



Museum of Fine Arts Boston

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MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON

Join us for a sizzling summer of hot topics

mfa.org/lectures

lectures *and* courses



TICKETS ON SALE APRIL 30

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON
SUMMER 2015



course

Expats Artists in America and England

Enjoy four lectures inspired by the MFA's Conservation in Action project to treat a major painting by Anglo-American artist Benjamin West, on view in Gallery 208. Get fascinating insights from experts on five expat artists famed for bridging the Atlantic.

Tue, Jul 14–Aug 4, 10:30 am–Noon
Remis Auditorium

Erica Hirshler, Croll Senior Curator of American Paintings, Art of the Americas

Heather Nolin, Arthur Ross Collection Research Associate and Project Manager, Yale University Art Gallery

Jonathan Ribner, associate professor, director of Graduate Admission, Department of History of Art and Architecture, Boston University

Edward Saywell, chair, Linde Family Wing for Contemporary Art; Arthur K. Solomon Curator of Modern Art

FOUR-SESSION COURSE

\$96 MEMBER, \$120 NONMEMBER

INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS

\$28 MEMBER, \$35 NONMEMBER

Course package is not available online.

1. July 14 • Ribner

JOHN SINGLETON COPLEY AND BENJAMIN WEST: TRANS-ATLANTIC SENSATIONS

Benjamin West and John Singleton Copley were born in colonial America and made successful careers in London. See how they absorbed European high culture and sensationally modernized the painting of history.

2. July 21 • Nolin

TOMATOES, BUCKWHEAT PANCAKES, AND ART FOR ART'S SAKE: JAMES ABBOTT MCNEILL WHISTLER IN LONDON

James Abbott McNeill Whistler was 21 in 1855 when he left for Europe intent on becoming an artist. He settled in London and never returned to the US, yet always identified himself as an American. Learn about Whistler's impact on British society and how his outsider status, along with the burgeoning artistic and economic conditions in the city, affected his artistic output.

3. July 28 • Hirshler

JOHN SINGER SARGENT: FROM THE ROYAL ACADEMY TO THE MFA

Although John Singer Sargent was considered British in England and American in the US, when he was elected to the Royal Academy in 1894, the artist told a colleague he still considered himself an American, declaring "I keep my twang." Compare Sargent's British and American paintings and patrons, including the murals he created in London for the MFA.

4. August 4 • Saywell

DAVID HOCKNEY: A YORKSHIRE LAD IN LA

Over his celebrated career David Hockney has encapsulated the essence of two different landscapes in his work: the luminous swimming pools and palm trees of Los Angeles, and the majestic splendor of his native Yorkshire, England. Explore the inspiration behind Hockney's artistic journey, one that has led him to be recognized as one of our greatest living artists.

Famed expat and subject of the second session of this course, James Abbott McNeill Whistler's views on art were outspoken and progressive. *Harmony in Flesh Colour and Red* (about 1869), owes its title to his interest in relationships between sensory experiences of music and visual arts.

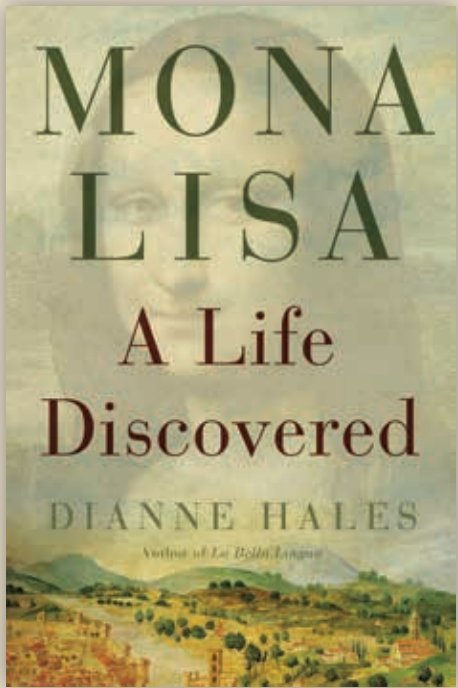
lectures

Mona Lisa
A Life Discovered

Wed, May 20, 7–8 pm
Remis Auditorium
Dianne Hales, author, *Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered*

By far the most recognized and reproduced image in Western civilization, Leonardo da Vinci’s *Mona Lisa* is also one of the most mysterious. Who was this woman with the enigmatic smile? Mona (Madame) Lisa Gherardini—daughter of impoverished nobles, teenaged wife of a brash businessman twice her age, and mother of six—lived in a time of political upheavals, family dramas, and public scandals. Her long life (1479–1542) spanned the most tumultuous and creative chapters in the history of Florence. Hear the story of the lady, the artist, and the iconic painting. A book signing follows the lecture.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW
\$16 MEMBER, \$20 NONMEMBER



In her most recent book, author Dianne Hales reveals how an otherwise ordinary Florentine housewife became the woman whose face everyone knows.

