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Shaker Museum

SHAKER MUSEUM PRESENTS “SHADES OF SHAKER” AT THE KINDERHOOK KNITTING MILL

With More than 20 Historical Objects on Display, the New Exhibition Explores the Bold Use of Color in Iconic Shaker Design

Exhibition Will Run from Saturday, December 3rd to Saturday, February 25th in Kinderhook, NY

CHATHAM, NEW YORK, November 21, 2022 – Shaker Museum, which stewards the most comprehensive collection of Shaker material culture and archives, announced today that its latest exhibition – *Shades of Shaker* – will debut Saturday, December 3rd at the Kinderhook Knitting Mill in Kinderhook, NY. With more than 20 historical objects on display, the new exhibition explores the bold use of color in iconic Shaker design. The collaboration with the Kinderhook Knitting Mill provides Shaker Museum with a new community-based exhibition space that enables the museum to deliver more programming and access to the collection to wider audiences, even while its new permanent home is in development.

Shades of Shaker showcases the Shakers' unique design aesthetic. The dynamic presentation of signature Shaker furniture pieces, clothing, household equipment, rugs, and textiles illustrates how Shakers used vibrant yellows, blues, and reds as part of their overall design vernacular. Most humans recognize and respond to color. Shakers were no different. They produced color in their paints, stains, and dyes using available natural pigments and dyestuffs with traditional recipes until commercial pre-mixed paints came on the market – then they bought these products. However, when the world at large was often layering color over color to create decorative designs and motifs, Shakers were content with the beauty added to furniture, interior woodwork, and building exteriors with a singular bold and distinctive color choice, or a combination of several colors. This intentional application of color is explored in *Shades of Shaker*.

Shaker Museum Executive Director Lacy Schutz commented, "*Shades of Shaker* explores what we know and what we don't know about the Shakers and their use of color. The exhibition, as a whole, also showcases the extraordinary design output by the sect, underscoring why the Shakers were indeed design icons. We are so grateful to the Kinderhook Knitting Mill for their partnership and help in presenting this exhibition to the public. Partners like Kinderhook help us deliver on our mission and serve the community by sharing the story of the Shakers and celebrating their legacy."

Co-Founder of the Kinderhook Knitting Mill Darren Waterston said, "The Kinderhook Knitting Mill was created to bring the community together through art, culture, cuisine, and more. Partnering with institutions like Shaker Museum to bring important presentations of historical design to the forefront is exactly the kind of thing we intended to advance with this space. We are thrilled to be working with Shaker Museum and hope that a visit to the Kinderhook Knitting Mill and *Shades of Shaker* is on everyone's holiday season 'To Do' list."

The exhibition will run from Saturday, December 3rd through Saturday, February 25th. Exhibition hours are Fridays and Saturdays 10:00am-6:00pm, and Sundays 11:00am-4:00pm. No tickets or advanced reservations are required. For more information on the exhibition visit: <http://shakermuseum.us>. For more information on the Kinderhook Knitting Mill (located at 8 Hudson Street in Kinderhook, NY) visit: www.kinderhookknittingmill.com.

In addition to *Shades of Shaker*, Shaker Museum's programming for 2023 includes three additional shows. More information on that programming is forthcoming. Shaker Museum's programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

Shaker Museum 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. 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.

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, which is in development, was designed by Selldorf Architects. 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>.

About The Kinderhook Knitting Mill

The Kinderhook Knitting Mill is a community-minded space in the heart of Kinderhook that brings together food, art, and design in an 1870s textile mill. The businesses housed in the Knitting Mill, almost entirely owned and operated by women and people of color, run the gamut from an Indonesian-inspired restaurant to an art gallery to a curated general store. The ethos of the Knitting Mill is one of cooperation and collaboration that is evident in the connective thread that ties everyone together in the shared goal of cultivating a thriving village center to nourish the community. The Knitting Mill has three eateries, retail offerings, and other art on display that visitors to *Shades of Shaker* can enjoy.

Photos Link [Here](#).

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Shaker Museum

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