

EVENTS



the Florence Griswold Museum

MARCH – MAY 2018



Robert Motherwell writing in Amagansett, New York, June 1944. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution

The Write Stuff

This spring, the writing is literally on the wall as the Museum presents an intriguing pair of exhibitions. Both *Pen to Paper: Artists' Handwritten Letters from the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art* and *P.S.: Letters from the Lyme Art Colony* celebrate the written word. These shows are a remarkable springboard for a host of educational programs for all ages and interests. Along with a great roster of lectures and gallery talks, the Museum also welcomes a calligrapher, a forensic handwriting specialist, and local poets to interact with the letter-filled exhibitions. We also will continue our stellar collaboration with The Kate showing Exhibition on Screen and focus in on the work of Paul Cézanne on March 17, and David Hockney on April 21. Then, there's a fun series of Art•Bars and our annual open house day, this year on a Sunday, May 6, 11am-5pm.

There are also several daytrips scheduled ranging from New Haven to New York this spring. For families, it will be an art-filled spring. The season starts with a two-day celebration on April 7 and 8. Come join our indoor fun at the Polynesian Princess Party on Saturday, and marvel at a calligraphic flourishes demonstration on Sunday, the same day our *Make-A-Painting Sundays* begin again for the season.

David D.J. Rau
Director of Education & Outreach

Programs included with Museum admission unless otherwise noted. Programs with fees require advance reservation. To RSVP for a program, go online at FlorenceGriswoldMuseum.org; call (860) 434-5542, ext. 111 (front desk), or come in.

MARCH

Storytelling for Adults: This Business of Fighting—The WWII Letters of Lt. Anton Pritchard

Sunday, March 11, 2pm

Arnie Pritchard, Storyteller (and Son of the Letter Writer)

\$7 (members \$5)

Join Pritchard for a captivating presentation based on his father's letters from WWII to his parents in Rhode Island. The saga begins in 1943, as the young sailor prepares to sail for Europe, and continues through the war until Germany's surrender.

The letters are beautifully written, heartfelt and immediate. The young lieutenant's letters demonstrate the power of the written word, lovingly scrawled and sent with hopes to connect with loved ones far away. This is a not-to-be-missed storytelling event.

Gallery Talk: Handwriting as an Artistic Act

Thursday, March 15, 2pm

Jenny Parsons, Assistant Curator

How does an artists' handwriting compare with their works of art? Does a modern artist's handwriting also appear modern? Join Parsons for a discussion that scrutinizes the penmanship of Hudson River School painters like Frederic Church and modernists like John Sloan and Alexander Calder to discover how an artist's style of putting pen to paper compares and contrasts with their artmaking.

Film at The Kate: Cézanne: Portrait of a Life

Saturday, March 17, 1pm

\$15 (members \$13); go online at boxoffice@thekate.org or contact The Kate for tickets at (860) 510-0453. *Museum members should contact the Front Desk at (860) 434-5542, ext. 111 or frontdesk@flogris.org for special member discount code.*

This film takes audiences beyond the exhibition to the places Cézanne lived and worked, and sheds light on an artist who is perhaps the least known of all the Impressionists—until now.

Art•Bar Happy Hour: Paper Wall Sculptures

Thursday, March 22, 5:30pm

\$25 (members \$22)

The Museum's Art•Bar combines creativity with light fare and libations. Join artist and educator David D.J. Rau to learn how to make an eye-popping wall sculpture from a single piece of paper. All materials included.

Lecture: The Butler Wrote It—The World of Forensic Handwriting Examination

Sunday, March 25, 2pm

\$7 (members \$5)

Jim Streeter, Forensic Evidence Examiner and Groton Town Historian

The current exhibition celebrates the handwriting of famous artists. A person's handwriting, similar to their fingerprints, is distinctive and unique. Handwriting expert Streeter provides a fun and informative introduction to the basics of the forensic handwriting examination, including methods of forgery, and how to detect them. His presentation features actual criminal and civil cases culled from his decades of work in the field.

APRIL

Day Trip: Divine Treasures and Worldly Goods and Lunch at the Union League Club

Tuesday, April 3, 9am-6pm

\$125 (members \$110)

Our treasure-filled day begins at the Fairfield University Art Museum with guided tours of *The Holy Name—Art of the Gesù: Bernini and His Age*. After a gourmet lunch in the ballroom of the Union League Cafe in New Haven, we

Season Opening Weekend Events

Family Event: *Polynesian Princess Party*

Saturday, April 7, shows at 11:30am, 12:30pm, 1:30pm, and 2:30pm

Come celebrate the beginning of the Museum's summer season with this island-themed crafting day. Meet two princesses, Moana and Ariel, who know that it's "better" to be where it's "wetter"—either above or below the waterline.

