

## Hidden Gardens '23



### A Perfect Start to Summer

Hidden Gardens is set for June 24



The timing couldn't be more perfect: The 2023 Hidden Gardens Tour will take place on Saturday, June 24—just three days into summer.

This year's Tour celebrates local artful landscapes. The glory of late spring and the promise of summer beauty will be on

full display at host gardens in Austerlitz, Hillsdale and Copake. Two of the gardens, perched high in the Taconic Hills, offer magnificent views and vistas. A 180-acre farm boasts an authentic Japanese Tea House and Zen Garden. Have dry shade? See how one host has successfully conquered this difficult gardening challenge. There will be a varied range of landscape styles and many delightful surprises (Nigerian dwarf goats!) one can only see and appreciate on the grounds of these private residences.

The gardens will be open from 10am to 4pm. Advance tickets are \$35 and available on the website. Day-of tickets are \$40 and will be sold at the Academy and at the Market on the Green starting at 9am.

#### Perennial favorites

**Hidden Gardens: Twilight in the Garden Party** will take place on Saturday, June 17, 5 to 8pm on the grounds of the Austerlitz Historical Society. The Academy's traditional kick-off to the start of summer will feature a Mexican-themed menu as well as festive beverages from Jeremy Kenny's mobile Higher Bar. In addition, enjoy hors d'oeuvres, a buffet dinner, a silent auction, and live music by Rob Fisch. Tickets range from \$125 to \$250. Reservations are available on the website.

**The Market on the Green** will take place, as always, on the day of the tour on the Green in the center of Spencertown, from 9am to 2:30pm. More than 20 vendors will showcase offerings of flowers, plants, vintage and new home and garden furnishings, pottery, crafts, and garden books. Visitors will be serenaded by the Warren Street Oldtime String Band, playing Southern Appalachian fiddle dance music.

Shoppers will find bargains on choice garden items and accessories at the White Elephant Booth. The Spencertown Volunteer Firemen will be serving their signature delicious breakfast sandwiches and grilled burgers and hotdogs. The Taco Diablo food truck will offer authentic Mexican Street food and Frankie's Coffee Truck will be on hand serving scrumptious coffee-based beverages and sweets. A percentage of all sales benefit the Academy.

## in the gallery

### The Garden of Earth Celebrate nature!

The annual spring invitational art show, "The Garden of Earth," is a special addition to Hidden Gardens and focuses on the natural environment as a source of beauty and imagination. The show, guest-curated by Kelly Kynion, features works on paper in various media by seven Hudson Valley-based artists: Bruce Bundock, Mary Flinn, Lynn Palumbo, Lydia Rubio, Susan M. Story, Mary Ann Van Lent, and Carrie Waldman.

The opening reception is set for Saturday, May 27, 4-6pm, and the show will continue through Sunday, June 25. The gallery is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-5pm.

## what's coming up



### Guy Davis

Roots & Shoots  
Saturday, June 10, 8pm  
Tickets: \$30/\$25 members



### Twilight in the Garden Party

Saturday, June 17, 5-8pm  
Austerlitz Historical Society  
Tickets at spencertownacademy.org

### Hidden Gardens

Saturday, June 24  
Self-guided tour: 10am-4pm  
Market on the Green: 9am-2:30pm



### Romeo & Juliet

Performed by The Rooted Voyageurs  
Friday, June 30, 7:00pm  
Spencertown Park



### Emily Duff Band

Roots & Shoots  
Saturday, July 8, 8pm  
Tickets: \$25/\$20 members



### The Curator as Artist

Multimedia exhibit by  
Academy gallery curators  
July 1-August 6  
Opening reception:  
Saturday, July 1, 4-6pm



### Festival of Books

September 1-4  
The Academy's annual Labor Day  
weekend bookfest  
Watch for details this summer!



### Members Gallery Show

Works in all media by  
50+ Academy member artists.  
November 18-December 10  
Opening reception:  
Saturday, November 18, 4-6pm

spencertownacademy.org/events





*from the President's iPad*

## A Month of Sun Days?

After a long winter, one can only hope!

The balmy days and short nights of summer are almost upon us—and I, for one, am ready. After a long winter, I can't help feeling we've earned it!

That's not to say I don't love Columbia County whatever the season. But the region seems to come alive in a special way as we approach the vernal equinox. I'm excited about the rich schedule of programs coming up, beginning with our beloved Hidden Gardens event, which defines the start of summer in these parts. The Twilight in the Garden party takes place on Friday, June 17, followed on Saturday, June 24, by the Garden Tour and our Garden Market on the Green.

