Woodstock Artists Association & Museum Presents
Norma Morgan: In the Lands of the Moors and Catskills
April 21–September 10, 2023
Opening Reception: Saturday, April 22 | 4-6pm

(Woodstock, NY) - The Woodstock Artists Association & Museum is pleased to present Norma Morgan: In the Lands of the Moors and Catskills, the first solo exhibition of an African-American woman artist in the Towbin Wing, WAAM's historical gallery. This exhibition and its accompanying publication and programming aim to return Morgan (1928-2017) to public view and acknowledge her contribution to Woodstock’s rich history as a Colony of the Arts. The show will be on view from April 21–September 10, and opens with a celebratory reception on Saturday, April 22 from 4-6pm.

This presentation examines Norma Morgan’s evolution as an artist and her dramatic personal style that expanded upon traditional Romantic landscape painting, gestural abstraction and the age-old technique of engraving through experimentations with composition, color and line. Morgan rarely portrayed African-American figures and subjects in her works, acknowledging that she preferred to “rise above the situation,” and hoped that her art did “not limit itself by even national boundaries but can be enjoyed on an international basis, and by all people and age groups.”

Approximately forty works dating from throughout Morgan’s career will be on view, including rarely exhibited engravings and watercolors from her time in Scotland, England, Woodstock and the Catskill Mountains. Highlights include: Turning Forms (1950), a copper plate for an engraving from Morgan’s period at Atelier 17; Granite Tor (1954), which won the first purchase prize at the annual print show in Philadelphia and became part of the collection of the Philadelphia Museum of Art; Tired Traveler (1950), lent by the Yale University Art Gallery; and A Catskill Winter commissioned by the Woodstock Artists Association which honored Morgan with the annual print award in 1983. Among her other pictures of local subjects are the copper plate engraving Stony Clove Catskill Mountains (1974), and the evocative and atmospheric watercolor Hyad's Bath & Shelving Rock -
Kaaterskill Clove (1994). Several portraits will also be included in the exhibition including a self-portrait, two portraits of Morgan’s mother, as well as depictions of several figurative subjects.

Norma Morgan: In the Lands of the Moors and Catskills is organized by the Woodstock Artists Association & Museum and is curated by art historian and scholar Dr. Bruce Weber. The exhibition is accompanied by a full color catalogue with images from the exhibition and an essay by Weber, which will be available for purchase at WAAM’s Museum Store.

ABOUT THE ARTIST
Norma Morgan (1928-2017) was a painter and printmaker who lived and worked intermittently in Woodstock between 1969 and 2010, yet there remains surprisingly little trace of her presence in the area. Lesser-known during the early decades of her career, Morgan had an active and highly successful career in New York City. Morgan began her professional study of art immediately following high school in 1945 at the Whitney School of Art in New Haven, and she soon immersed herself within New York City’s largely white and male-dominated art world. She took classes at the Arts Students League and Atelier 17, and her artistic development reflects the influences of her teachers Julian Levi, Hans Hofmann and William Stanley Haytner.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS
Opening Reception
Saturday, April 22 | 4-6pm
WAAM will hold an Opening Reception to celebrate the opening of a new round of exhibitions. Open to all.

Curator Talk
Saturday, May 13 | 3pm
Exhibition curator, Dr. Bruce Weber, will give a presentation about Norma Morgan’s body of work and the selection on view in the exhibition.

LISTING INFORMATION
On View: April 21–September 10, 2023
Opening Reception: Saturday, April 22 | 4-6pm
Location: WAAM | 28 Tinker Street, Woodstock, NY 12498
Public Information: info@woodstockart.org | 845.679.2940 | woodstockart.org

Woodstock Artists Association & Museum
Founded in 1919, the Woodstock Artists Association & Museum (WAAM) is a not-for-profit membership organization featuring an historic Permanent Collection of regional art exhibited in the Towbin Wing, three contemporary art galleries, a dynamic Education Program and an Archives of materials associated with artists of the Woodstock region.

General Information
The Woodstock Artists Association & Museum (WAAM) is located at 28 Tinker Street, Woodstock, NY. Gallery hours are Thursday thru Sunday from noon-5pm. WAAM is closed during major holidays. For general information please call: 845.679.2940 or visit our website at: woodstockart.org.

Image Captions: All Images: Norma Morgan. Catskill Winter, 1983, Engraving on paper, 11” x 15”; The Poet (Ethel Morgan), 1995, Hand-colored engraving on copper 17 ¾” x 14 ½”; Youth, 1950-51, Etching on paper, 16 13/16” x 13 9/16”. 