



Dear Supporter,

On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Frederic Church's birth, The Olana Partnership is thrilled to announce that the 2026 Frederic Church Awards will be held on April 22, 2026 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. This year's honorees are **Victoria Johnson**, a Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award finalist, who has written the first biography of Frederic Church being published this May, and **Jeffrey Gibson**, one of the country's foremost contemporary artists, who, like Church, has brought American art to a global audience and makes the Hudson Valley his home.

We will also honor a group of Olana Champions – **Stephen Clearman, Margaret Davidson, Phoebe Gubelmann, Belinda Kaye, Susan Livingston, Richard McCarthy, and Susan Winokur**. Together, these individuals have given 200 years of service and support to The Olana Partnership's work at Olana. We will also present a special tribute to the preservation leaders who saved Olana in the 1960s: **David Huntington, Jackie Kennedy, and Audrey & Stephen Currier**.

We invite you to join us in celebrating our esteemed honorees by becoming a Frederic Church Awards benefactor. To be listed on the printed invitation, please respond by March 9th.

Frederic Church was a founding trustee of Metropolitan and played a critical role throughout its first three decades. He was a principal advocate for making it a truly global museum, and, while he never pushed for the museum to acquire his own work, its prominence within contemporary collections ensured that he would be well-represented on its walls. Today his paintings anchor the central space of the American Wing's painting galleries.

In Church's bicentennial year it is most fitting that we will hold the 26th annual Frederic Church Awards at The Metropolitan Museum. We will welcome guests in the Great Hall and sit for dinner at the Temple of Dendur, a location richly emblematic of Church's global vision of the museum.

We hope that you will join us in honoring these extraordinary individuals and supporting Olana's future. Should you have any questions, please contact Sean Sawyer directly at ssawyer@olana.org or (518) 751-8009.

Sincerely,

Sean E. Sawyer, Ph.D.
Washburn & Susan Oberwager President

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Board of Trustees

Robin M. Key
Co-Chair,
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2026 FREDERIC CHURCH AWARD HONOREES



Photo by Brian Barlow

ARTIST: JEFFREY GIBSON is an interdisciplinary artist, curator, and convener celebrated for his work in painting, installation, video, and performance. For over two decades, he has examined how language, pattern, and music construct meaning, synthesizing Indigenous and Western traditions through vibrant color, complex patterning, and layered sound. A member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and of Cherokee descent, Gibson represented the U.S. at the 2024 Venice Biennale with his acclaimed exhibition *the space in which to place me*, which made its U.S. debut at *The Broad* in Los Angeles in May 2025. In June 2025 he unveiled a site-specific installation at *Kunsthaus Zurich*. Gibson was selected for The Metropolitan Museum's 2025 Genesis Facade Commission and will present new work for the historic exterior this September. His work is held in major collections including MoMA, the Whitney, and the National Gallery of Art. He lives in New York's Hudson Valley and is artist-in-residence at Bard College.



Photo by Shelley Thomas

AUTHOR: VICTORIA JOHNSON is the author of three books, including the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award finalist *American Eden: David Hosack, Botany, and Medicine in the Garden of the Early Republic*.

She is a professor of urban policy and planning at Hunter College in New York City and holds a doctorate in sociology from Columbia University and an undergraduate degree in philosophy from Yale.

Johnson's latest book, *Glorious Country: How the Artist Frederic Church Brought the World to America and America to the World*, is the first-ever biography of Frederic Church (1826-1900), the virtuosic painter who put American art on the map of the world.



Photo by Peter Aaron/OTTO

OLANA CHAMPIONS

STEPHEN CLEARMAN

MARGARET DAVIDSON

PHOEBE GUBELMANN

BELINDA KAYE

SUSAN LIVINGSTON

RICHARD MCCARTHY

SUSAN WINOKUR

We will also present a special tribute to the preservation leaders who saved Olana in the 1960s