Exhibition-Related Event: *Calligraphic Flourishes Demonstration*

Sunday, April 8, 1-4pm

Debby Reelitz, Calligraphy Design Studio

Inspired by the range of handwriting on view in *Pen to Paper*, master calligrapher Debby Reelitz will demonstrate a range of writing styles with an emphasis on creating gigantic lavish flourishes for lettering—a truly mesmerizing technique. Participants can create their own notecard.

Discovery Sundays Begin Again

Sundays, April 8–September 23, 1-5pm

Why not make a painting this Sunday? Drop in at the Museum's Education Center for a quick painting lesson before heading down to the river or out in the garden for an afternoon of *plein-air* painting. All materials included. Be sure to stop at the Portable Art Studio on the grounds and check out an *Explorer's Kit*. Fun for the whole family.

will venture to the Yale Center for British Art for a tour of the new exhibition, *The Paston Treasure: Microcosm of the Known World*. A unique opportunity to see wonders never before in the U.S.

Lecture and Gallery Walk: *Alfred Stieglitz: Photographer, Gallerist, and Inveterate Pen Pal*

Thursday, April 5, 2pm

Kristina Wilson, Ph.D., Professor of Art History, Clark University, Worcester, MA

\$7 (members \$5)

Alfred Stieglitz's long and eventful career at the center of the New York art world was dominated by his photography practice and his work as a gallerist. Yet he spent many months of each year living at his family compound in Lake George, NY. During those months, when he could not convince colleagues and friends to visit, he spent hours each day writing letters. Wilson will provide an overview of his career as photographer and gallerist, and will discuss what we can learn from his voluminous correspondence.

Snip! Snip! Spring Pruning Workshops

Friday, April 6, 10:30am and Sunday, April 8, 1:30pm

Sheila Wertheimer, Landscape Historian

\$7 (members \$5)

Walk the grounds with Sheila Wertheimer as she demonstrates the proper way to prune roses, lilacs, hydrangeas, mock orange, winterberry, and various fruit trees. Dress for outdoor walking.

International Event: *Slow Art Day*

Saturday, April 14, Slow Viewing at 10am; Discussion at 12pm

Jenny Parsons, Assistant Curator

Slow Art Day is an international movement to encourage people to look closely at works of art for 5-10 minutes each, and then have a discussion about the art. The Museum will have five Slow Art works identified for a closer look and discussion.

Gallery Event: *From Pen to Paper to Poetry: A Tour in Verse*

Sunday, April 15, 2pm

Join poets affiliated with CT River Poets and Guilford Poets Guild, as well as creative writing students from Old Saybrook High School, as they present poems inspired by the works of art on view.

Hands-On Event: *Writ Large—Experiencing Calligraphy for Beginners*

Tuesday, April 17, 5:30pm

Debby Reelitz, Calligraphy Design Studio

\$10 (members \$8)

Get the feel for calligraphy with an oversized pen nib under the master eye of calligrapher Reelitz. Working in watercolor ink on craft paper, participants will appreciate the artistry of calligraphy while learning the basics of blackletter writing—using the same font as the masthead of *The New York Times*. A fun way to experience the skillful art of calligraphy.

School Vacation Event: *Day Long Craft Lab*

Wednesday, April 18, 11am-4pm

Stop by the Museum on Wednesday during the local school vacation week to experience a dynamic makers' space for all ages. A variety of fun hands-on projects to choose from!

Gallery Talk: *Revealing the Person Behind the Pen*

Thursday, April 19, 2pm

Jenny Parsons, Assistant Curator

Just as works of art can convey something personal about an artist, so can an artist's handwriting be decoded to reveal details about their emotions, their biography, and their relationships. Come hear some of the stories of emotional struggle captured by letters from artists like Henry Ossawa Tanner, who had to overcome racism, and Lee Krasner, who penned a poignant last letter to her estranged husband, Jackson Pollock, just days before his tragic death.

