FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 23, 2022

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PRESS RELEASE

ART on the Rail Trail to Host Community Chalk Art Event

and Opening of Miniature Art Gallery on Rail Trail

On Saturday, September 10, 2022, from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Art on the Rail Trail (ART), a committee of the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, will hold the 5th Annual Chalk the Walk chalk art contest in Delmar, New York. The family-friendly event will be held on the Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail, beginning at the pocket park near the Stewart’s Shop at 309 Delaware Avenue and spanning the Rail Trail to the intersection at Adams Street.

Chalk the Walk is a community favorite, providing great fun for creative chalk artists of all ages and abilities and lasting joy for trail users in the days and weeks after the event. All are welcomed; you don’t have to be a professional - just come out and have fun! Complimentary chalk will be provided on the day of the event.

Online registration will be available until Thursday, September 9, at 5 PM. Each three-foot square costs $10 and may be purchased at www.mohawkhudson.org/art. Squares may also be purchased on the day of the event from 10:30 AM through noon at the registration booth, located on the Rail Trail behind Stewart’s in Delmar. All proceeds from chalk sales will benefit murals and other artwork on the Rail Trail and are tax-deductible, as ART is a committee of the non-profit Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy.

“Art on the Rail Trail is very excited to be hosting another community, art-centered event,” says Caroline Barrett, co-chairperson for the chalk art event. “We know that people are excited to get out and be part of their community. Chalk The Walk is a great opportunity to be part of something, be creative, and have fun.”

Passerby on the Rail Trail will vote for their favorite design during the weekend. Voting for the chalk art creations will be done entirely online; a link to vote (including pictures of each creation) will be posted online at www.mohawkhudson.org/art. Follow Art On The Rail Trail on Facebook and Instagram for instructions on voting. Voting will take place after the chalk squares are completed on September 10 and continue through the weekend. The top three “popular choice” chalk designs will win prizes provided by community businesses.

ART is also pleased to announce the public unveiling and inaugural exhibition at MiniMoCA518, a permanent, miniature art gallery sited along the Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail. Located at the intersection of Hudson Avenue and Adams Street in Delmar, MiniMoCA518 will feature free, rotating exhibitions of
small-scale artworks commissioned specifically for the gallery. Expanding upon the trend of small, free lending libraries and miniature public art galleries throughout the United States and abroad, MiniMoCA518 aims to present quality family-friendly art programming through ongoing exhibitions at the gallery.

A public opening and reception for MiniMoCA518 celebrating a new installation titled *Preschool* by noted Hudson Valley artist Roger Bisbing will take place on September 10, 2022, at 1:30 PM, immediately following Chalk the Walk. One of Bisbing’s recurring themes is playfully exploring shifts in scale, and this installation will specifically engage the 1:12 scale of the architecturally designed modernist MiniMoCA518 gallery building. The exhibition will remain on view through November 30, 2022. Access is free and open to the public, with benches and limited parking nearby. Opening events for MiniMoCA518 will coincide with Chalk the Walk, an annual chalk art event and contest along the Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail.

With the addition of MiniMoCA518, Art on the Rail Trail aims to delight visitors on the Rail Trail by connecting them with dynamic cultural voices from throughout the Region. The gallery will provide a new opportunity for individual artists to present work through an innovative, site-specific lens. Exhibitions will be presented seasonally, allowing viewers ample and diverse programming that will be both engaging and informative.

For more information or to volunteer at Chalk the Walk, contact Art on the Rail Trail at art@mohawkhudson.org. To register for the chalk art contest, go to www.mohawkhudson.org/art. To stay up to date on MiniMoCA518, go to Instagram @Minimoca518.

**More about the artist:** Roger Bisbing has received numerous awards for his sculpture, including a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Artist Fellowship. His work follows several threads, variously exploring physical manifestations of natural and culturally imposed boundary lines, shifts of scale, distortions of cause and effect, and the spatial dynamics of group meeting spaces. He received an MFA from Syracuse University and has been a member of the Art Department at the University of Albany since 1991. His home and studio are in New Paltz, New York.

**ART on the Rail Trail** (a sub-committee of the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy) was formed in 2017 with a mission to support and improve the Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail through the installation of art along the trail. The Rail Trail is a nine-mile paved multi-use path that spans from South Pearl Street in Albany to the Village of Voorheesville and is enjoyed by thousands of visitors yearly. To date, ART has placed six murals and a multi-piece installation along the trail.

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In addition to this press release, please find the attached images:

Chalk artists bring the trail to life with their creations.

Chalk the Walk is fun for all ages!

Photo detail of Roger Bisbing’s installation titled *Preschool.*