



First Look

May 2025



Cherry blossom tree in bloom near the Atheneum Visitors Center, March 2025. Image courtesy of David Angel.

ART IS IN FULL FLOURISH IN NEW HARMONY

The arts are in bloom in New Harmony with several art exhibitions and a public art installation opening this month. Make sure to check out the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art to see *Future/Past/Presence* and *Residence IX* before they close on Saturday, May 10 and return on May 17 to see *Transcendence*.

While you're downtown, we hope you'll visit Maclure Square to see the new temporary public art installation, *Signals and Satellites to the AnceStars*, that will be on display until late August.

Finally, come by the Atheneum to check out the traveling exhibition, *Driftwood*, about writer, artist and advocate for simple living Harlan Hubbard. We hope you'll visit picturesque New Harmony this spring and delight your senses!

Diane Sanders
Assistant Director of Historic New Harmony

PROGRAMS AND EXHIBITS

New Harmony, Indiana, is located in the Central Time Zone.



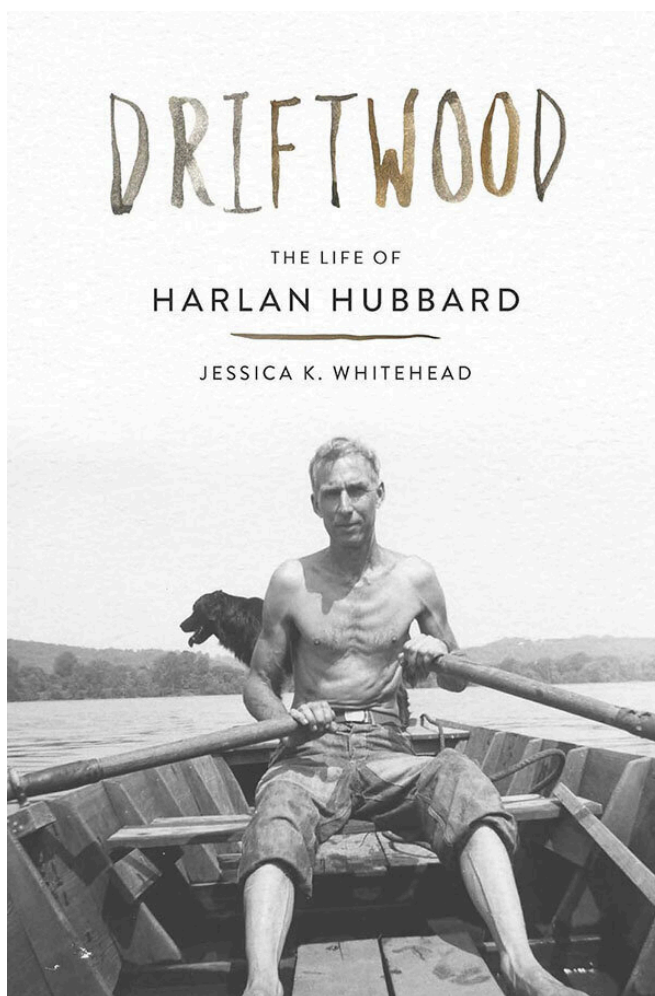
Christopher Blay, *Signals and Satellites to the AnceStars* (2025). Image courtesy of the artist and New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art.

New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art

***SIGNALS AND SATELLITES TO THE ANCESSTARS* BY CHRISTOPHER BLAY**
MAY 1 TO LATE AUGUST

Christopher Blay's temporary public art project located at Maclure Square, *Signals and Satellites to the Ancestars*, forms a dialogue with the layered histories present along the shores of the Wabash River and in New Harmony. The installation evokes the origin myths of the Osage and Myaamia nations who originally inhabited land in present-day Indiana and believed their ancestors emerged from the celestial sky and from bodies of water. The sculpture also plays homage to the early Black pioneers arriving in this area in the early 19th century in what was then the Northwest Territory, as these early homesteaders often navigated trails by starlight. This sculptural installation forms a satellite array made from steel and natural materials that "beams" out layered narratives invoking regional history.

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Historic New Harmony

DRIFTWOOD: THE LIFE OF HARLAN HUBBARD
MAY 13 - JULY 12

Driftwood: The Life of Harlan Hubbard is a traveling panel exhibit based on Jessica K. Whitehead's new biography of visionary northern Kentucky artist, writer and sustainability pioneer Harlan Hubbard (1900–1988). Often compared to Henry David Thoreau for his simple, self-sufficient lifestyle, Hubbard and his wife, Anna, spent eight years journeying down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers on a shantyboat and then built a home at

Payne Hollow, Kentucky. Hubbard's books about their river journey and lifestyle that rejected consumer culture inspired back-to-nature movements in the 1960s and 1970s.

Driftwood will be on display at the Atheneum Visitors Center Tuesday, May 13 through Saturday, July 12.

Stay tuned for news about events and programs related to this exhibit.


Talking History

10 AM Thursday, May 15 at the Atheneum Visitors Center

Join Historic New Harmony for Talking History, a monthly gathering dedicated to sharing memories of the people, places, and events that make New Harmony special.

