



FENIMORE ART MUSEUM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 12, 2021**

## **NEW EXHIBITION FEATURING 80s POP ART ICON KEITH HARING OPENS MAY 29 AT FENIMORE ART MUSEUM**

**See a private collection of more than 100 works by the most  
celebrated Pop artist of the 1980's.**

**Free admission for visitors age 19 and under through the run of the  
exhibition.**

**New Exhibition:**

*KEITH HARING: RADIANT VISION*

May 29–September 6, 2021

Fenimore Art Museum, Cooperstown, NY

[FenimoreArt.org](http://FenimoreArt.org)

**Cooperstown, New York** — On Saturday, May 29, Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown opens its summer season with one of the most exciting exhibitions to arrive in upstate New York in years. *Keith Haring: Radiant Vision* (May 29–September 6, 2021) celebrates both the icon and his iconography in this energized show that introduces a new generation to Keith Haring.

Museum admission is free for visitors age 19 and under during the run of the exhibition. (Made possible through a generous donation by Mr. Gary Cassinelli and Mr. Nick Preston.)

Examine different aspects of Haring's life and career including his subway drawings and street art, gallery shows, the Pop Shop, and his commercial work. Featuring more than 100 works from a private collection, the exhibition includes lithographs, silkscreens, drawings on paper, and posters, and details the full arc of Haring's short but prolific career.

Visitors will instantly recognize seminal images like "Radiant Baby"—images that permeated American culture in the 1980s and became emblematic of the time. The images are powerful examples of how Haring fought for change using art as a platform for activism. In its entirety, the exhibition serves as a tribute to this iconic artist and his dedication to social justice and the betterment of youth worldwide.

This project is supported by a Market New York grant awarded to Fenimore Art Museum from I LOVE NY/New York State's Division of Tourism as part of the Regional Economic Development Council initiative.

The exhibition is sponsored in part by Mr. Gary Cassinelli & Mr. Nick Preston, The Clark Foundation, Nellie & Robert Gipson, Hughson & Benson Associates Insurance, Joe & Carol Mahon, NYCM Insurance, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas O. Putnam, and The Tom Morgan & Erna J. McReynolds Charitable Foundation.

*Keith Haring: Radiant Vision* is traveled by Pan Art Connections, Inc.

**SAFETY:** Fenimore Art Museum continues to follow its comprehensive COVID-19 safety plan in accordance with guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and New York State. The plan ensures all procedures and safeguards meet or exceed the recommended standards of cleanliness, social distancing and reduced contact for both visitors and staff. To maintain a safe environment for our visitors, face masks are required inside the museum for visitors age 2 and over, social distancing guidelines are stressed inside the galleries, several hand sanitizing stations are available, and staff members are given a health screening assessment each day upon arrival.

**HOURS and ADMISSION:** Fenimore Art Museum is open April 1–December 31, 2021. Summer Hours: Open daily 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Admission: \$12.00 (adults 20-64) and \$10.50 (seniors 65+). Free admission for visitors age 19 and under through the run of the exhibition. Purchase tickets at the door.

For more information, visit [FenimoreArt.org](http://FenimoreArt.org).

### **About Keith Haring**

Keith Haring (1958–1990) was arguably the most accomplished and prominent American artist of the 1980s. During the course of his brief ten-year career, Haring rewrote the rulebook for contemporary art, integrating the seemingly disparate arenas of New York City's gritty downtown counterculture and uptown art aristocracy.

Despite working in a variety of mediums—including paintings, prints, posters, drawings, sculptures, and street art—Haring’s style was instantly recognizable. Bold lines, pictographic symbols, and vibrant colors abounded in every piece he made. A friend of Andy Warhol, Haring represented the apotheosis of Pop Art, unabashedly exploring the marketing potential of his “brand” through commercial partnerships, mass market products, and even his own storefront. Yet Haring’s work went beyond commercialization by reflecting the artist’s fervent activism and democratic beliefs. He spent his career making posters, public art, and charitable commissions in support of nuclear de-escalation, civil rights, child welfare, and AIDS awareness, among other vital efforts. These causes informed his murals and massive wall paintings, leading one prominent critic to liken his work to “contemporary history paintings” chronicling the major social justice issues of the late twentieth century. Success offered Haring an “entry pass to the world” and he used it to reconnect with the public, collaborating with neighborhood kids while championing the idea that art should belong to everyone.