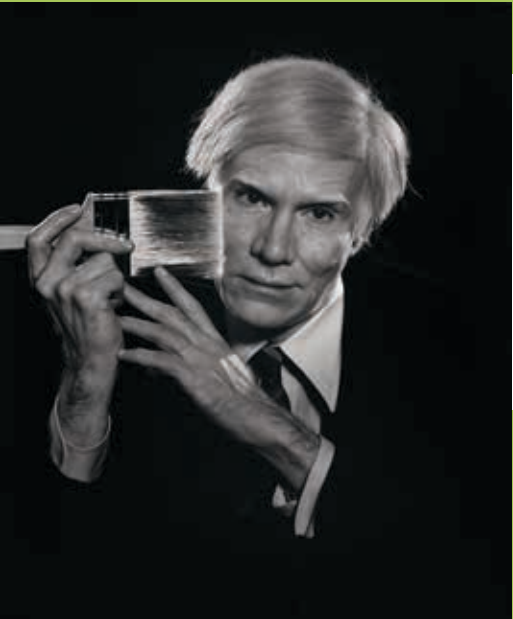
Gilded-Age
Bostonians
and
Old Japan
An Ironic
Love Affair

Wed, Jun 10, 7–8 pm
Remis Auditorium
Christopher Benfey, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of English, Mount Holyoke College; author *The Great Wave: Gilded Age Misfits, Japanese Eccentrics, and the Opening of Old Japan*

Cultivated Bostonians of the Gilded Age, including connoisseurs and collectors closely associated with the MFA, fell in love with Japanese art and culture soon after Japan opened its borders to the West. These Bostonians, eager to learn from Japanese artists like Hokusai, sought to conserve a vanishing civilization. Through examples from the Museum’s collection of Japanese art, Benfey explores this “ironic love affair” between two contrasting nations and cultures. A book signing follows the lecture.

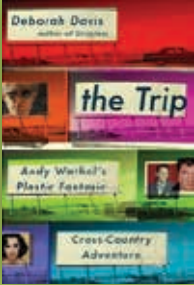
\$16 MEMBER, \$20 NONMEMBER

Under the Wave off Kanagawa, also known as *The Great Wave* (about 1830–31), detailed here, is one of the most famous Japanese woodblock prints collected by Boston’s William Sturgis Bigelow. See it along with other great works by master Katsushika Hokusai in the exhibition “Hokusai,” on view until August 9.



Thu, Aug 6, 7–8 pm
Remis Auditorium

Deborah Davis, author, *The Trip: Andy Warhol’s Plastic Fantastic Cross-Country Adventure*; *Strapless*; *Guest of Honor*; and *Gilded*



Award-winning author Deborah Davis returns to the MFA to talk about her most recent narrative nonfiction, *The Trip*.

The Trip

Andy Warhol’s Plastic Fantastic
Cross-Country Adventure

In 1963, up-and-coming artist Andy Warhol set out on a road trip across America. What began as a madcap, drug-fueled romp became a journey that took Warhol on a kaleidoscopic adventure from New York City, across the vast American heartland, all the way to Hollywood, and back. Hear how this little-known trip—and the numerous artists and celebrities he met along the way—profoundly influenced Warhol’s life and art. From encounters with prominent figures like Dennis Hopper, Peter Fonda, Marcel Duchamp, Elizabeth Taylor, Elvis Presley, and Frank Sinatra, to those with rednecks, beach bums, underground filmmakers, artists, poets, socialites, and newly minted hippies, see how each left an indelible mark on Warhol’s psyche. A book signing follows the lecture.

\$16 MEMBER, \$20 NONMEMBER



AUTHOR EVENTS
AT THE MFA

Join other literary enthusiasts in the intimate Riley Seminar Room for author readings and discussion of art-inspired fiction, eye-opening nonfiction, and sumptuous poetry. Our first author this summer is Noah Charney (*The Art of Forgery*) on June 5, 7 to 8 pm. A book signing follows the discussion.

\$10 MEMBER, \$12 NONMEMBER

Visit the MFA Bookstore and Shop for a look at what everyone will be reading on the beaches this summer, including *The Art of Forgery*. Need suggestions? Our knowledgeable staff is happy to assist you.

remix

Socialize, share, and engage your senses!
Join small-group social activities and meet new people with the same interests.



“Restoring a Legacy:
Rothschild Family Treasures”

Thomas Michie, Russell B. and Andrée Beauchamp Stearns Senior Curator of Decorative Arts and Sculpture, Art of Europe
Victoria Reed, Monica S. Sadler Curator for Provenance

Thu, Jun 18, 2–4 pm

Hear the story of these exquisite objects that were looted by the Nazis, then recovered by the Rothschild family and their heirs, and how they ultimately became part of the MFA’s collection.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW
\$52 MEMBER, \$65 NONMEMBER

An 18th-century gold **snuff box** (above) is just one of the many treasures on view in the Lee Gallery through June 21.