Film at The Kate: *David Hockney at the Royal Academy of Arts*

Saturday, April 21, 1pm

\$15 (members \$13); go online at boxoffice@thekate.org or contact The Kate for tickets at (860) 510-0453. *Museum members should contact the Front Desk at (860) 434-5542, ext. 111 or frontdesk@flogris.org for special member discount code.*

Featuring intimate and in-depth interviews with David Hockney, this revealing film focuses on two blockbuster exhibitions held in 2012 and 2016 at the Royal Academy of Art in London.

Art•Bar Happy Hour: *3-D Self Portrait Plaster Masks*

Thursday, April 26, 5:30pm

\$25 (members \$22)

The Museum's Art•Bar combines creativity with light fare and libations. Join Museum Educators Julie Garvin Riggs and Shelby Chadwick for a creative evening of self discovery. Each participant will start with a blank 3-D face to design and embellish into a likeness of their very best creative self. All materials included.

Lecture: *Pen to Paper: Artists' Handwritten Letters*

Sunday, April 29, 2pm

\$7 (members \$5)

Mary Savig, Curator of Manuscripts, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution

Even in this age of emails, texts, and tweets, there is an ongoing fascination with the simple act of putting pen to paper. Join Mary Savig for a lecture exploring the connection between artists' handwriting and their styles of making art. Situating these extraordinary letters within the history of penmanship in the United States, Savig will reveal how artists have disrupted conventions in inventive ways, from their casually jotted notes to elaborately decorated epistles.

MAY

Day Trip: *Thomas Cole's Journey: Atlantic Crossings at the Metropolitan Museum of Art*

Tuesday, May 1, 8am-7pm

\$110 (members \$95); no refunds after April 15 (refunds before subject to \$20 fee)

Thomas Cole (1801–1848) is recognized as one of the greatest American landscape painters. Born in Britain, Cole was an economic migrant who arrived on American soil 200 years ago. This exhibition is the first to present him as an international figure, whose repeated crossings of the Atlantic shaped his world view and artistic practice. Our visit includes a guided tour of the exhibition. There will be time for lunch (on your own), as well as exploring other exhibitions and collections during this daylight visit.

Gallery Talk: *Letters by the Lyme Art Colony Artists*

Thursday, May 3, 2pm

Amy Kurtz Lansing, Curator

Join Kurtz Lansing to study treasures from the Museum's archive of artists' letters. Participants will consider the relationship of the artists' handwriting to their art, and illuminate the stories behind the correspondence in the exhibition *P.S.: Letters from the Lyme Art Colony*.

Open House:

Sunday! Fun Day! Free Day!

Sunday, May 6, 11am-5pm

Admission is Free!

The Museum encourages exploration of its exhibitions and grounds on this special free day. Visitors can tour the art exhibitions and historic Griswold House. Creative hands-on art activities in the Hartman Education Center from 11am-4pm. Check out the range of *Explorer Kits* from the Portable Art Cart.

Free Day Event: *Brian Miller Magic*

Sunday, May 6, 12:00pm and 2:00pm

Admission is Free!

Back by popular demand, master magician Brian Miller astounds audiences with his remarkable feats of magic. A popular entertainer and public speaker (his TED talk has been viewed online by over 2.7 million people), Miller returns to the Museum to "wow" audience members of all ages.

GardenFest Plant Sale

Friday, May 18 and Saturday, May 19, 9am-3pm

Join the Museum's Garden Gang for a sale of beautiful plants and garden specimens, featuring heirloom perennials, roses, herbs, and succulents.

Art•Bar Happy Hour: Rustic Shadowbox Filled with Felt Flowers

Thursday, May 24, 5:30pm

\$25 (members \$22)

The Museum's Art•Bar combines creativity with light fare and libations. Join artist Sarah

Layton (SillyOllie on Etsy) for a fun evening of filling a rustic wood shadowbox with hand-made colorful felt flowers. Perfect for hanging or standing on a shelf. All materials included.

LOOKING AHEAD TOWARDS SUMMER

Day Trip: *Georgia O'Keeffe's Visions of Hawai'i at the New York Botanical Garden*

Tuesday, June 12, 7am-6pm

\$145 (members \$130); no refunds after May 31 (refunds before subject to \$20 fee)

This day trip features guided tours of the NYBG's summer exhibition featuring breathtaking plant installations based on Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings of Hawaii commissioned by Dole in 1939. Lunch is included in a private air-conditioned dining room. Exhibition of 15 O'Keeffe Hawaii paintings, not seen together since 1940, is also included.