Keith Haring’s career may have been brief—spanning a mere ten years between his departure from art school and his untimely death—but its impact cannot be under-estimated. In one short decade, Haring managed to completely upend preconceptions about art, value, access, and activism. His art was the intersecting point for fashion, dance, music, and graphic design. Haring was enthralled by the counterculture energy in the graffiti, rap, and breakdancing scenes of the 1980s. His masterful cross-pollination of both worlds is a testament to the force of his captivating personality and creative vision. Haring helped consecrate new genres of art. Sold by galleries and exhibited by museums world-wide, his work sparked an academic and commercial appetite for street art, paving the way for celebrated successors such as Banksy, Swoon, and Shepard Fairey. At the same time, the Pop Shop influenced the market in reverse, restoring Haring’s now sought-after art to the public via affordable clothing and goods.

Perhaps most keenly felt, however, is Haring’s legacy as a humanitarian. A passionate advocate for social justice, he established the Keith Haring Foundation in 1989. Today, in his honor, the Foundation continues to fight for child welfare and lobby for care, education, and research surrounding AIDS. As Haring accurately foretold in 1987, “I’m sure when I die, I won’t really die, because I live [on] in many people.”

### **Cooperstown Mural Project**

Brooklyn artist and muralist Angel Garcia will visit Cooperstown this summer (June 28–July 3) to lead a project that tips a hat to artist Keith Haring, subject of Fenimore Art Museum’s feature exhibition, *Keith Haring: Radiant Vision*. In collaboration with the Village of Cooperstown and Fenimore, Garcia, 29, will create a mural on a wooden wall in a corner of Pioneer Park in the heart of the Village. The artwork will be inspired by Haring’s style and will include references to Cooperstown themes.

Garcia's work now includes ten public murals in New York City. He wrote that he enjoys the process of creating a design based on the community's values woven into larger themes of social justice. His murals have explored issues of justice and equity for migrants and refugees, combating racism, cultural diversity, hope, and community histories.

As a young artist growing up in New York City, Garcia noted that Keith Haring's artwork had subliminally influenced his own art practice. "Haring's 'Crack is Wack' mural in Harlem is one of the first public murals I can remember seeing when I was learning about public art. I really enjoy the way Haring used his deceptively simple visual vocabulary to tackle colossal subjects with seemingly minimal effort." His other artistic influences include muralists Diego Rivera, Jose Clemente Orozco, and David Alfaro Siqueiros. In his studio practice, Garcia is influenced by the work of contemporary painter Kerry James Marshall. Garcia earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration from the Fashion Institute of Technology and continues his work painting public murals in New York City.

The mural will become part of the Fenimore's permanent collection after the Haring exhibition closes on September 6, 2021.

## **Related Virtual Programs**

### **The Public Has a Right to Art: Keith Haring's Art & Activism**

A live Zoom lecture about Keith Haring's art and activism, led by Dr. Leesa Rittelmann.

Saturday, July 24, 2021

2:00–3:00pm EST

Foreshadowing a career devoted to art displayed outside the confines of museum and gallery walls, twenty-year-old art student Keith Haring's manifesto declared that "art is for everybody" and "the public has a right to art." Haring arrived in New York at the apex of its graffiti revolution and within ten short years transformed its cryptic, insular style into a more democratically accessible form of street art. Graphic and energetic, his Pop-inspired, radiant, crawling babies, barking dogs and flying saucers held broad public appeal but the majority of his work was created to raise awareness of social injustices like Apartheid, the Cold War, drug abuse, LGBTQ rights and the HIV/AIDS crisis.

This illustrated lecture via Zoom will address Haring's legacy as an artist whose work manifested the genre of street art as we know it today and whose activism gave voice and visibility to millions suffering from an array of under-represented social and political injustices. Special attention will be paid to works created in service of child-wellness and HIV/AIDS awareness, the two issues supported by The Haring Foundation, a philanthropic organization established by Haring in 1989.

Cost: \$9 for Museum Members, \$10 for Non-Members. This is a live Zoom lecture. An internet connection is required to attend. A link to the Zoom session will be sent to the email address used to register for the program on the morning of the lecture.

#### About the Speaker

Dr. Leesa Rittelmann is Associate Professor of Art History at SUNY Fredonia. She holds an M.A./Ph.D. in Art History from The University of Pittsburgh. Her teaching specialties include modern and contemporary art, history of photography and new media, gender studies, German and American modern art, and Black American art.

