



Historic Artists' Homes & Studios

Moran Studio Celebrates Restorations, New Stewardship

EAST HAMPTON VILLAGE, N.Y. — A five-year restoration project has recently been completed at the home and garden belonging to American artists Thomas and Mary Nimmo Moran. In addition, the East Hampton Historical Society has assumed stewardship of the Moran Studio and celebrated the opening of the Moran Studio exhibition with a reception on July 6. Located on East Hampton's Main Street Historic District and a registered National Historic Landmark, the Moran Studio is widely recognized as one of the first stand-alone artist's studios built on the East End of Long Island.

Created in 1884, across from swan-filled Town Pond, this house, its garden and contents will open the eyes of visitors into the world of one of America's power art couples: Thomas Moran, known for his awe-inspiring Western landscapes, which were pivotal in the founding of the National Parks, and his wife, Mary Nimmo Moran, an internationally known etcher, innovator and master of the medium.

The inaugural exhibitions comprise several galleries in Moran Studio. The main studio room will present an introduction into the life and works of both Morans. Using state-of-the-art museum wizardry, the "World of Moran" will come alive with video, artifacts and artworks — from glorious oils by both Thomas and Mary Nimmo Moran, early photographs, exotic original furnishings and textiles. There will also be a small orientation theatre and touch-



The Thomas Moran & Mary Nimmo Moran Studio.

screen overviews, all within the Moran's impressive two-story high, light-filled painting room.

In addition, a special exhibition, "Acid & Ink: The Etchings of Thomas & Mary Nimmo Moran," will cover the walls of the balcony and gallery space behind the main studio room. Selected from museums, libraries and private collectors, more than 50 original prints will create a visual record of the places the Morans loved most. From the hills of New Jersey, the wilderness of the Delaware Water Gap,

the monumental Rockies to East Hampton's own Hook Pond, this is a rare opportunity to see these exceptional and beautifully detailed images.

Under the stewardship of the East Hampton Historical Society, the Moran Studio will once again become a beacon of art and culture — as it was in its heyday — a site that serves the community, educates and enlightens through interpretive exhibitions. The studio and recreated Nineteenth Century garden invoke not only the spirits of both Thomas and Mary Nimmo Moran but create a bridge between the founding members of the East End summer artist colony with today's contemporary and emerging young art community.

In 1884, the landscape painter Thomas Moran and his wife, Mary Nimmo Moran, a noted printmaker, and their children moved into their new studio and house that Moran himself designed on East Hampton's historical Main Street. The Studio, as it has been known since the Moran family first occupied it, comprises Thomas Moran's studio and the rooms they lived in, as well as the gardens and outbuildings.

In 1965, the Thomas Moran Studio became one of the first National Historic Landmarks in America — the highest recognition accorded by the Department of the Interior to the nation's most historically significant properties.

The Moran Studio is at 229 Main Street. For information, 631-324-6850 or www.easthamptonhistory.org.

Nakashima Studio Steward Gets Governor's Arts Award

NEW HOPE, PENN. — Mira Nakashima, the director and custodian of the George Nakashima Woodworker studio and property, was one of five artists to earn the Governor's Award for the Arts from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the only one to be honored with a Lifetime Achievement in the Arts award. The prestigious awards honor the state's artists, arts organizations and cultural leaders and will be awarded in a ceremony on August 8, in Scranton, Penn.

The daughter of renowned furniture maker George Nakashima, Mira is highly

regarded "for her unparalleled knowledge and mastery of wood," said the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, in naming her among the five winners of the prestigious Governor's Awards for the Arts.

The George Nakashima Studio complex was developed by Nakashima between 1946 and 1985. The buildings and structures generally reflect the International Style with some also possessing traditional Japanese influences. All of the nearly 20 buildings were designed by George Nakashima, who also oversaw the construction of most of the buildings. While several buildings

are Nakashima family residences, eight buildings are open for tours, including the Conoid Studio and the Arts Building.

Mira studied under her father for many years before his death in 1990. With two architectural degrees, she slowly expanded the Solebury-based studio to include her own designs and grew the business. On April 22, 2014, the George Nakashima Woodworker complex was designated a National Historic Landmark.

The George Nakashima studio is at 1847 Aquetong Road. For information, 215-862-2272 or www.nakashimafoundation.org.



Interior, Conoid Studio, Nakashima Studio complex, Architect: George Nakashima, New Hope Penn. Courtesy of George Nakashima Woodworker, S.A., New Hope, Penn.

Chaim Gross Historic Artist Home & Studio Completes Restorations

NEW YORK CITY — The National Trust for Historic Preservation announced earlier this year that the Greenwich Village home and studio of sculptor and arts educator Chaim Gross (1904–1991) has been accepted into its Historic Artists' Homes and Studios program.

On May 10, the Renee and Chaim Gross Foundation welcomed more than 100 visitors for a special reception to celebrate the reopening of Chaim Gross's historic sculpture studio. The studio had been partially closed since summer 2017 when water

infiltration at the base of the skylight threatened to damage the sculptures, tools and materials housed below, as well as Gross's original end-grain wood floor. The project was generously supported by an Emergency Preservation Grant from the New York Landmarks Conservancy and a Historic Preservation Grant from the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission. The foundation's goal was to restore the 1963 sculpture studio skylight in the artist's home in Greenwich Village, preserving one of the last

historic artist's studios in New York City.

Gross and his wife Renee purchased the 1873 property in 1962 and in 1963 renovated and expanded the existing ground-floor studio space with a new skylight and floor. Gross actively used the studio for almost 30 years until his death in 1991. The foundation has taken care to preserve both the studio and the living spaces that feature Gross's extensive art collection on the upper floors to educate the public about the life and work of one of America's most important sculptors. The space tells a narrative about the history of American art from an artist's point of view — a story uniquely Gross's.

This project restored the large, 36-panel skylight, replacing the damaged glass with UV laminate glass. Before the work, water infiltration was visible at the base of the skylight and on the side walls next to the skylight. Repairs included work to the skylight itself and areas damaged by the leaking.

The Chaim Gross Studio is at 526 LaGuardia Place. For more information, 212-529-4906 or www.rcgrossfoundation.org.



Interior, Chaim Gross studio, courtesy The Renee and Chaim Gross Foundation.



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