DAVID HUNTINGTON, JACKIE KENNEDY, and AUDREY & STEPHEN CURRIER

Frederic Church Award Recipients

2000 – 2025

Leon Botstein
Sheila Bridges
Elizabeth Broun
Bernadette Castro
Sarah D. Coffin
E. Virgil Conway
John Cronin
Gov. Andrew Cuomo's NY Parks 2020
Lynn Davis
Janet S. Dicke
Dr. Linda S. Ferber
Jim Hamilton
Stephen Hannock
David Hartt
Eleanor Jones Harvey
Rose Harvey
Barbara Haskell
Morrison Heckscher
Jazz Johnson-Merton
Meredith Kane
Franklin Kelly
Elizabeth Mankin Kornhauser
Washburn and Susan Oberwager
Laurie Olin, FASLA
Peter Pennoyer
Patricia Phelps de Cisneros
Martin Puryear
Bradford Race, Jr.
David Redden
Katie Ridder
The Cultural Legacy of Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller
Susan and David Rockefeller
Jason Rosenfeld, Ph.D.
David Schuyler
Jean Shin
Martha Stewart
Kay Toll
Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky
Alice Walton
Jonathan Westervelt Warner
Kelly M. Williams
John Wilmerding
Thomas L. Woltz

26th Annual Frederic Church Awards

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 | The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City

PLEASE NOTE:

All those responding by March 9 with a commitment of \$5,000 or more will be listed on the formal invitation.

TABLES

Frederic Church 200 Circle at \$100,000

- 1 premiere placement table of 12
- Frederic Church Circle listing as Honorary Co-Chair online and in all printed and digital materials
- Optional digital advertisement during the event
- Special mention from the podium
- One-year Church Family Circle membership to The Olana Partnership with all associated benefits.

Global Artist Circle at \$50,000

- 1 premiere placement table of 10
- Bell Tower Circle listing as Honorary Committee member online and in all printed materials.
- Option to host up to two scholars or artists at your table (included in the 10)
- Optional digital advertisement during the event
- One-year Bell Tower Circle membership to The Olana Partnership with all associated benefits.

Olana Circle at \$20,000

- 1 table of 10
- Court Hall Circle listing online and in all printed and digital materials
- One-year Court Hall Circle membership to The Olana Partnership with all associated benefits.

TICKETS

(Please indicate number requested)

\$8,000: **Preservation Benefactor**—two preferred seating tickets, listing online and in all printed materials, Crown Hill Circle membership to The Olana Partnership with all associated benefits.

\$5,000: **Hudson River Benefactor**—two tickets, listing online and in all printed materials, Crown Hill Circle membership to The Olana Partnership with all associated benefits.

\$2,500: **Individual Supporter**—one ticket, Studio Circle membership to The Olana Partnership with all associated benefits.

I/We are unable to attend, enclosed is a tax-deductible contribution of \$_____ to support The Olana Partnership's mission to inspire the public by preserving and interpreting Frederic Church's Olana.

DIGITAL ADVERTISING

Promote your business or send a message to the honorees in a full-color digital advertisement. This opportunity garners access to an important and influential audience while celebrating this year's extraordinary event.

I/We would like to contribute \$1,500 for a digital ad

Please complete all fields on reverse side...

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PLEASE COMPLETE ALL FIELDS:

Name (As you wish to be listed in all materials. **Deadline to be listed in the invitation is March 9.**)

Contact Name (if different)

Company

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

Enclosed is my/our check for \$ _____

Please make checks payable to **The Olana Partnership**

Mail to:

The Olana Partnership, PO Box 199, Hudson, NY 12534-0199

We encourage you to make your gift by check or by transfer of securities or ACH. We charge a 3% processing fee for credit card transactions.

Please charge my/our credit card: American Express MasterCard Visa

Card Number

Expiration Date

Security Code

Amount

Signature

I would like to send additional Awards information to friends and/or colleagues.

Please contact me at _____.

For further information, please call Matt Moment at The Olana Partnership at 518-751-0335 or email mmoment@olana.org.

Many companies offer Matching Gift Programs that can increase your gift. Please inquire with your employer and submit a Matching Gift form with your contribution. To make your gift via stock transfer, call Matt Moment at The Olana Partnership at 518-751-0335.

For tax purposes, \$300/\$3,000 per ticket/table is non-deductible. Contributions and journal ads are wholly deductible as provided by law. Journal advertisers do not receive Benefactor benefits.

The Olana Partnership is a charitable tax-exempt organization pursuant to Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. (tax ID# 14-1828430). For a copy of the Annual Report, please visit OLANA.org