This month Staten Island SEEN looks a little different than it has since the opening of the Staten Island Museum at Snug Harbor in September 2015. The oil painting Staten Island Ferry Docking in Manhattan, 2008, by the world-renowned photorealist painter, Richard Estes, has been returned to its lenders and Marlborough Gallery, Estes’ main representative, has loaned another fine work to take its place.

Estes’ woodcut (pictured inside) offers the merest glimpse of the Staten Island Ferry, as it makes its way from Manhattan to Staten Island. We see the wake of the ferry, with the twin towers of the former World Trade Center prominently in the background. This print is part of a series of paintings, prints, and photographic studies representing the Staten Island Ferry that the pioneering photorealist has made for over a decade. In this series, Estes has recorded many aspects of “ferry life” including the interior, exterior, day and night, docking, and en route.

Estes’ prints are built up in discreet layers of color, capturing the detailed clarity of his paintings. This print is a technical tour de force, with 39 separate blocks cut for almost every color area. Most woodcuts are printed from far fewer blocks, and all of these blocks have to be perfectly aligned so that the final print is totally coherent. A special “registration...
Museum honored with Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award

This April the Staten Island Museum received the New York Landmarks Conservancy’s prestigious Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award for the extraordinary restoration and reuse project that converted an 1879 dormitory building into Staten Island’s first fully-climate controlled museum facility and the first historic landmark to earn a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification.

By Henryk Behnke, VP of External Affairs

Staten Island Museum’s new home on Snug Harbor is one of those extraordinary buildings that both preserves a piece of New York City history and activates a state-of-the-art space where every New Yorker can engage with exhibitions and cultural programming. The City was proud to support this project and we applauded the museum for this well-deserved recognition for their stewardship of the New York City treasure.”

- Mayor Bill de Blasio, New York City

Shout-out to our members: Thank you for your support! As members of the Staten Island Museum you enjoy many benefits such as free admission, discounts in the Museum Store and on programs, and reciprocal membership with 20 other New York State museums. This summer we will start a new tradition: a Member Appreciation Day. If you are one of our 1,700 members, save the date and keep an eye out for your invitation this summer.

Staten Island Museum is proud to be among the cultural organizations that offer a complimentary membership to IDNYC card holders. This is a great incentive for folks all over the City to get their free municipal identification card, a government-issued photo ID that provides access to all City buildings, is accepted in some banks and businesses, doubles as New York Public Library card, and is a valid ID when identification is requested by the police or other agencies. Every person over 14 years of age residing in the 5 boroughs can request the card regardless of immigration status.

Our members, are truly our best friends and we value your feedback and input. Next time you are at the Museum (or on the “Visit” section of our website) please fill in our visitor survey so that we can make sure your voice is heard as we plan new programs and exhibitions.

We look forward to hearing from you and to welcoming you back to YOUR Staten Island Museum. And, if you are not yet a member, join us either with your IDNYC for free (present your IDNYC at the front desk by December 31, 2016) or take advantage of this summer special: 10% off any new membership through August 31.

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Richard Estes (b. 1932)
Study VI, New York Harbor, 1997
Woodcut print on Echizen-Kozo paper, printed in 43 colors from 39 blocks
Image: 9 3/4 x 7 3/4; Sheet: 17 3/4 x 13 3/4
Edition of 45
Courtesy of Marlborough Gallery, NYC

Continued from cover story...
Have you noticed the changes coming to the shores of St. George? If not – it’s time to take a look. Destination St. George is NYC’s newest urban getaway. The new logo, seen here, ties together some of the must-see destinations on the North Shore of Staten Island, just a pleasant 25 minute-ride on the Staten Island Ferry away from downtown Manhattan. Of course, you see the Statue of Liberty on the way – and in the logo.

The other symbols stand for the partners of the Destination St. George collaboration: From left to right you have the Staten Island Yankees, Lighthouse Point, Empire Outlets, the New York Wheel, the St. George Theatre, the Staten Island Museum, and Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden, where we have our newest museum located in one of the historic Greek Revival buildings that really looks like the museum temple depicted in the logo.

In addition, we have our original location in St. George proper, just two blocks from the ferry terminal. There you will find our Staten Island Ferry exhibition and a larger-than-life portrait of the area’s namesake, George Law, painted by William Henry Powell in 1856. Local lore says that developer Erastus Wiman “obtained an option on waterfront property” owned by Law and after two unsuccessful attempts at developing the area, Law refused Wiman’s request for another option. Wiman’s response, “George, if you let me have the option, I will canonize you… I will name the place St. George.” And the rest is history.

“This Museum is not here by accident. It’s here because for 135 years, people have cared enough to keep it going. If you support this Museum, no matter where you go in life, you are contributing to assure that – not just today’s but that many future generations will continue to be inspired to explore the dynamic connections between natural science, art and history,” said Cheryl Adolph, Staten Island Museum Interim President & CEO.
C. Arthur Hollick, the Staten Islander (born 1857) was one of the young co-founders of the Staten Island Museum who discovered the mastodon molar, now part of the Museum’s collection. Hollick held a number of positions in the scientific community and was best known as a paleobotanist and was appointed as the assistant curator in charge of Columbia University’s paleobotanical collection when they were moved to the New York Botanical Garden in 1901.

Hollick beat out other crowd favorites: Brutus, Don Masto, Harry, Murray, Snuffy, Tiny, and the runner up, Egbert.

The Mastodon finally has a name, and you picked it!

Major Supporters:
- Staten Island Museum Board of Trustees

Staten Island Museum Board of Trustees
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The Staten Island Museum is housed in City-owned facilities. It is supported in part by public funds from NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Mayor Bill de Blasio, NYC Council Staten Island Delegation and Council Members Debi Rose and Steven Matteo; and Staten Island Borough President James S. Oddo. Additional public funding is provided by NYC Department of Education and NYC Department of Youth & Community Development, New York State Legislature and Senator Diane Savino and Assembly Members Michael Cusick and Matthew Titone; NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation; New York State Council on the Arts; New York Council on the Humanities; and Institute for Museum and Library Services, National Endowment for the Arts, and National Endowment for the Humanities. We appreciate the support from individuals, our members and donors, and corporations and foundations.