FENIMORE
ART MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fenimore Art Museum to Exhibit Notre-Dame Cathedral Truss as Part of Handshouse Studio's Notre-Dame Project

Community Invited to Witness 'Raising' of Truss on June 24, 2025

COOPERSTOWN, NY:

Fenimore Art Museum is proud to present a remarkable cultural and educational installation: a full-scale replica of Truss No. 6 from the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris. The ceremonial 'raising' of the truss will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday, June 24, 2025, and the truss will remain on public view on the museum's back lawn overlooking Otsego Lake through September 8, 2025.

This powerful installation is part of the Handshouse Studio: Notre-Dame Project, created in the wake of the 2019 fire that destroyed the roof of Notre-Dame de Paris. In a gesture of global solidarity, Massachusetts-based Handshouse Studio launched the initiative to reconstruct one of the cathedral's medieval trusses using traditional methods.
With access to the hand-drawn survey of Notre-Dame's timber roof structure by Rémi Fromont, France's Chief Architect of Historic Monuments, Handshouse brought together historians, traditional carpenters, students, and preservationists to authentically reconstruct Choir Truss No. 6. The truss has since been exhibited at significant sites across the United States, including the National Mall in Washington, DC, and the Millennium Gate Museum in Atlanta, GA.

The replica truss on display at Fenimore Art Museum was built using historically accurate tools and methods by a collaborative team that included Central New York native Jackson DuBois, Executive Director of the Timber Framers Guild, and Michael Burrey, a renowned preservation carpenter and instructor at North Bennet Street School in Boston. Both artisans were later invited to France to contribute to the official reconstruction of the Notre-Dame spire, joining the French team at Asselin Inc.

"It has been an incredible honor to be able to take part in this amazing endeavor," DuBois said. "The rebuilding of Notre-Dame de Paris is not only a physical restoration but also a

symbol of resilience, cultural preservation, and collective efforts to save an iconic landmark. Representing the timber framing community in this work has been an absolute privilege and has come with a deep sense of pride."

Fenimore Art Museum President and CEO Paul S. D'Ambrosio remarked, "We are honored to display this magnificent example of craftsmanship and cultural exchange. It brings to life a historic architectural tradition while reminding us of our shared global heritage."

The Handshouse full-scale truss installation, along with a 1:10 scale model of the medieval roof structure of Notre-Dame are on exhibition at the Fenimore Art Museum by the generous sponsorship of the Fernleigh Foundation and Nellie and Robert Gipson.

For more details about the 'raising' of the truss on June 24th and other events and programs available at the Fenimore Art Museum, visit us at: FenimoreArt.org and follow us on social media. The Fenimore Art Museum summer hours are: open daily from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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About Fenimore Art Museum Fenimore Art Museum, located on the shores of Otsego Lake—James Fenimore Cooper's "Glimmerglass"—in historic Cooperstown, New York, presents changing exhibitions each season. Past shows have featured artists such as Keith Haring, Ansel Adams, Banksy, M.C. Escher, and many others. The museum features a wide-ranging collection of American art including folk art; important American 18th- and 19th-century landscape, genre, and portrait paintings from artists including Albert Bierstadt, Mary Cassatt, William Merritt Chase, Frederic Edwin Church, Childe Hassam, Martin Johnson Heade, Robert Henri, George Inness, Eastman Johnson, Joshua Johnson, Thomas Moran, Georgia O'Keeffe, Maurice Prendergast, John Singer Sargent, Max Weber, and James McNeill Whistler; 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.

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2025 EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

Boundless Spirit: American Folk Art at the Fenimore Art Museum
April 1 – December 31, 2025

American Masterworks
April 1 – December 31, 2025

Emily Pettigrew: Painting in the Catskills 2021-2025
April 1 – August 24, 2025

Snapshot: Highlights of the Plowline Collection
April 1 – September 21, 2025

Mary Cassatt / Berthe Morisot: Allies in Impressionism
May 24 – September 1, 2025

The Power of Photography: 19th-20th Century Original Master Prints
May 24 – September 1, 2025

Exploring Calvin and Hobbes
September 13 – December 31, 2025

Romare Bearden: Artist-Activist-Visionary
September 27 – December 31, 2025

Looking Back: Fritz Vogt's Drawings at 125
October 4 -December 31, 2025

ONGOING EXHIBITIONS

The Thaw Collection of American Indian Art
American Memory: Recalling the Past in Folk Art