

# 2022 ANNUAL SUMMARY



ART ON THE RAIL TRAIL

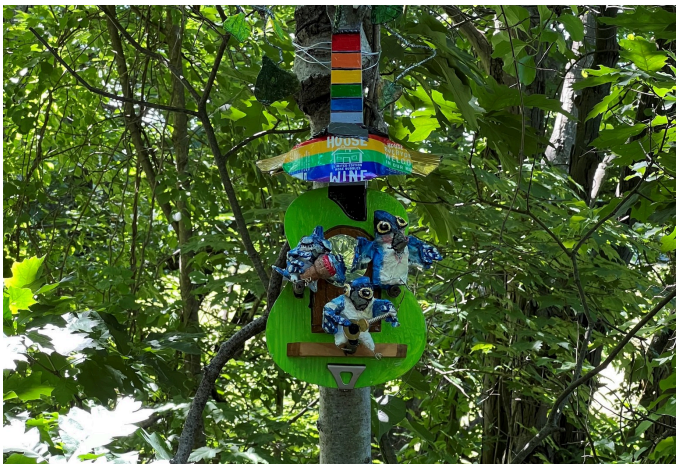
DECEMBER 2022



# INTRODUCTION

Founded in 2017, ART on the Rail Trail continues to be an integral part of the Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail community. Run by Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy volunteers, with the assistance of MHLC staff and the support of the Albany County Executive's office, ART members install works of art and host special events along the Rail Trail. ART is funded through business sponsors, private donors and grants.

2022 was ART's busiest and most productive year to date! Below is a chronological summary of the installations and special events the committee oversaw.



## SUMMER HIKE-A-THON BIRDS ON THE TRAIL SCAVENGER HUNT

For the first time, ART on the Rail Trail participated in Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy's annual summer hike-a-thon, creating a bird themed scavenger hunt along the entire length of the Helderberg Hudson Rail Trail. 25 original art pieces were loaned or donated to ART by local artists and were displayed

throughout the month of July. 336 community members registered for the MHLC month long event with 169 submitting photos of themselves next to one of the hidden pieces. Every participant received an ice cream gift card from Stewart's Shops as well as being entered into the prize drawing for a birdhouse donated by Wildbird Junction of Delmar. Additionally, 9 artists donated their pieces, which were also raffled off to scavenger hunt participants.

## WOODCUT PAINTING WORKSHOP

On July 9th, ART hosted two woodcut painting workshops at the Voorheesville trailhead pavilion, with 35 students participating. Local artists, Grace Lang and Ramiro Davaro-Comas facilitated the two sessions, which were offered free of charge, thanks to the generosity of the following event sponsors - Stram Center of Integrative Medicine, Different Drummer's Kitchen Cooking School, Merriman & Pfister's Marketplace, Clearfield Reilly PLLC, and Industrial Processing Design.



## CHALK THE WALK 2022

ART hosted the 5th Annual Chalk the Walk event on Saturday September 10th, yet another beautiful fall day. Forty artists participated and over \$400 was raised to help support future ART activities.

Community businesses (Merriman & Pfister, 5th Corner Gifts and Goods, McCarroll's the Village Butcher, Nighthawks and Perfect Blend Bakery and Cafe) generously provided prizes for the top 3 adult and child artists. Over 350 votes were cast in the online voting process.



## MINI MOCA 518

The intersection of Adams Street and Hudson Avenue in Delmar is now the home of miniMoCA518, a custom-built, fully enclosed miniature art gallery that is delighting passersby with temporary curated installations by some of our region's most established artists. Expanding upon the trend of small, free lending libraries and miniature public art galleries through the United States and abroad, MiniMoCA518 presents quality family-friendly art programming through ongoing exhibitions at the gallery.

The inaugural exhibition, called *Preschool*, is by the award-winning sculptor, Roger Bisbing, whose work explores natural and culturally imposed boundary lines, shifts of scale, distortions of cause and effect, and the spatial dynamics of group meeting spaces.

The gallery and current installation were unveiled on September 10th with community members, public officials and art enthusiasts in attendance. ART thanks Geoff Hamburg for building the gallery and McSharry and Associates Realty for being the 2022 sponsor.



## CHERRY AVENUE BRIDGE PIERS MURAL



Officially unveiled on October 17th, this project was the capstone of ART's busy year. The area underneath the Cherry Ave. bridge over the Rail Trail, in Slingerlands, was home to the second mural, by John DeMarco, commissioned in 2018 by Art on the Rail Trail. When bridge construction necessitated the commissioning of a new mural, Art on the Rail Trail asked Fernando Orellana, an artist and professor at Union College, to submit a design

for a new mural. Orellana has done other murals locally and after a design and review process, he started work on the mural in August of 2022. With the help of generous sponsors and a crew of local residents who volunteered their time to help paint, it was completed in mid-September. The mural is called "Cathedral" and is acrylic paint on concrete. Orellana states, "The quirky, colorful, and ambiguous imagery of the mural Cathedral serves as a portal to happiness, joy and wonder. I wanted to create a sanctuary in which the public can put aside the stresses and chaos of the modern age, perhaps returning to the simpler time of their childhood. The vibrant and enormous imagery is inspired by travel, the public, kinetic energy, street art, Chicago imagists, and mostly, a desire to capture joy.

This project garnered significant media attention including coverage in the Times Union, Spotlight and WTEN and has been very positively received by community members.

Sponsors: Policy Research Associate, The Spinney Group, Mack & Associates, PLLC. Andrea Hersh & Joel Bartfield, David VanLuven, Bethlehem Town Supervisor, Bethlehem Town Board Members: Joyce Becker, Dan Coffey, Maureen Cunningham, & David DeCancio, & The Richard Pousette-Dart Foundation.



ART committee members are busy planning the 2023 season so follow the committee on social media or refer to their web page ([www.mohawkhudson.org/art](http://www.mohawkhudson.org/art)) for up to the date information.

**Art on the Rail Trail (ART)** is a volunteer committee of the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy. ART's mission is to support and improve the Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail by creating public works of art along the Rail Trail. These original, commissioned art installations encourage local and regional visitors of varying ages and physical abilities to enjoy this amenity, engaging the diversity of trail users and benefiting the local economy.

For more information about ART, [www.mohawkhudson.org/art](http://www.mohawkhudson.org/art) or email [art@mohawkhudson.org](mailto:art@mohawkhudson.org).