

2025 ANNUAL SUMMARY

A photograph of a paved rail trail. The trail is flanked by wooden railings on both sides. The ground is covered with fallen leaves, mostly in shades of yellow and brown. In the background, there are trees with sparse foliage, suggesting an autumn setting. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and suggests a recreational or scenic route.

ART ON THE RAIL TRAIL

DECEMBER 2025

INTRODUCTION

Founded in 2017, ART on the Rail Trail continues to be an integral part of the Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail community. Run by Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy volunteers, with the assistance of MHLC staff and the support of the Albany County Executive's office, ART members install works of art and host special events along the Rail Trail. ART is funded through business sponsors, private donors and grants.

Below is a summary of the installations and special events the committee oversaw in 2025.



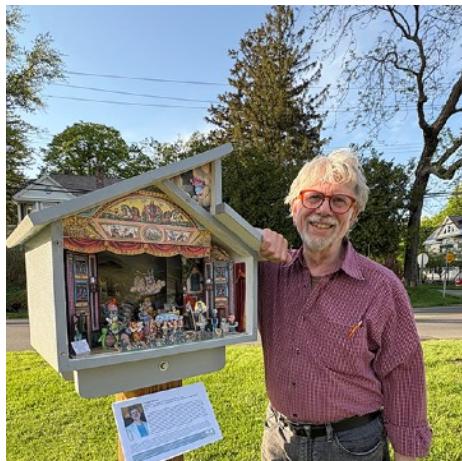
SUMMER HIKE-A-THON SCAVENGER HUNT

For the 4th time, ART on the Rail Trail participated in Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy's annual summer hike-a-thon, creating a gnomes & fairies themed scavenger hunt along the entire length of the Helderberg Hudson Rail Trail. 17 local artists participated and loaned or donated their creations to ART for display throughout the month of July.

310 community members registered for the MHLC event. Every participant received an ice cream gift card from Stewart's Shops.

MINI MOCA 518

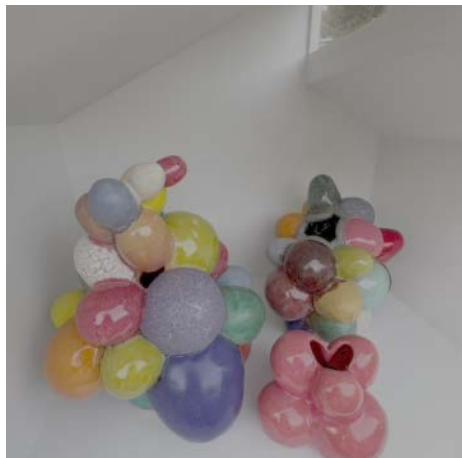
Established in 2022, at the intersection of Adams Street and Hudson Avenue in Delmar miniMoCA518, a custom-built, fully enclosed miniature art gallery, hosted 2 temporary exhibits in 2025. MiniMoCA518 presents quality family-friendly art programming through ongoing exhibitions at the gallery. Below is a list of the 2025 exhibits.



May 12 - July: Charles Steckler, A Proscenium of Dreams, or The Misfortunes of Cardboard

Charles Steckler is a stage designer and collage and diorama artist. He is a bricoleur, an artist who uses various means and materials, such as assemblage, painting, drawing, printmaking and photography, to create his artwork. Steckler has exhibited nationally in solo and group exhibitions, and has designed stage sets for some 200 theater productions.

His diorama displayed in the miniMoCA gallery takes the form of a traditional toy theater which was a form of household pastime during the nineteenth century. You can learn more about it at Great Small Works: <https://greatsmallworks.org/toy.html>



September 17- into 2026: Betsy Brandt, Gobstopper, Hodgepodge, Pink Schnuddy

Betsy Brandt earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Philadelphia College of Art and her Master of Fine Arts degree from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her work has been exhibited in galleries and museums since 1987. Her art crosses media distinctions and ranges from painting, drawing and sculpture to installation and ceramics.

"These vessels are inspired by natural growth processes and use exuberant color to express lightness, beauty and hope. While she works across a variety of media in painting and sculpture, this trio represents the artist's return to the ceramic medium as well as her interest in abstractions based on observations and responses to sources in the natural world."

McSharry and Associates Realty was the 2025 sponsor.



Help shape art on the Rail Trail

ALBANY COUNTY ARTS & CULTURE ADVISORY COUNCIL GRANT AWARDED

Awarded a \$15,000 grant in June 2025

We received a \$15,000 grant from the Advance Albany Alliance to develop a Master Plan for Public Art Along the Rail Trail. Local public art expert Judie Gilmore was engaged to lead the planning effort and began working with the Art on the Rail Trail Committee this fall. Public meetings and an online survey will launch in February 2026. The completed plan, expected summer 2026, will guide future public art investments along the trail. Visit www.mohawkhudson.com/art for updates and opportunities to participate.

Art on the Rail Trail (ART) is a volunteer committee of the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy. ART's mission is to support and improve the Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail by creating public works of art along the Rail Trail. These original, commissioned art installations encourage local and regional visitors of varying ages and physical abilities to enjoy this amenity, engaging the diversity of trail users and benefiting the local economy.

For more information about ART, www.mohawkhudson.org/art or email art@mohawkhudson.org.