouth in England, and Houghten Farm in New York.

The collection includes several watercolors created in 1873 and 74—the first years Homer began to work seriously with watercolors as finished works of art. Critics praised these early watercolors and they sold well. The critic in the *Evening Mail*, February 1974, wrote that Homer “grabs nature and dabs her on his paper and as you look at his work you feel the blow

of the salt sea breezes and shade your eyes from the dazzling sun glare” By the 1880s, Homer was able to give up illustration and earn his living selling his paintings.

Bartlett Arkell began to acquire Winslow Homer paintings for the museum in 1930. The first work he purchased was an oil painting *On the Beach*. The next year he began to purchase Homer watercolors from Macbeth Gallery. He continued to periodically purchase Homer works for the Canajoharie museum and his personal collection until a year before his death in 1945.

Diane Forsberg, Chief Curator of the Arkell Museum, will be presenting a talk about Winslow Homer and his paintings in the Arkell Collection at 7:00 pm on Friday, June 25th. The Museum will open at 6:30 pm for the member’s preview of the exhibition. Forsberg’s talk on the Winslow Homer exhibition, the preview, and the reception following the talk are free to museum members, \$10.00 for non-members. Museum membership may be purchased at the door.

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The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie reopened with a new building in September 2007. Visitors to the museum will discover paintings by American artists such as Winslow Homer, Childe Hassam, Robert Henri, Thomas Hart Benton, and John Singer Sargent on display in the galleries. Mohawk Valley history and Beech-Nut advertising are also featured in exhibitions. The Arkell Museum is located half way between Albany and Utica — just three blocks from exit 29 on the New York State Thruway (I-90). The museum is open Monday-Friday 10:00 am-5:00 pm, Saturday –Sunday 12:30 -5:00 pm. For more information call 518-673-2314 or visit www.arkellmuseum.org

Images of works in this exhibition are available to the media by contacting:

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