



**WoodstockArts**  
*All the Arts of Woodstock Including the Art of Living™*

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## Praise for the 2006 Art Book Edition of *Woodstock History and Hearsay*

“The story of this important arts community, one of the US’s oldest, is told from the sensitive perspective of Smith, a painter, writer, and famed herbalist who arrived in Woodstock in 1912. Her approach blends shrewd scholarship, biography, and hearsay. In this beautiful new edition, the spirit of the original is painstakingly preserved. To make Smith’s work more useful to scholars, the editors added endnotes and more illustrations. In short, a joy to read and a significant contribution to understanding the Woodstock community and American art and culture. Summing up: Recommended. All levels.”

—*Choice*, April 2007

“This history of Woodstock, New York, captivated me. It was as though I sat in the company of this generous and intelligent chronicler whose personal history entwined with all the artists and town characters. She had done her research well and shared it wholeheartedly. Perhaps the best chapters are those describing in delightful detail, but not in overwhelming fashion, some of the artists of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century with Woodstock connections. You may recognize their names: George Bellows, Alfeo Faggi, Charles Rosen, Konrad Cramer, Yasuo Kuniyoshi, Fred Dana Marsh (father of Reginald), and many more. Also, I was fascinated to read about the first Woodstock festivals, long before the iconic 1969 gathering, half a million strong. Those decades-earlier festivals were just about as fantastic . . . What a place Woodstock is and what a history.”

—*Maine Antique Digest*, February 2007

“This chronicle reminds us why America’s oldest working arts colony mattered so much, and still does. Through evocative word pictures of an astonishing array of locals and newcomers, Smith entertains her readers while making a valuable contribution to our understanding of 20<sup>th</sup>-century modernism. Her cast of characters includes Alexander Archipenko, George Bellows, John Burroughs, John Dewey, Philip Guston, Helen Hayes, Yasuo Kuniyoshi, Thomas Mann, Edward G. Robinson, Eleanor Roosevelt, Charles Rosen, and Pete Seeger.”

—*Fine Art Connoisseur*, January/February 2007

“Aptly combining local lore and legends with anecdotes and scholarly research, this book would find a worthwhile place on the shelf of art scholars and collectors.”

—*Antiques and The Arts Weekly*, 12/22/06

“The book incorporates the one-with-nature attitudes and lifestyles of Catskill farmers, mountain folk and early environmentalists (such as John Burroughs and Miss Smith herself).”

—*Catskill Mountain Region Guide*, December 2006

“An entertaining and intimate narrative account of the community’s pre-Woodstock Festival Bohemian heritage . . . filled with delightful musings on artistic inspiration, artists and the future of Woodstock as an arts enclave.”

—Rachelle Nones, *Tri-County Woman*, Winter 2006



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“The story of Woodstock is given a delightful treatment in the new edition of Anita M. Smith’s *Woodstock History and Hearsay* . . . which is also a tribute to Smith. [Highlighting] the book are color reproductions of the artist’s paintings of Woodstock from the 1920s. The book’s preface stresses the artistic and alternative lifestyle that the name Woodstock implies and that Smith lived, adding, ‘the book serves well as a prequel to the Woodstock Festival of 1969, which took place just a year after her death.’”

—Michael Janairo, Albany *Times Union*, 11/26/06

“Exceptional book”

—*The Herb Quarterly*, Winter 2006

“Artful history”

—*Poughkeepsie Journal*, 10/22/06

“*Woodstock History and Hearsay* offers a fascinating ‘insiders’ look (author Anita M. Smith was a painter studying under John F. Carlson at the Art Students League of New York summer school in Woodstock) into the town’s most colorful aspects. Includes a wealth of photographs and reproductions along with an array of Woodstock’s ‘notables.’” \*\*\*\* (four-star rating)

—Raymond J. Steiner, *Art Times*, September 2006

“Smith’s delightful storytelling . . . captures the town’s charm.”

—*Hudson Valley Magazine*, September 2006

“A gorgeous new edition . . . A striking painter, Smith lavishes special attention on Woodstock’s extraordinary artistic heritage.”

—*Chronogram*, September 2006

“An engaging and in-depth, up-close-and-personal history of Woodstock in the decades leading up to the world-famous Woodstock Festival of 1969. *Woodstock History and Hearsay* covers both sweeping historical transformations and the folksy charm of charismatic individuals who shaped Woodstock over the decades. A classic local history and a true pleasure to read.” \*\*\*\*\* (five-star rating on Amazon.com)

—*Midwest Book Review*, September 2006

“Contains nearly 200 photos highlighting works of art, local personalities, and landmarks, and includes everything from local legends to philosophy to information about 20<sup>th</sup>-century artists such as George Bellows and Alexander Archipenko.”

—Pat Horner, *InsideOut*, September 2006

“[A] sumptuous production [with its] elegant inclusion of copious illustrations . . . à la the great art books we recall from our youths. Fits . . . Woodstock like a glove. [A] sweet-natured book . . . a gentle reminder of what this town once was and likely still is in many hidden pockets.”

—Paul Smart, *Woodstock Times*, 7/27/06