

FENIMORE

ART MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 10, 2026

Masterwork Reimagined

Experience the New American Masterworks Gallery at Fenimore Art Museum

Cooperstown, NY: Fenimore Art Museum is proud to announce the opening of its new American Masterworks Gallery, a reimagined, state-of-the-art exhibition space designed to showcase the museum's collections, including the recently acquired American Masterworks Collection, opening to the public on Saturday, September 26th.

In 2023 and 2024, a landmark gift from the Eugene V. and Clare E. Thaw Charitable Trust enhanced Fenimore Art Museum's permanent collection. With a generous \$33.8 million donation, the museum acquired 27 exceptional works, significantly deepening and broadening its holdings of American art. This remarkable group features artists whose contributions define the trajectory of American painting, including Albert Bierstadt, Mary Cassatt, William Merritt Chase, Frederic Edwin Church, Childe Hassam, Martin Johnson Heade, Robert Henri, George Inness, Eastman Johnson, Thomas Moran, Georgia O'Keeffe, John Singer Sargent, Max Weber, and James McNeill Whistler, among others.

The American Masterworks Gallery will unite the museum's distinguished holdings of American art, including works generously donated by Stephen C. Clark during his lifetime and following his death in 1960, with the newly acquired Masterworks Collection. Together, these collections will offer visitors a richer, more cohesive narrative of American artistic achievement.

Paul D'Ambrosio, Fenimore Art Museum's President and CEO, has led the project and shaped the vision of the American Masterworks Gallery. He says, *"For the first time we will have a gallery that shows the broad story of American art from 1800-1930, mixing fine art, folk art, and Native American art. It will be a way for visitors to see who we are as a museum and these collections that are unique to us."* This labor of love is a culmination of Dr. D'Ambrosio's career, as his retirement (previously announced in November 2025) will officially take place on September 27th. As President Emeritus, he will have continued involvement with Fenimore Art Museum and the American Masterworks Gallery.

This new gallery is a major renovation of the museum's former Main Gallery, which most recently housed a portion of the museum's folk art collection. The project has included essential infrastructure improvements, like replacing the HVAC chiller system that ensures stable climate control, an essential component in preserving works of

art. The new gallery also has vapor-barrier interior walls, energy-efficient windows, updated lighting, new flooring, and enhanced security and safety systems.

Visitors will encounter not only extraordinary works of art, but also a thoughtfully designed environment that enhances their experience and deepens their understanding. This project ensures that the museum's American art collection - now stronger than ever - will continue to inspire generations to come.

The American Masterworks Gallery is supported by generous donations from The Clark Foundation, Jacqueline Badger Mars, Eugene V. and Clare E. Thaw Charitable Trust, Fernleigh Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas O. Putnam, Robert and Esther Black Family Foundation, Van Broughton Ramsey and Robert Nelson, Richland County Foundation – Black Family Fund, among others.

The American Masterworks Gallery will open to the public on Saturday, September 26th. Fenimore Art Museum is open through December 31st, Tuesday through Sunday from 10am - 4pm. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at: www.fenimoreart.org or at the door.

Media Contact:
Kerri Green,
Director of Marketing & Communications
(607) 547-1472 | pr@fenimoreart.org

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.

Fall 2026 Highlights

- Tranquility and Turbulence: Reflections on the Land (Oct 10 – Dec 31)
- Janet Munro: A Life in Paint (Sept 26 – Dec 31)
- 10th Members' Showcase (Sept 19 – Dec 31)
- Faded Elegance: Portraits of Havana (Apr 1 – Dec 31)
- Contemporary Women Artists (Apr 1 – Dec 31)