

# John Van Alstine: Portrait of the Artist at his Peak



A: John Van Alstine at his studio in Wells, NY. B. Kylos. C: Ara 1.

from page 13

and broke. I took two of the pieces, put them together, placing them in tension with one another. That was the hinge moment," said Van Alstine.

He continues, "I began using stone in a way different from other sculptors: as found objects, to be assembled within a new context. I never went back to carving."

### RETURN TO THE ADIRONDACKS

Van Alstine grew up in the foothills of the Adirondacks, and a career that included stints teaching out west and life in urban areas, chosen for their proximity to galleries, patrons and curators, ultimately brought him back to the Adirondacks.

(Van Alstine's career is documented in "John Van Alstine: Sculpture 1971-2018," published in 2019. The opening of "Transformations" was scheduled to coincide with the release of the book. Because of COVID-19, the exhibition was postponed until 2022. The book, however, "still goes with the exhibition," says Van Alstine, and is available for purchase at The Hyde.)

A 1985 fellowship at Yaddo, the arts colony in Saratoga Springs, opened him to the gravitational pull that the Adirondacks still exercised

upon his spirit, and he and his wife, the sculptor Caroline Ramersdorfer, found just the right place in the Hamilton County town of Wells.

There, they purchased and renovated an old lumber yard, turning its nine acres into a compound of living and work spaces.

### THE SCULPTOR AS SISYPHUS

Four of the 63 pieces in "Transformations" refer to the myth of Sisyphus, the King of Corinth who, for various misdeeds, was condemned in Hades to roll to the top of the hill a large stone, which, when it reached the summit, rolled down again, so that his punishment was eternal.

"I've made more than a hundred "Sisyphus" sculptures; the series is a self-portrait," said Van Alstine. "Like Sisyphus pushing the stone to the top of the mountain, I'm literally moving stone. Metaphorically, I'm pushing my art to a creative peak. But once a sculpture is finished and I come back down, I start over. I never stop. But Albert Camus wrote, you should imagine Sisyphus as happy. It's not punishment. It's just the creative process."

### THE HYDE COLLECTON

The Hyde Collection, which is located at 161 Warren Street in downtown Glens Falls, is open Thursday through Monday, 10 am-5 pm, through September 5. Open Thursday through Sunday thereafter. For information, call 518-782-1761.



### Last of the Mohicans: Interactive Movie Screening at FWH Museum

The Fort William Henry Museum will present an interactive viewing of *Last of the Mohicans* (1992), starring Daniel Day Lewis, on Friday, August 26; doors open at 7pm and the movie begins at sunset.

While guests watch the movie under the stars, reenactors will bring the film to life – attacks on the English troops, musket fire and the roar of the cannon will put you in the heart of the action.

Bring a folding chair and dress for a cool evening. Rain date is August 27th. Tickets may be purchased at <https://www.fwhmuseum.com/events>.

**North County Eatery**  
 Not Bolton, but Still Hometown!  
 7 am to 2 pm every day ■ Friday 7 am to 7 pm  
 Homemade Soups & Salads ■ Breakfast All Day  
 Takeout Available ■ Visit Facebook for Weekly Specials

**NORTH COUNTY EATERY**  
 518-803-4040  
 6254 State Rte.9  
 Chestertown, NY

**SHERWOOD GROUP**  
 Over 50 years experience selling Lake George real estate!  
 (518) 668-9500

**Featured Property**  
**Hiawatha Island**  
 Private Island minutes to Bolton Landing. Deeded main land parking and dock slip for convenient access. Historical site features a unique duplex, enclosed boat house with two slips, swimming and kayak docks. **ONE OF A KIND!!!**

**BOLTON** - Contemporary hide-away 3BD/3BA, 2,700 sqft on 3.61 ac, 3 car garage. \$897,000 mls # 202217857

**PUTNAM STATION** - Adorable 3 season cottage. .12 ac. 660 sqft. 3BD/1BR mls # 202224309

**DRESDEN** - .65 ac lot. 291 ft of lake front on the shores of Lake George. \$1,200,000 mls # 2022101109

**BOLTON** - 3.02 ac with long lake and mountain views.. Build your ADK dream house.. \$209,000 mls # 202214687

**CLEVERDALE** - Western exposure 28 ac. existing lakeside deck and 24 ft dock. \$459,000 mls # 202215563

**ASSEMBLY POINT** - East side year round get-away. 2BD/1BR 720 sqft. 16 ac. \$450,000 mls # 202223657

**Bolton** - Lot 18.55 ac Endless views. Engineering site plan & survey completed mls # 202224698

**LAKE GEORGE** - Charming turn key home. 3BD/2BR 1,208 sqft on .73 ac. \$359,000 mls # 20222092

**WWW.SHERWOODGROUPNY.COM**