

Shaker Museum



SHAKER MUSEUM PRESENTS "THE FUTURE IS A GIFT" -- AN EXHIBITION OF ICONIC SHAKER OBJECTS AND A PREVIEW OF THE MUSEUM'S NEW PERMANENT HOME

*The Exhibition is on View at Shaker Museum's Pop-Up Space in
Downtown Chatham from Saturday, May 22nd to Sunday, August 29th*

CHATHAM, NEW YORK, June 23, 2021 – Shaker Museum, which stewards the most comprehensive collection of Shaker material culture and archives, announced today its latest exhibition "The Future is a Gift." Giving a glimpse of what's to come to Chatham, NY, the exhibition showcases some of the most iconic pieces in the Shaker Museum's collection and also provides design details on the museum's new permanent home, which is currently under development and will be an anchor in Chatham's downtown.

The exhibition, which will run from Saturday, May 22nd to Sunday, August 29th, is presented in Shaker Museum's pop-up space located at 17 Main Street in downtown Chatham, donated by Columbia County resident, Jack Shear. The exhibition features signature Shaker style furniture pieces, clothing, and household equipment that demonstrate the Shakers' unique design aesthetic as well as the values by which the community lived. The exhibition celebrates how the museum itself will keep the Shaker legacy alive in its new facility with design details including floorplans, renderings and other features of the cultural institution being introduced to the community via this intimate showing. Information about the

museum's extensive summer series of programming will also be made available at the space and offer members of the community a way to engage with the museum now.

Shaker Museum Executive Director Lacy Schutz commented, "*The Future is a Gift* provides visitors with a preview of what's to come in Chatham. Through this exhibition, we hope to share with the community of Chatham and audiences beyond what is so special about Shaker culture and why we at the museum are dedicated to the cause of preserving the Shaker legacy by building this new state-of-the-art museum for Chatham, NY. At the heart of Shakerism is the notion of community, so creating this point of connection in the village and sharing what the museum is offering with members of the local community first is quite important to us."

The Pop-Up will be open Friday - Sunday from 11:00am-2:30pm and 3:30pm-6:00pm. Admission is free. In partnership with Chatham Wine & Liquor, Shaker Museum will host Friday Meet Your Neighborhood happy hours on select Fridays in the space from 5:00pm-6:00pm.

After being closed to the public for more than ten years, Shaker Museum has purchased a 19th century industrial building in Chatham, NY and is in the process of renovating and building an expansive addition to the facility designed by Selldorf Architects. The physical building will embody Shaker values of inclusion, innovation, and equality to create a museum that both tells the Shaker story and is responsive to the needs of the community in Chatham, Columbia County, and the surrounding Hudson Valley. Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects is collaborating on the project. The museum will also retain and maintain the historic Shaker site in Mount Lebanon. The new campus located at 5 Austerlitz Street will provide ample space for exhibitions and respond to the need for inclusive community gathering spaces through its exhibitions and robust programming. The facility encompasses the renovation of an historic building that anchors downtown Chatham and the creation of an expansive addition to provide the cultural institution with almost 30,000 square feet of space over four floors.

The new facility is essential to the museum's ability to deliver humanities programming to local, national, and international audiences, allowing it to share and preserve its unparalleled collection. The museum's ambition is to tell the complete story of the Shakers, including their material culture as seen through furniture, clothing, archives, and photographs; their social legacy of communalism, inclusion, and pacifism; and their technological innovations in manufacturing, architecture, agriculture, and engineering.

About Shaker Museum

With more than 18,000 objects, Shaker Museum stewards the most comprehensive collection of Shaker material culture and archives. It is the leader nationwide among organizations devoted to Shaker history. Its permanent new facility in Chatham, NY designed by Selldorf Architects is estimated for completion in 2023. The museum also stewards the historic site in New Lebanon, NY and has a campus in Old Chatham, NY, which is open year-round by appointment, where the administrative offices, collections, library, and archives are housed. The museum's collection can be viewed online at <http://shakermuseum.us>.

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Shaker Museum

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