



NEW JERSEY
HIGHLANDS
COALITION

CONTACTS:

NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS COALITION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Donna Compton, Exhibit Producer/Curator 973-910-2400

Elliott Ruga, Policy & Communications Director, New Jersey Highlands Coalition

Farming: An Essential Character of the Highlands

Fine Art & Photography of the Highlands Farmlands

Two Galleries, Two Shows, One Theme

Maxfield Gallery at the Historic Maxfield Engine House

713 Main Street

Boonton, NJ

August 7 to August 30, 2026

Reception: Friday, August 7, 2026 5:00PM to 8:00 p.m.

The Farmstead Arts Center

450 King George Rd

Basking Ridge, NJ

August 8 to September 6

Reception: Saturday, August 8, 2026, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The New Jersey Highlands Coalition presents simultaneous exhibits of art and photography at two galleries sharing the theme of ***Farming: An Essential Character of the Highlands***.

"We are featuring Highlands agriculture this month because farming has always been vital to the Highlands economy, intrinsic to the Highlands culture and identity and a defining feature of the Highlands landscape," said Elliott Ruga, Policy and Communications Director at the New Jersey Highlands Coalition, which sponsors art and photography exhibits throughout the year, including the Annual Highlands Juried Art Exhibit, which for its 13th year will be held at the Atrium Gallery at the Morris County Administration Building in October. Ruga added, "The Highlands Regional Master Plan has programs to retain farmland, to protect important farmland soils and to discourage conversion of farms to development. This is in addition to state, county and municipal programs to purchase development rights from willing farmers so the land will remain in agricultural uses in perpetuity."

Donna Compton, the Highlands Coalition's Arts Program Director and Curator said, "These two exhibits will each feature different works of fine art and photography depicting aspects of farming in the four-state Highlands region with an emphasis on the Highlands region in New Jersey. This is an invitational show. These are artists who have exhibited in one or more of the past twelve annual juried art exhibits, and we have a combination of new works and works previously exhibited here. We are excited to partner with the Farmstead Arts Center because it is a restored historic farm complex continuously farmed since 1762, and today it is a vital center for cultural and arts programs in Somerset County. The Farmstead is a perfect partner to help celebrate the Highlands' agricultural heritage through art."

Thirty New Jersey-area artists are participating: Peter Aldrich, Boonton Twp; Linda Aldrich, Boonton Twp.; Kimberly Bollard, Hoboken; Barbara Campbell, Highland Lakes; Denise Cocchiaro, Sparta; Janet Cuniffe-Chieffo, Denville; Doris Ettlinger, Hampton; Yogamy Ferreras-Farley, Wood Ridge; June Filipski, Basking Ridge; Denville; Tricia Goginsky,

Randolph; Betty Ann Guarino, Florham Park; Laurie Harden, Boonton; Seth Ruggles Hiler, Atlantic Highlands; Alexandra Jurchescu, Hackettstown; Justine Réneau Perdunn Kovacs, Green Village; Judith Lieberman, White House Station; Lisa Madson, White House Station; Michael Martin, Chatham Twp.; Michael McFadden, Hampton; Nancy Nicolescu, Morristown; Gina L. Pierson, Riverdale; Jack Quinn, Morris Plains; Martha Romano, Boonton; Susan Roth, Morristown, and Brian Satch, Hopatcong. New York artists include: Mitchell Brozinsky, New City; Linda Calvet, NYC; Charles Dexter, NYC; June Filipksi, Warwick;

Through events such as Highlands Art Exhibits, the New Jersey Highlands Coalition promotes awareness of the region's natural beauty, which is the source of inspiration for the art displayed year-round in our exhibits as well as awareness of the region's cultural and natural resources, including the Highlands core forest, which produces a water supply that 6.2 million people in New Jersey depend on. The New Jersey Highlands region encompasses eighty-eight municipalities in parts of Bergen, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren counties. The region's natural resources are protected under the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act. Yet despite the passage of the Act in 2004, development pressures in northern New Jersey only increase. Efforts to weaken the Act and to undermine the efforts of the regional planning authority that the Act established, the Highlands Council, are under a constant threat. Which is why the Coalition's work continues to be vital. You can help the Coalition protect the places you love. Come visit the exhibits. A portion of the proceeds from art sold supports the Coalition's work.

The Farmstead Arts exhibit is made possible in part by funds from the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

To view all the art in this exhibit, please visit <https://www.highlandsart.org>
Contact Donna Compton for further information
973-910-2400 or email highlandsart@njhighlandscoalition.org

IMAGES FROM THE EXHIBIT



Seth Ruggles Hiler © The Caretaker
oil painting



Janet Cunniffe-Chieffo © Ayres Knuth Farm
oil painting

MORE IMAGES ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE



Linda Aldrich © Voice of the Garden
porcelain vase



Charles Dexter, © High Vista of Farm Fields
photograph



Linda Calvet © A Kiss for Mommy
photograph



Jack Quinn © Sutton Family Farm
charcoal drawing