



A GREAT CAUSE FOR A GREAT EVENING: Omi Raises Over \$99,000 at Annual Upstate Fundraiser

For Immediate Release

Ghent, New York - On Saturday, September 19th, Omi hosted LIGHT INTO NIGHT, a fundraiser unlike any other to benefit their international artist residencies and public programs. The event raised over \$99,000 and was the organization's second annual upstate benefit, drawing upon the unique talents of our alumni and recognizing Frances Schools, of Old Ghent realty and her late husband Henry for their role in the formation of the first Art Omi residency in 1992.

Said Ruth Adams, Director of Omi International Arts Center, "The Schools family didn't come to Omi with a background in contemporary art, but they and all the locals who housed the artists in those early years saw a community of people building a project together with passion. Omi was founded thanks to those members of the local community who found excitement and fulfillment in supporting artists - and it's this spirit that feeds Omi today."

The funds raised will go towards supporting Omi's arts programming, which includes supporting four distinct residency programs for international artists, writers, musicians, and dancers, as well as to our public programs: The Fields Sculpture Park, Architecture Omi, and Education Omi. Since the first annual event last year, Light Into Night has set a precedent for cultivating an upstate donor base and community of enthusiasts invested in sustaining this rich cultural legacy and enriching the quality of life in Columbia County, as the organization ramps up for its 25th anniversary. Major sponsors and underwriters of the event included Thompson Giroux Gallery, Etsy, and a generous host committee of Hudson Valley supporters.

Guests have raved that Light Into Night was "not only one of the best arts events in Columbia County, but also one of the most enjoyable non-profit fundraisers that they have ever been to", said Ruth Adams, Director of Omi.

More than 200 people dined, danced, and reveled in an evening of art and surprise that included a flash mob, illuminated dance performances, writers creating custom poetry for guests, a rollicking dance party, an experiential dessert installation, and a lively auction with guests vying for items such as luxurious vacation getaways to historic Montreal and original artwork by William Wegman and Donald Baechler.

As the sun set, young artists gathered around the campfire for storytelling and art-making at our Little Stars event, while guests enjoyed sumptuous family style dishes like short rib beef bourguignon with wood-fired autumn vegetables and carrot cake with gooseberry coulis.

Photos of the evening and the full recap can be seen at www.artomi.org/lightintonight.

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About Omi International Arts Center

Omi International Arts Center seeks to foster an environment of creative exploration and exchange, professional opportunity and exposure, and a stylistically and culturally diverse community for creative artists from around the world. Through our programs and resulting public events - including our Residency Programs, The Fields Sculpture Park, Architecture Omi, and Education Omi - Omi contributes to a vibrant arts culture locally, regionally, and internationally. For more information visit: www.omiartscenter.org.

Image credits: (top) Light Into Night at the Omi Barn by Akemi Hiatt.