

THE ORANGETOWN
HISTORICAL MUSEUM
& ARCHIVES
PRESENTS

past/forward

Town-wide opening :
Saturday, May 7th, 2016
2 – 4 pm

Exhibit open through
November 13th, 2016
Admission: your donation

HOURS:
Tuesdays 10 – 2 pm
Sundays 1 – 4 pm

The Orangetown
Historical Museum & Archives
at the DePew House
196 Chief Bill Harris Way
(formerly Blaisdell Road)
Orangeburg, NY 10962
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If we consider that Old = Opportunity, the Town of Orangetown can look back on a history of achievement as well as some significant losses.

Interpreting the past requires a kind of literary imagination. A beautiful vintage object can contain a magical presence all its own. The architecture and attributes of the past can serve as inspiration for contemporary artists. Living with the past enriches our lives immeasurably.

The notion of caring is embodied in the definition of preservation. What is built, what is demolished, what is preserved – all determines the character and future of the town. As an area identified as 'Rich in History' – efforts made to preserve that history here have been history making on their own. When the Tappan Historic Area was adopted by the Orangetown Town Board in 1965, it was the first such designations in the State of New York. The Palisades Historic Area soon followed. Many buildings in the town have achieved the status of being included in the National Register of Historic Places. This work was championed by a cadre of local history superstars who worked tirelessly to preserve the unique character of the town for future generations. Sustaining the Palisades, the Sparkill Creek, Clausland Mountain and our Hudson River greenspaces has also helped to maintain the unique balance we enjoy today. Vigilance, however, is required as we consider what we have lost. The majestic Salisbury Manor and graceful Lent House are just two examples of major losses suffered by our historic infrastructure.

With *past/forward* we invite the viewer to consider what is old in a new way. Imaginative interpretive sculpture that takes inspiration from classical architectural detail by the young Dutch artist Nynke Koster. The riveting documentary film '*This Place Matters*' by local filmmaker Tina Traster. Bits and pieces of the past, preserved, protected, reimagined. Stories of treasures saved (the Seth House), lost (the Lent House) and re-emerging (the John Greene House) just begin the conversation. Preserving the past never gets old; it allows for a continuity of place. It opens the door to the future.