Japanese Tea Ceremony

Allan Palmer, tea master, Urasenke School
Martha Wright, adjunct instructor

Wed, Jul 8, 2–5:30 pm

Join us in the demonstration of the 400-year-old tradition of *chanoyu*, the Japanese tea ceremony—all within the surroundings of the newly renovated *Tenshin-en*, our Japanese Garden.

\$52 MEMBER, \$65 NONMEMBER

This spring, the MFA reopened its popular Japanese Garden, *Tenshin-en* or “Garden of the Heart of Heaven,” after an extensive restoration project.



Yoga en Plein Air

Beth Pugliano, adjunct Instructor
Rebecca Sisson, director and yoga instructor, Riverside Yoga + Massage

Thu, Jul 16, 6:30–8 pm
Thu, Aug 13, 6:30–8 pm

Breathe new life into works of art—outside! Explore outdoor sculpture followed by a 60-minute all-levels yoga practice on the MFA’s grounds (weather permitting).

\$32 MEMBER, \$40 NONMEMBER

Namaste! The evening Remix, *Yoga en Plein Air*, explores poses, meditation techniques, and the history and philosophy of yoga as it relates to outdoor art at the MFA.



LOOKING TOGETHER



Take a break from the heat and cool off with art in the galleries at a Looking Together session. Above, Fitz Henry Lane’s *View of Coffin’s Beach* (1862) was inspired by Ipswich Bay in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Engage in the MFA’s galleries with experts in seminar-like sections led by a knowledgeable, enthusiastic instructor who guides participants in dialogues inspired by the Museum’s collections and exhibitions. Each section is limited to 16 participants.

FOUR SESSIONS
\$100 MEMBER, \$125 NONMEMBER

TWO SESSIONS
\$52 MEMBER, \$65 NONMEMBER
All classes convene at Sharf Visitor Center.

ON VIEW
Nancy Ketterer, adjunct instructor
Four Tuesdays, 1:30–3 pm, Jun 9–30

Take a closer look at current exhibitions, including “Leonardo da Vinci and the Idea of Beauty,” “In the Wake: Japanese Photographers Respond to 3/11,” and the extraordinary “Hokusai.”

FROM BUDDHISM TO THE BLACK SHIPS
John Hermanson, adjunct instructor
Two Tuesdays, 10:30 am–Noon, Jun 30 and Jul 7
Join us as we survey 1,000 years of Japanese art from 550 to 1850 in the MFA’s collection, including a session in “Hokusai.”

AMERICAN LANDSCAPES
Karen Quinn, Kristin and Roger Servison Curator of Paintings, Art of the Americas
Two Tuesdays, 1–2:30 pm, Jul 7 and 14
Stroll through the Art of the Americas Wing and view scenic and pristine landscapes. Backpack and walking stick not required!

MASTERPIECES AT THE MFA
Beth Pugliano, adjunct instructor
Two Thursdays, 10:30 am–Noon, Jul 23 and 30
Marvel at select masterworks ranging from paintings to sculpture, and discuss what makes the MFA unique.

Members save on tickets

Go to mfa.org/lectures
Call 1-800-440-6975
Visit any MFA ticket desk

Media sponsor of MFA Lectures and Courses is
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Cover: Katsushika Hokusai, *Phoenix* (detail), Japanese, Edo period, 1835. Eight-panel folding screen; ink, color, cut gold-leaf, and sprinkled gold on paper. William Sturgis Bigelow Collection. Inside front cover: James Abbott McNeill Whistler, *Harmony in Flesh Colour and Red* (detail), about 1869. Oil and wax crayon on canvas. Emily L. Ainsley Fund. Inside, left: Katsushika Hokusai, *Under the Wave off Kanagawa*, also known as *The Great Wave*, from the series *Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji* (detail), about 1830–31. Woodblock print; ink and color on paper. William Sturgis Bigelow Collection. Inside, left: Yousai Karsh, *Andy Warhol*, 1979. Gelatin silver print. Gift of Estrella and Yousai Karsh. © Estate of Yousai Karsh. Inside, right: Marked by Jean-Baptiste Berthé. *Snuff box*, about 1770. Gold, enamel decoration. Gift of the heirs of Bettina Looman de Rothschild. Inside, right: Image © Jacob Tabor Photography. Inside, right: Fitz Henry Lane, *View of Coffin’s Beach, Ipswich Bay*, 1862. Oil on canvas. Gift of Mrs. Barclay Tilton in memory of Dr. Herman E. Davidson. All images © Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, unless otherwise noted. © 2015 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.