



NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS COALITION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - UPDATES PREVIOUS MEDIA ADVISORY ISSUED 10/05 WITH THE ADDITION OF A PREVIEW EVENT AT THE 10/20 OPENING

CONTACT

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"Artists as Advocates" Exhibit Series by NJ Highlands Coalition Features Artist Talk and Book Signing: *Kim Parker - Interior Gardens* at Maxfield Engine House, Boonton NJ

The NJ Highlands Coalition welcomes artist, designer and author Kim Parker at an exhibit held at Maxfield Engine House in Boonton, NJ with events and tours free and open to the public through April 5, 2025. The exhibit features an exhilarating exhibit of art and design surface products as well as paintings, textiles, fashions, home furnishings and more. The internationally acclaimed artist, award-winning lifestyle designer and Abrams author launches the NJ Highlands Coalition's "Artists as Advocates" exhibit series. The exhibit is held at the newly restored Maxfield Engine House, 713 Main Street, Boonton NJ. Regular visiting hours through April 5 are posted on the web site.

Artist and Design Artist Talk and Book Signing, and Closing Reception

Events and admission are free and open to the public.

Kim will present an Art & Design talk and book signing on Saturday, March 29 from 2:00 to 3:00 pm during gallery hours from noon to 4:00 pm.

An Artist Reception will be held on Friday, April 4 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. during the Boonton Main Street First Friday festivities

"Kim Parker's experience of joy and wonder of the natural world is unconditionally expressed in her work. The NJ Highlands Coalition's mission is to protect the water and other natural and cultural resources of the Highlands. We would be remiss to not include those who are moved by the region's natural beauty as fellow advocates for protecting the Highlands because beauty is worth fighting for to protect!"

- Elliott Ruga, Policy and Communication Director, New Jersey Highlands Coalition.

Kim's inspiration for painting flowers has grown since her recent move to the New Jersey Highlands from her Manhattan apartment.

"For the past four decades, and all of my life," said Kim, "I've been drawn to painting flowers and gardens in vivid colors. My early career and foundation as a serious, classically trained flutist made me aware of not only my love of harmony, but composing as well.

"Creating a garden has always been the visual metaphor of a symphonic composition. The graceful and dynamic movements of stems and leaves set the rhythm, while the dialogue between exuberantly colorful wildflowers provide the joyful melody. All of my floral designs and paintings are organic in nature; never preplanned - which is why the creative process has always remained fresh. My mission has always been to bring the beauty of the garden indoors, an Interior Garden.

"This past summer and Fall I discovered the beautiful zinnia and sunflower fields of the New Jersey Highland that inspired a new series of floral paintings and tranquil, snow-covered woods. After four decades living and designing in NYC and recently relocating to The Highlands, I am discovering the rural beauty of this region, and I feel it is reminiscent of a pastorate Mahler symphony.

"This exhibition chronicles my journey in the art and design realms, and the many surfaces that my flowers have danced upon for more than four decades"

More information about Kim Parker:

Kim Parker Video Interview

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MPbbbt6cEWBxqC7-SnK-9Xq9FxO44HGV/view>

Instagram @kimparkerstyle Facebook kimparkerstyle

The exhibit will be on display at Maxfield Engine House until April 5, 2025

Visitors are welcome during the posted hours on the website <https://highlandsart.org/contact-hours-directions>

Exhibited work is for sale, with a portion to benefit the New Jersey Highlands Coalition.

Exhibit information: 973-910-2400 email: highlandart@njhighlandscoalition.org web: <https://www.highlandsart.org>

ABOUT THE NJ HIGHLANDS COALITION

Through events such as the Highlands Art Exhibit, the New Jersey Highlands Coalition promotes awareness about the beauty, and cultural and natural resources of the NJ Highlands region. As a nonprofit organization in Boonton, New Jersey, the New Jersey Highlands Coalition works to protect, restore, and enhance the water and other natural and cultural resources of New Jersey's Highlands. The New Jersey Highlands region encompasses eighty-eight municipalities in Bergen, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren counties. The regions' natural resources are protected under the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act, enacted to protect the drinking water for over 7 million people in NJ as well as the numerous natural resource values on which our quality of life depends. For more information on the NJ Highlands Coalition or to become a member, please visit the organization's website: <http://www.njhighlandscoalition.org>

ABOUT MAXFIELD ENGINE HOUSE

The Center for the Study of Cities and Small Towns (CSST) Foundation renovated the firehouse according to a preservation study done by researchers from Penn Praxis at the Weitzman School of Design, University of Pennsylvania. Constructed in 1893 by civic-minded Boonton citizens led by then City Council president, Esli B. Dawson, great, great grandfather of CSST board members, Ryan Dawson of Mendham and Rebecca Birch of New York City, the firehouse occupies a prominent location in the center of Boonton, NJ's Main Street Historic District. It has served a variety of functions since the town's fire engines became too large for its original use.

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VIEW KIM'S ART <https://www.highlandsart.org/kim-parker>