#### About Fenimore's 2021 Exhibition Season

Fenimore's summer season also includes the exhibition ***Manzanar: The Wartime Photographs of Ansel Adams*** (on view through July 25, 2021). Adams' Manzanar photographs, created in 1943, are a departure from his signature style of landscape photography and serve as documentation of the American concentration camp in California. Also on view: ***Elegant Line/Powerful Shape: Elements of Native American Art*** (on view through December 31, 2021), ***Water as Muse: Paintings by Mary Nolan*** (on view through September 12, 2021), ***Hamilton's Final Act: Enemies and Allies*** (on view through July 25, 2021), and ***Karl Bodmer: Travels in North America*** (on view through December 31, 2021).

On August 7, Fenimore presents ***Believe in Yourself: What We Learned from Arthur*** (August 7–December 31, 2021). The exhibition highlights the art of Marc Brown, the creator of the bestselling *Arthur* adventure book series and numerous other children's books. The collection will delight young visitors with an inside look at Marc's artwork and stories. Also opening on August 7 is ***Toying with the World: Works by Laurene Krasny Brown*** (August 7–December 31, 2021). Brown makes small art that sparks curiosity and invites the viewer in for a closer examination. A total of eleven exhibitions will be presented in 2021 alongside Fenimore's impressive collections of fine art, folk art, and Native American art, including The Eugene and Clare Thaw Collection of American Indian Art.

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#### 2021 EXHIBITION SCHEDULE:

##### **MANZANAR: THE WARTIME PHOTOGRAPHS OF ANSEL ADAMS**

April 1–July 25, 2021

The exhibition is presented in memory of Shizuo Tsujihara. The exhibit is on loan from Photographic Traveling Exhibits. Sponsored in part by The Clark Foundation, Nellie and Robert Gipson, NYCM Insurance, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas O. Putnam.

**ELEGANT LINE/POWERFUL SHAPE: ELEMENTS OF NATIVE AMERICAN ART**

April 1–December 31, 2021

**WATER AS MUSE: PAINTINGS BY MARY NOLAN**

April 1–September 12, 2021

**HAMILTON'S FINAL ACT: ENEMIES AND ALLIES**

April 1–July 25, 2021

The exhibition is sponsored in part by Thomas and Christine Berk, and Joe and Carol Mahon.

**KARL BODMER: TRAVELS IN NORTH AMERICA**

April 1–December 31, 2021

Sponsored in part by Nellie and Robert Gipson.

**BELIEVE IN YOURSELF: WHAT WE LEARNED FROM ARTHUR**

August 7–December 31, 2021

Sponsored in part by Nellie and Robert Gipson.

**TOYING WITH THE WORLD: WORKS BY LAURENE KRASNY BROWN**

August 7–December 31, 2021

**ONGOING EXHIBITIONS:**

**Eugene and Clare Thaw Collection of American Indian Art**

Thaw Gallery and Great Hall

**The Coopers of Cooperstown**

Cooper Room

**Fine Art from the Permanent Collection**

American Painting Gallery

**American Memory: Recalling the Past in Folk Art**

Main Gallery

### **About Fenimore Art Museum**

Fenimore Art Museum, located on the shores of Otsego Lake—James Fenimore Cooper’s “Glimmerglass”—in historic Cooperstown, New York, features a wide-ranging collection of American art including folk art; important American 18th- and 19th-century landscape, genre, and portrait paintings; more than 125,000 historic photographs representing the technical developments made in photography and providing extensive visual documentation of the region’s unique history; and the renowned Eugene and Clare Thaw Collection of American Indian Art comprised of nearly 900 art objects representative of a broad geographic range of North American Indian cultures, from the Northwest Coast, Eastern Woodlands, Plains, Southwest, Great Lakes, and Prairie regions. Visit [FenimoreArt.org](http://FenimoreArt.org).

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### **Images and Credit Lines Links:**

#### **Keith Haring Exhibition**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/c63nwcibdp7r5df/AADdeUKhh7y00DcRLMc18oiQa?dl=0>

#### **Fenimore Art Museum**

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/w8q2w93uq0zjl2w/AAafvl0JdrrAf\\_X0vPDq0Q6ma?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/w8q2w93uq0zjl2w/AAafvl0JdrrAf_X0vPDq0Q6ma?dl=0)

### **For additional information please contact:**

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