



PO Box 199
Hudson, NY 12534-0199
518-828-1872
OLANA.org

Media Contact:
Melanie Hasbrook
Director of Advancement and Marketing
518-751-6879
mhasbrook@olana.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Olana Partnership to Host Talk Featuring Petra, a Wonder of the World and World Heritage Site

HUDSON, NY – The Olana Partnership is pleased to host *The Travelers and Excavations of Ancient Petra*, a discussion revolving around one of the New Seven Wonders of the World and the site of one of Frederic Church's best-known paintings.

Join Professor Pearce Paul Creasman on Saturday, October 11 from 5-6pm for a discussion of the ancient travelers who helped bring this extraordinary site to the contemporary world's attention as well as an exploration of the recent archaeological work shaping an understanding of Petra's history and impact.

"While The Olana Partnership often highlights Church's travels to Petra in tours and programming, I'm looking forward to being joined by Dr. Creasman who will provide rich archaeological and historical context for this important site during his informative talk" said Carolyn Keogh, The Olana Partnership's Director of Education and Public Programming.

Nestled in the rose-red sandstone cliffs and surrounded by the deserts of what is today southern Jordan, the archaeological site of Petra is one of humanity's greatest architectural accomplishments. Hewn from canyon walls, the rock-cut city thrived for centuries as the capital of the ancient Nabataean people. Most often recognized by The Treasury, an enigmatic but stunning structure Frederic Church captured in his 1874 painting, *El Khasné, Petra*, the city sprawled for miles.

Professor Creasman serves as executive director of the American Center of Research in Amman, Jordan. His research focuses on the heritage, archaeology, and environment of the Middle East and North Africa. With more than 100 publications to his credit, Dr. Creasman has been recognized for his work by several institutions including: the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy, as a fellow of The Explorer's Club, and he was honored as a "Genius" in National Geographic's 2021 almanac. His most recent excavations are of the Treasury in Petra (Jordan) and the pyramids of Nuri (Sudan), both UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

This program is \$20 per person (\$15 for members of The Olana Partnership), takes place at the Frederic Church Center for Art and Landscape. Refreshments to follow. Advanced registration required. Please contact education@olana.org or visit OLANA.org to learn more.

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About Olana and The Olana Partnership: Olana is the greatest masterwork of Frederic Edwin Church (1826-1900), the most famous American landscape artist of the mid-19th century and the most important artist's home, studio, and designed landscape in the United States. Church designed Olana as a holistic environment integrating his advanced ideas about art, architecture, landscape design, and environmental conservation. Olana's 250-acre artist-designed landscape with five miles of carriage roads and a Persian-inspired house at its summit embraces unrivaled panoramic views of the Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains and welcomes more than 170,000 visitors annually. The landscape and house are open for guided touring, and reservations are highly recommended. The park is open daily from 8:00 A.M. to sunset.

Olana State Historic Site, administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, is a designated National Historic Landmark and one of the most visited sites in the state. The Olana Partnership is the

501(c)(3) not-for-profit cooperative partner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation at Olana State Historic Site.



Credit Peter Aaron/OTTO