Westchester

Things to Do

Laura Phipps Highlights a Native Art Exhibition in Katonah



Admission to Branchline will be free. Courtesy of Cara Romero, James Hart, Yao Zu Lu, Raven Halfmoon, and Alon Koppel

As if Katonah didn't already have enough going for it—a charming main drag, cool shops, and Caramoor, for starters—the hamlet is getting a remarkable new cultural attraction in November. Veteran curator Laura Phipps, who spent 17 years at the Whitney Museum of American Art, will oversee a 10,000-square-foot exhibition space spotlighting rotating works drawn from the Gochman Family Collection, whose mission is to deepen global understanding of contemporary Native art. The collection, developed intentionally for lending, is comprised of over 750 works. We asked Phipps for the lowdown.

Why was Katonah chosen as the collection's first dedicated exhibition space?

Katonah felt like the perfect place to begin our next chapter for the Collection. It's a community with a vibrant cultural life, with nearby institutions such as the Katonah Museum of Art, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, and The Bruce Museum, and we're excited to become part of that. Our space is also just steps away from the Metro-North station, making it easily accessible for both local residents and visitors.

What do you want visitors to take away from their first visit?

We named the space Branchline, reflecting the ideas of connection, movement, and circulation that are central to the Collection's mission. More than anything, I hope visitors feel welcomed in the space and leave surprised by what they've discovered.

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What do you hope this space will contribute to Westchester and the broader national conversation about collecting and exhibiting Indigenous art?

We want Branchline to be a place for conversation, learning, and discovery. We're excited to demonstrate how a private collection can serve the public through collaborative programming, the lending that we do, and meaningful engagement with artists and communities both near and far.

What do you foresee beyond exhibitions?

We're envisioning a lively program that includes artist talks, performances, workshops, community events, and conversations with curators and scholars that encourage deep engagement with the ideas held within the exhibitions.

What themes will anchor the inaugural Fall 2026 exhibition?

One of the most exciting opportunities Branchline gives us is the ability to bring works together across generations, mediums, and artistic perspectives. Our inaugural exhibition will feature a range of artists working in painting, drawing, sculpture, textiles, and sound, exploring themes of linearity and humor while reflecting the breadth of the Collection. We hope visitors will leave with a deeper appreciation for the diversity and vitality of contemporary Native art.

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