The topic for May 2025 is "River Life."

Every memory matters. Every story builds our shared identity. Let's remember together!



Four women and three men posing on driftwood next to the Wabash River in New Harmony, Indiana, September 29, 1901. Image courtesy of University of Southern Indiana Archives and Special Collections.

Historic New Harmony

TALKING HISTORY: RIVER LIFE

10 A.M. MAY 15

Join us for our next *Talking History* gathering at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 15 at the Atheneum Visitors Center, located at 407 North Arthur Street. Our topic will be "River Life."

The discussion will center on how living next to the Wabash River has shaped life in New Harmony since its founding in the early 1800s. What barriers did the river pose for people here? How did the river provide income, recreation, and other opportunities for the community? What are your thoughts about the future of rivers in our lives?

While at the *Talking History* gathering, participants can view the new traveling exhibit, *Driftwood: The Life of Harlan Hubbard*. We will also have objects and materials from Historic New Harmony's collections related

to the Wabash River's impact on life in New Harmony, including a closer look at Helen Elliott's collection of freshwater pearls.

We welcome community members, visitors to town and anyone else interested in New Harmony's history to this gathering. For more information, contact Heidi Taylor-Caudill at htaylorca@usi.edu or 812-682-6133.

LEARN MORE



New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art, 506 Main Street.

New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art

***TRANSCENDENCE* CURATED BY VENTIKO (INDIANAPOLIS, IN) MAY 17 - JUNE 28**

Curated by Indianapolis-based conceptual artist and cultural producer, Ventiko, *Transcendence* features works by Rachel Leah Cohn, Jenny Del Fuego, Anna Schink, Constance Edwards Scopelitis, Sylva Dean and Me and Studio Lauren Zoll—all Indianapolis-based artists whose works on view in the exhibit will speak to connections to a higher spiritual dimension and the Divine Feminine. Ventiko is a Power Plant grant 2022 awardee, a DeHaan artist of distinction award winner and has exhibited or curated works for exhibit in Indianapolis, IN; Los Angeles, CA; New York, NY and abroad in Italy, the Dominican Republic, the UK, Serbia and South Korea.

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NOTABLE DATES

EXTENDED HOURS ON MOTHER'S DAY

The Atheneum Visitors Center will be open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 11.

USI IN NEW HARMONY CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Historic New Harmony's office, the Atheneum Visitors Center, and the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art will be closed on Monday, May 26 for the Memorial Day holiday.

UPCOMING EXHIBITS AND EVENTS

Ruth Wyand's Mamas Got the Blues

8 p.m. May 10 at the Atheneum Visitors Center (401 North Arthur Street)

Join legendary musician and blues historian Ruth Wyand in paying tribute to the trailblazing women who shaped the Blues. A performance documentary by Wyand and filmmaker Jean Antolini, blending live music and film to showcase the lives and music of blues women from the early 1900s to today. Tickets: \$25 pre-order or \$30 at the door.

New Harmony Firefly Festival

June 27-28 at the Atheneum Visitors Center (401 North Arthur Street)

The annual Firefly Festival in New Harmony, Indiana, is presented by One New Harmony and Historic New Harmony to honor Indiana's state insect, "Say's Firefly," and Thomas Say, the Father of American Entomology. More information to come on the 2025 festival.

Firefly Festival Run/Walk

June 28 at the Atheneum Visitors Center (401 North Arthur Street)

Join Tri-State Fitness and Historic New Harmony on Saturday, June 28 for the first-ever Firefly Festival Run/Walk in New Harmony. This event is part of the community's annual New Harmony Firefly Festival on June 27-28. A portion of the race proceeds will be donated to Historic New Harmony.

Independence Day Celebration

July 4 at the Atheneum Visitors Center (401 North Arthur Street) and Maclure Park (Church Street)

Join us at the Atheneum on July 4 for an Independence Day Celebration in partnership with the Friends of the Working Men's Institute. The celebration includes a keynote speech by Andrew Wilson and a reading

of the Declaration of Independence. A golf cart parade follows the event at the Atheneum and ends at Maclure Park with a community picnic. More information to come.

Liminal Worlds

July 12-August 23 at New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art (506 Main Street)

Curated by Kimi Kitada, "Liminal Worlds" considers the hybrid, multicultural identities of Asian American artists in the Midwest region through the work of seven artists. The featured artists work expansively across printmaking, sculpture, painting and moving images, including works by: Heehyun Choi, Daeun Lim, Lisa Maione, William Plummer, Skye Taniai, Heinrich Toh and Hope-Lian Vinson.

Help Historic New Harmony continue its historic preservation efforts, educational programming, and more with your charitable gift to the USI Foundation. You can make your gift securely online at [USI.edu/giving](https://usi.edu/giving), calling 812-464-1918, or mailing to USI Foundation, 8600 University Blvd., Evansville, IN 47712. Your charitable gift is tax-deductible, and a gift receipt will be issued.



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