Art Program: *Intensive Camp for Middle School Students*

Monday-Friday, June 25-29, 10am-3pm

\$220 (members \$200)

Julie Garvin-Riggs, Museum Educator

This five-day camp is perfect for the middle school student with an interest in art. Campers explore a variety of skill-building exercises. Camp includes a t-shirt, materials, and snacks.

Art Program: *Art Colony Camp*

Monday-Friday, (session dates vary), 10am-3pm

\$220 (members \$200)

Creative kids explore the art and history of the Lyme Art Colony in their own colony of young artists at the Museum's five-day camps. Geared for students entering grades 1-6, campers investigate the Museum's exhibitions, paint, play games, and more. Camps include a t-shirt, all art-making materials, and daily snacks. Each week culminates in a fun art show displaying the week of student projects for family and friends.

Session 1 (grades 1-3): July 9-13

Session 2 (grades 4-6): July 16-20

Session 3 (grades 1-3): July 23-27

Session 4 (grades 4-6): July 30-August 3

Session 5 (grades 1-3): August 6-10

Session 6 (grades 4-6): August 13-17

SAVE THESE JUNE DATES:

Annual Meeting

Friday, June 1, 5:30pm

Garden Luncheon

Friday, June 8, 12pm

Exhibitions

Pen to Paper: Artists' Handwritten Letters from the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art

February 9 – May 6, 2018

This presentation has been generously supported by Bouvier Insurance

P.S.: Letters from the Lyme Art Colony

February 9 – May 6, 2018

Art and the New England Farm

May 11 through September 16, 2018

Putting it on Paper: American Prints, Drawings, and Watercolors

September 29, 2018 – January 27, 2019

Events

GardenFest

June 8–17, 2018

Blooms with a View:

A Display of Art & Flowers

June 8–10, 2018

Old Lyme's Midsummer Concert & Festival

July 27–28, 2018

Wee Faerie Village • Lettersburg Junction: Wee Faerie Homesteads from A to Z & 1-2-3

September 29 – October 28, 2018

Magic of Christmas

December 1-30, 2018

MEMBERS ENJOY IT ALL!

Become a Museum member today and receive free general admission year-round, discounts on programs, and a 10% discount at The Shop and Café Flo. To find out more, go online, call, or come in. Individual memberships begin as low as \$60 per year.

FlorenceGriswoldMuseum.org ■
(860) 434-5542, ext. 112 (membership office) ■ Visit the Front Desk

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR PROGRAMS

For more information or to RSVP for a program, just go online, call, or come in.

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EVENTS

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OFF INTERSTATE 95 AT EXIT 70



Meet Our New Director Becky Beaulieu

MEMBERS' OPEN HOUSE THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 5:30-7:30pm

RSVP to deedee@flogris.org or ext. 122

The Museum's educational programming is supported by grants from the Lelan F. Sillin, Jr. Education Endowment Fund; The Elizabeth Matthews Hubbard Education Fund; and The Sally J. Bill Children's Education Fund.

Follow us on

MUSEUM LAUNCHES NEW ONLINE LEARNING PORTAL CALLED SEE/change



George H. Durrie (1820-1863) *Seven Miles to Farmington*, c. 1853. Oil on canvas. Gift of The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company. Funded in part by an Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Museum spent last year working with educators, curators, and curriculum specialists to develop an online learning resource called SEE/change. The new site focuses in on new ways to experience American art through one painting—*Seven Miles to Farmington* (c. 1853) by Connecticut artist George Henry Durrie (1820-1853). SEE/change is designed for teachers and students to connect art and history in their classrooms, but can also be broadly enjoyed by people of all ages. Site users can learn more about the artist, George H. Durrie, his life in New Haven, and his artistic career. For teachers and students, there's a beautiful portfolio of images of Durrie's work, an animated timeline, a visual glossary, lesson plans, and videos. And for everyone, there's a fun section of games and activities.

Go online to florencegriswoldmuseum.org/learn/see-change/ and explore the mysteries behind this iconic work of American art.

Springtime Super Sale IN THE SHOP



Friday, March 23rd to Sunday, March 25th

Up to 75% off all kinds of great items including unique gifts, art books, kids books and toys, stationery, garden items, and a whole lot more! This is the perfect time to plan ahead for gift giving or treat yourself to something special.

**Café Flo opens on
Tuesday, May 1**