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CHURCH IN JAMAICA

Olana State Historic Site is the 250-acre landscape and Persian-inspired home designed by the Hudson River School painter Frederic Edwin Church (1826-1900). On view there this summer (June 6-October 31) is the exhibition *Fern Hunting among These Picturesque Mountains: Frederic Edwin Church in Jamaica*.

In 1865, still mourning the loss of their two young children, the artist and his wife Isabel journeyed to Jamaica, where he made oil sketches and drawings and she collected ferns. Co-curated by Evelyn D. Trebilcock and Valerie A. Balint, this project includes five works never before exhibited and reveals Church's use of his photographs collection as an aide-mémoire and basis for sketching. The curators were thrilled to "discover" in Olana's collection a misplaced painting, tentatively attributed to the English botanical artist Marianne North (1830-1890). Appropriately, the Olana Partnership is now restoring Isabel Church's fern bed, based on historic photographs of it.

Information: Olana State Historic Site, 5720 Route 9G, Hudson, NY 12534, 518.828.0135, <http://www.olana.org/>

Image:

Frederic Edwin Church (1826-1900)

The After Glow

Before November 1867, Oil on canvas, 31 ¼ x 48 ¾ in.

Olana State Historic Site, New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic