

2023 ANNUAL SUMMARY



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.

Below is a summary of the installations and special events the committee oversaw in 2024.

SUMMER SCAVENGER HUNT: FANTASTICAL CREATURES ON THE RAIL TRAIL

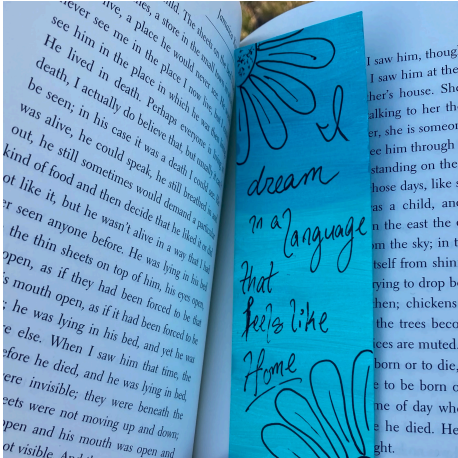
For the second time, ART on the Rail Trail participated in Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy's annual Summer Hike-a-thon Scavenger Hunt, creating a fantastical creature themed scavenger hunt along the entire length of the Helderberg-Hudson Rail



Trail. This year, 11 local artists participated and loaned or donated their creations to ART for display throughout the month of July. Of the 674 community members registered for the MHLC event, 40% submitted photos of themselves next to one of the pieces along the Rail Trail. Every participant received an ice cream gift card from Stewart's Shops. Several artists donated their pieces, which were raffled off to scavenger hunt participants.

MINI MOCA 518

Established in 2022, at the intersection of Adams Street and Hudson Avenue in Delmar miniMoCA518, a custom-built, fully enclosed miniature art gallery, hosted 5 temporary exhibits in 2023 and several accompany events. MiniMoCA518 presents quality family-friendly art programming through ongoing exhibitions at the gallery. Below is a list of the 2023 exhibits.



March 4-April 27: Danielle Colin, *Sacred Space*

April 22, 2 pm: Poetry reading; about 20 attended exhibit supported by I Love Books and Grassroot Givers

This installation explores the longing to inhabit a place that feels personally authentic and truly one's own. "What would a room look like that would center me?" asks D. Colin, a multidisciplinary artist of Haitian descent focusing in poetry, visual art and theater. Colin also selected books for the nearby little free library, which were donated by Grassroot Givers. She made a series of

bookmarks that she inserted in each chosen book for the reader to enjoy and learn more about her as a writer and artist.



April 29-June 21: Melissa Dadourian, *The Space Inbetween*

June 2, 5:30-7 pm: artist's reception featured Kona Ice refreshments; about 25 people attended

Melissa Dadourian is a Brooklyn and Hudson Valley based artist working in textile media, painting and sculpture. Dadourian has exhibited at JEFF in Marfa, Texas, the ACCEA in Yerevan, Armenia, the Albany Airport, the University of Buffalo, Transmitter Gallery, Textile Arts Center in Brooklyn among others. Recently she created an 8,000 square foot mural for Manhattan Park Pool on Roosevelt Island and has exhibited at the Dorsky Museum, New Paltz, Collar Works, Troy, NY as well as the MoCA Westport, CT.



June 22-August 16: Ruby Palmer, *Blue Ruin*

July 26, 6-7pm: artist's reception; about 25 people attended (coincided with Bethlehem Chamber's Biking Burgers & Beverages event).

Ruby Palmer was born in Boston, MA and grew up in rural Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. She studied studio arts and art history at Hampshire College and started experimenting with sculpture and installation at the School of Visual Arts in NYC as a way to work larger and directly with the architecture of the room. In 1999 she was awarded a Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant for Painters and Sculptors. She resides in New York's Hudson Valley.



August 19-October 4: Takeyce Walter, *Reflecting on Nature*

Takeyce Walter is an award-winning contemporary American painter (born in Jamaica), art instructor, and media producer living and working in upstate New York. Driven to create from an early age, Takeyce has been producing art for as long as she can remember.

October 7-December 30: Laura Von Rosk, *Homage to the Firefly*

Laura Von Rosk earned her M.F.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, and her B.F.A. from the State University of New York at Purchase, NY. Her paintings have been exhibited nationally in both solo and group shows. Her awards include a NYSCA (New York State



Council on the Arts) Individual Artist Grant (2023), a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Painting (2004), grants from the Pollack-Krasner Foundation, the Bernheim Foundation in Clermont, KY, a Full Fellowship residency at the Vermont Studio Center, a Karen Shea and Gabe Silverman Residency Fellowship from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and residencies at Yaddo, Blue Mountain Center, Jentel, The Millay Colony, The Sam and Adele Golden Foundation for the Arts, Centrum, and Dorland Mountain Arts Colony.

McSharry and Associates Realty was the 2023 sponsor.

The Arts Center of the Capital Region made the Mini MoCA518 2023 programming possible through the Statewide Community Regrant Program, funded by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

IRA MARCKS



Site-specific Installation: July 1 - December 30,
Dark Days in the Dalmarian Kingdom

Author Ira Marcks' illustrations came to life with this site-responsive pair of digital prints on alumaboard that were suspended in a grove of trees. Commissioned in tandem with the Fantastical Creatures scavenger hunt.

Youth Workshop: August 19, 1-3 pm First United Methodist Church, Delmar.

Six students attended a free workshop led by Marcks to build drawing skills and character development for graphic storytelling.

The Arts Center of the Capital Region made this program possible through the Statewide Community Regrant Program, funded by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.



Grant Award MHLC's sponsorship made it possible for ART to be awarded \$5,000 from the Statewide Community Regrant Program, funded by the NYS Council on the Arts with the Support of the Office of the Governor and the NYS Legislature. The Grant funded four artist stipends for the miniMoCA Gallery and the installation and workshop by Ira Marcks.

ART committee members are busy planning the 2024 season so follow the committee on social media or refer to their web page (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 or email art@mohawkhudson.org.