

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Images available upon request.

**“SEASONS at Hancock Shaker Village: A Painting Exhibition”
featuring Berkshire-based artists Marge Bride, Mike Cohen, Ivor Parry, and Scott Taylor**

Pittsfield, Mass.— “SEASONS at Hancock Shaker Village: a Painting Exhibition” featuring Berkshire-based artists Marguerite Bride, Mike Cohen, Ivor Parry, and Scott Taylor will open in the Poultry House Gallery on Friday, August 31 with a reception from 5:00pm to 7:00pm and run through Sunday, October 28 daily from 10:00am to 5:00pm. The artists will also give a gallery talk about how the aesthetic beauty of the Village inspired their paintings as part of the Village’s Return and Learn series on Saturday, September 8 at 2:00pm. Return and Learn sessions are free to HSV members and included with general admission. For more information or to make reservations for the exhibition opening reception, call 800.817.1137. The exhibition may be previewed online at www.hancockshakervillage.org.

Marge Bride, Mike Cohen, Ivor Parry, and Scott Taylor spent a year painting scenes while onsite at Hancock Shaker Village—from the Round Stone Barn in the winter to the baby animals in the spring. Concepts from Shaker philosophy and culture also helped to inform the paintings, leading to some unusual compilations from artist Ivor Parry, such as an oil painting of Mother Ann’s emigration from Manchester England and depictions of sheep and pigs balanced on the Shaker-invented flat broom. The artists work in a variety of mediums, including watercolor, acrylics, and oil. Proceeds from the sale of these paintings will help support Village programming.

“This is ambitious, colorful, and thoughtful work,” notes Linda Steigleder, president of Hancock Shaker Village. “These artists have mined historical details about the Shakers at Hancock and responded to unique physical Village features, in such a way that will open the eyes of all who view the exhibition. I have been moved by the paintings and artworks produced by this group of four artists and feel sure that our visitors will be emotionally engaged as well.”

Marge Bride lives in Lenox, Mass. Her training includes study at Worcester Art Museum, Interlaken School of Art, and the visual arts program at Berkshire Community College. A frequent exhibitor in art

shows and festivals throughout New England and nearby New York, she also accepts private commissions, with an emphasis on house portraits. She has spent the last couple of years capturing the beauty and serenity of all seasons of New England in her paintings.

Michael Cohen lives in New Lebanon, New York. He is a graduate of the School of Visual Arts in New York City and the B.F.A. program at Queens College, New York. While many of his paintings are landscapes, they all have to do with the passage of time and moments in time.

Ivor Parry lives in Hinsdale, Mass. A graduate of the Pratt Institute, he paints on canvas, wood, MDF board, and heavy watercolor paper with oil and acrylic paints, charcoal, pencil, and watercolor. He starts with a line, a swish of paint on a brush, color, or blocking out random geometric and irregular shapes, that nudge him in a direction that keeps developing as he paints.

Scott Taylor lives in Pittsfield, Mass. Known for his signature use of vibrant color and his energetic brushwork, his paintings have been exhibited in galleries in Lenox, Pittsfield, and Torrington, Conn. He especially loves old barns and other unique buildings (lighthouses, cottages, and the like) and endeavors to depict the emotion and history contained within their structures.

About Hancock Shaker Village

Hancock Shaker Village, the Shaker “City of Peace,” brings the Shaker story to life and preserves it for future generations. The Village portrays principled living, as embodied in the faith-based values of the Shakers – equality, community, sustainability, and responsible land stewardship of their resources—values that resonate today.

Hancock Shaker Village members and children 12 and under are admitted free of charge. Admission for adults is \$17 and youth visitors aged 13 to 17 are \$8.

Hancock Shaker Village is located on Route 20 in Pittsfield, Mass., just west of the junction of Routes 20 and 41. For GPS purposes, the Village is located at 34 Lebanon Mountain Rd., Hancock, Mass. 01237. Or, enter 1843 W. Housatonic St., Pittsfield, Mass. 01201 then proceed 1/2 mile further West on Rt. 20 to the parking lot.

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