

# SHAKER MUSEUM | MOUNT LEBANON

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Museum to participate in special opening night of NYC's Wooster Group, Museum collaboration excites at Maastricht Fine Art Fair**

(March 31, 2015) – On Thursday, April 23, the Shaker Museum|Mount Lebanon will join with Hancock Shaker Village and New York City's celebrated experimental theater collective The Wooster Group for a special opening night performance of the hit production, "Early Shaker Spirituals" at St. Ann's Warehouse in Brooklyn. The evening will include the performance beginning at 8:00PM, followed by an exclusive reception with the cast and crew.



"Early Shaker Spirituals" is directed by founding Wooster Group member Kate Valk, and features Frances McDormand, Cynthia Hedstrom, Elizabeth LeCompte, Suzzy Roche, and Bebe Miller. Billed

as a “record album interpretation,” the show is an interpretation of an 1976 a capella recording of hymns, marches, work songs and testimony both sung and spoken by Shaker Sisters of Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village in New Gloucester, Maine. “Early Shaker Spirituals” went into production in 2013 and premiered last year at the Performing Garage in Manhattan [to rave reviews](#).

Tickets for the evening cost \$150, with net proceeds to benefit the participating organizations. Tickets can be purchased exclusively at the Museum’s online store [here](#). More information about the Wooster Group can be found [at their website](#).

The Wooster Group collaboration comes on the heels of the Museum’s lending of Shaker objects from its collections to an all-Shaker exhibit at the prestigious European Fine Art Fair in Maastricht, the Netherlands, in March 2015, organized by art dealer Philippe Ségalot and Paris furniture dealer François Laffanour. An accompanying book, *Shaker: Function, Purity, Perfection* was published at the same time by Assouline Publishing. The exhibit captured the attention of Fair-goers, with [The Economist](#) [singling it out](#) as “the most talked-about booth,” and [Blouin Art Info](#) [calling it](#) a “wow factor entry.”



An image from the Shaker show at the European Fine Art in Maastricht, the Netherlands. Photo: Jeff Daly

A new book was produced to accompany the show. The 144-page book features extensive new photography and information about the items in the exhibit, as well as three introductory essays - “A Brief History of the Shakers” by Museum President David Stocks, “On Shaker Furniture” by Director of

Collections and Research Jerry Grant, and “The Influences of Shaker Furniture on Twentieth-Century Furniture” by renowned designer and retailer Sir Terence Conran.

The Maastricht exhibit was one of a number of the Museum’s collaborations designed to showcase its vast collections. Items from the Museum’s collections are currently on view through March 2016 as a part of *The Shakers: America’s Quiet Revolutionaries* at the New York State Museum in Albany, New York.

The Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon, located in New Lebanon, Columbia County, New York, is dedicated to engaging and inspiring local, national, and global audiences by telling the story of the American Shakers. The museum’s collections span over 60,000 objects and it stewards the North Family historic site at Mount Lebanon, a National Historic Landmark. The museum is open seasonally at the site from June to October, and offers programs year-round. Please visit [www.shakermml.org](http://www.shakermml.org) for more information.