Looking ahead—not that I want to rush the season—the Academy's annual Festival of Books culminates the summer over Labor Day weekend.

I hope you'll take advantage of all that the Academy has to offer this summer. I also invite you to consider volunteering at these events and our others throughout the year. Whatever you're good at or like to do best, there's a job with your name on it.

Meanwhile, my best wishes for a long and wonderful summer. I look forward to seeing you soon—and often—at the Academy.

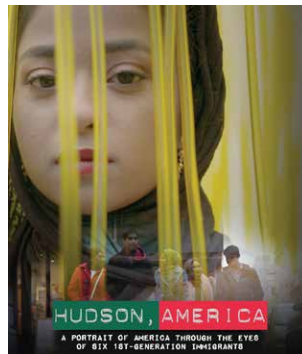
*Nick Van Alstine*

## *Conversations with Neighbors*

### From One World to Another

Academy screens the documentary, "Hudson, America"

The divisive political events of 2016 to 2022 derailed the joyous college trajectory of six Gen-Z Bangladeshi American immigrants living in Hudson, NY, propelling them to confront anti-immigrant sentiments, their conservative parents' ideas of "the American Dream," and the true cost of forbidden love. For six years, Czech-born filmmaker Zuzka Kurtz and Geoffrey Hug followed the students as they graduated from high school and entered college, bidding farewell to their reclusive community, and arrived in an unfamiliar world.



film, "Hudson, America," which was presented at the Academy on April 29 as part of the Conversations with Neighbors series. A Q&A with Zuzka Kurtz followed.

"This year's Conversations with Neighbors theme is 'Looking for America,'" says Lisa Bouchard Hoe, chair of the Conversations with Neighbors Committee. "We were delighted to kick off the program with this screening of 'Hudson, America,' which asks: what is it like to be a Muslim teen in America today? The film is

an eye-opener about the diverse community we live in and may not notice as we go about our day-to-day lives."

The product of that collaboration was the 2022 documentary

## *Theater at the Academy*

### Shakespeare Under the Stars

Romeo & Juliet comes to Spencertown

Shakespeare's tragic tale of young love gone off the rails will be presented by The Rooted Voyageurs in Spencertown Park Friday, June 30. Curtain time (metaphorically speaking) is 7pm.

The Rooted Voyageurs was founded in 2022 by Devante Owens (artistic director) and Zoe Wohlfeld (managing producer) with the belief that everyone should have access to empathetic, joyful and entertaining



stories. Their mission is to celebrate community through live performance. Company members are local to the Hudson Valley and all performances are donation-based.

The Rooted Voyageurs bare-bones production of Romeo & Juliet is abridged and will run 90 minutes. Bring your own seating and a picnic and enjoy the show!

## *The Academy*

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[spencertownacademy.org](http://spencertownacademy.org)  
for information on programs, membership, and volunteer opportunities or to subscribe to our e-blast list.





## Too Many Books? Too Little Space?

### Conquer clutter: Donate your extras to the Festival of Books

**FESTIVAL OF BOOKS** If your books are crowding you out of house and home, there's an easy way to recapture some of your living space: Donate your extras to the Festival of Books.

A signature event on the Academy calendar, the Festival is scheduled—as always—for Labor Day weekend. Donations of books, music and audio book CDs, DVDs and vinyl LPs will be accepted from July 15 through August 16. “We’ll email details and post them on the Academy website closer to the date,” says Festival committee co-chair Wayne Greene.

#### Not to be picky, but...

If you'd like to get an early start on pruning your bookshelves, keep in mind that gently used hard- and soft-cover books are

welcome, but the Festival can't sell books with cracked spines or damaged pages, or items that are soiled, mildewed or heavily written in. “The same goes for books that have been sitting in a damp barn or basement, or providing shelter and sustenance for insects or rodents,” says Wayne. The Academy will also pass on textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, travel guides, uncorrected proofs or galleys, library books, audio cassettes and VHS tapes.

If you're donating items that you consider special—such as autographed or rare books or ephemera—treat them with care. “Keep them separate and consider wrapping ephemera in plastic sleeves,” Wayne advises. “Labeling items with post-it notes also helps.”

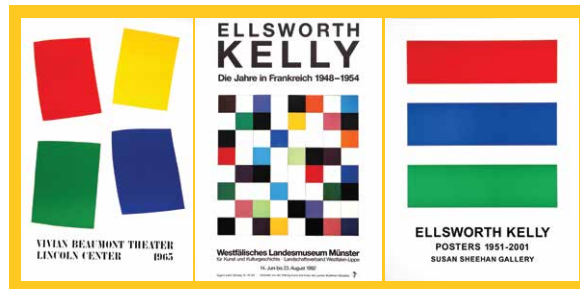
## in the gallery

### Ellsworth Kelly at 100

#### The Academy marks the centennial of a legendary artist and treasured neighbor

“Ellsworth Kelly Centennial: An Exhibition of Historic Posters” was featured at the Academy this Spring. The posters, dating from 1951 to 2018, were on loan from the collection of the Ellsworth Kelly Studio. This year marks the 100th anniversary of Ellsworth Kelly's birth. He died in 2015.

“It's a great honor to have been part of Ellsworth's centennial celebration and we're grateful



to the Kelly Studio for allowing us to host this wonderful exhibition of his historic posters,” says Spencertown Academy Arts Center president Nick Van Alstine. “The Kelly Foundation and Jack Shear have been friends and generous supporters of the Academy for decades. Like so many of the organizations in our area, their philanthropy has helped us to survive and thrive.”



## Music at the Academy

### Roots & Shoots: Summer Session

#### Guy Davis and Emily Duff in concert at the Academy

The Academy's Roots Shoots series kicks off the summer concert season with performances by two acclaimed musical artists.

First up is Blues Grammy-nominated Guy Davis, who performs at the Academy on Saturday, June 10 at 8pm. Davis uses a blend of roots, blues, folk, rock, rap, spoken word, and world music to comment on, and address, the frustrations of social injustice, touching on historical events, and common life struggles. “Guy is a standard-bearer for a contemporary American roots music that reaches way back to its formative years,” says Music Committee Chair Gerald Seligman.

Davis, who sings and plays the guitar, harmonica, banjo and didgeridoo has performed worldwide, with tours taking him from the equator to the Arctic Circle. His parallel careers—as a musician, author, music teacher, and film, television, and Broadway actor—mark him as a renaissance man, yet the blues remain his first and greatest love. “There is no tale so tall that I cannot tell it, nor song so sweet that I cannot sing it,” he says.



On Saturday, July 8, Roots & Shoots continues with an appearance by Emily Duff Band. Rolling Stone magazine describes singer-songwriter-guitarist Duff as “one part Patti Smith, one part Muscle Shoals.” Her band includes John Hamilton (bass and background vocals), Kenny Soule (drums and background vocals), and Danny Ray (saxophone).

“Emily's songs are personal and gritty, delivered with a downtown attitude and informed by blues, roots, punk rock and country music,” says Wayne Greene, member of the Academy's Music Committee. “And, she has a killer band. We are delighted to have this exciting artist perform at the Academy,”

A prolific songwriter, Duff was born in Flushing, NY, and says she was “raised by a pack of cigarettes.” She has recorded and released five records in the past six years. Her most recent, “Razor Blade Smile” was produced by Ambel and takes her back to her NYC roots.



*building community through the arts*

## *Music at the Academy*

### Musical Spring

The hits keep coming at the Academy



The Academy concert stage has been a busy place this year, with appearances by four of the current music scene's most original performers.



In a new collaboration with the Capital Region Blues Network (CRBN), the Academy hosted the Capital Region Women in Blues back in February, with Jill Burnham and Amy Ryan, Elly Winneringer subbing in for Robin

O'Herin. In March, Dennis Lichtman and Jerron "Blind Boy" Paxton brought African-American folk and blues to the Academy. Their love of the history, stories, and significance behind their music was apparent as they romped through an energetic and engaging set of acoustic blues, ragtime, Tin Pan Alley pop songs, 1920s jazz, twin fiddle hoe-downs, and original songs and compositions.

Also in March, guitarist-singer Steve Katz, a founding member



of the Blues Project, the Even Dozen Jug Band, and Blood Sweat & Tears, performed to a sold-out crowd. And in April, Rachele Garniez and Erik Della Penna offered "Sidewalks of New York: An Evening of Original and Vintage Songs About NYC."

## *in the gallery*

### Homes, Hamlets & Villages

The Spencertown Academy will host a juried art show, "Homes, Hamlets & Villages: Style and Lifestyle in Small Towns and Rural Communities," September 30-October 29.

Artists are invited to submit works that capture or are inspired by life in small towns and rural communities of the Hudson Valley, Berkshires, and surrounding areas. Subject matter may include but is not limited to: local architecture, farms, people, animals, markets, fairs, festivals, interiors, still life, vehicles, equipment and machinery, back roads, signage, or whatever else you find iconic, distinctive, or visually compelling about small town and/or rural life.

The deadline for entries is Wednesday, August 16. More information, including entry details and criteria are available at [spencertownacademy.org](http://spencertownacademy.org).

