

# NEWS

from the Worcester Art Museum

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## GET CREATIVE THIS SUMMER WITH ADULT ART EDUCATION CLASSES AT THE WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

**(WORCESTER, Mass., April 13, 2006)** — The Worcester Art Museum is hosting our Spring Adult Education Open House on Thursday, April 27, 2006 from 5:30 to 7 pm in the Higgins Education Wing.

Have you thought about taking an art class but don't know where to begin? Don't know what type of class would be best for you? Have you taken classes before and are ready to explore a new challenge? Join us on Thursday, April 27 at the Worcester Art Museum for a fun and informative evening at our Adult Education Open House. Talk to instructors, visit the studio spaces, and get a feel for what is the best class offering for you. Our new summer class schedule offers unique programs from the beginner to the advanced artist.

"Every session offers something different... new classes, new partnerships, new credit possibilities," said Marcia Lagerwey, associate director of education at the Worcester Art Museum. "You won't find such diverse and unique class offerings at many other places."

This year the Museum is offering two exhilarating off-site travel classes in New Mexico and Greece. Travel in mid-August to Ghost Ranch, New Mexico with painting instructor Kat O'Connor. Paint the magnificent southwestern landscape while absorbing the area's rich Spanish and Pueblo cultures. Residing at Ghost Ranch, you'll have ample time to explore the nearby hills, Kitchen Mesa, and the Pedernal Peak, some of Georgia O'Keeffe's favorite painting sites. This exciting opportunity is co-sponsored by Worcester Art Museum and Lesley University. Pack your bags and your sense of adventure for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

In early September, join us for a chance to study writing in Greece with Worcester County's own Nicholas Gage, author of the New York Times best-selling memoir, *Eleni*. Travel to an area of Greece—the northwestern corner of the country known as Epiros—that is little known but has attracted sophisticated travelers throughout history from Plutarch to Lord Byron and Elia Kazan. Classes cover how to pick a subject to write about that will interest travel editors, how to research the site selected, how to write an article on the

site, and how to write queries to travel editors to sell your pieces. An opportunity like this should not be missed! Spaces fill quickly, so reserve your spot now!

Looking for an adventure closer to home? Spend June 17 with Susan Swinland for *A Summer Day in the Berkshires: The Gilded Age to the Contemporary*. Explore Edith Wharton's famous estate, The Mount. Visit her stunning gardens and tour the newly restored mansion. Enjoy lunch at The Mount, and then head over to North Adams to visit the world-renowned contemporary art museum, Mass MOCA.

The Worcester Art Museum also maintains its extensive daytime, weeknight and weekend schedule of classes and workshops, providing hands-on art instruction in traditional media such as watercolors, sculpture and photography or delving into more unusual forms of expression. Many classes open cultural doors, such as *Oriental Brush Painting, A Journal of Chinese Cultural Experiences, Introduction to Japanese Anime on the Computer, The Art of Tai Chi*, and *Italian: The Language of Art*. With gallery visits and illustrated talks, classes take advantage of the Worcester Art Museum's world-class collection spanning 50 centuries of art and culture.

"The face of adult education is changing," said Education Director Honee A. Hess, "and the Worcester Art Museum has been at the forefront of that change."

Our ever-popular Adult Art Institute features one week sessions in *Intensive Figure Drawing and Portraiture, Digital Photography: The Art of Pixels, Masters of Italian Art at the Worcester Art Museum, Socially Engaged Artmaking*, and one day workshops such as *Handmade Book*, just to name a few. Also offered are Teacher Institutes (earn your teaching credits!). *The Art and Culture of Puerto Rico* this June will introduce you to our major fall exhibition *Mi Puerto Rico: Master Painters of the Island, 1785-1952*. In August take part in *Enrich Your Curriculum with Art*. You don't have to be an art teacher to participate!

Complete course listings and registration are accessible on the Museum's website at [www.worcesterart.org](http://www.worcesterart.org). Or, call 508-799-4406, ext. 3129 to receive the summer *Classes* brochure. Many Worcester Art Museum classes may be taken for college credit from Clark University, Fitchburg State College, Massachusetts College of Art, Quinsigamond Community College and our newest educational partner, Becker College. Teacher professional development points are offered for all classes. Scholarships are available.

### **About the Worcester Art Museum**

The Worcester Art Museum, which opened to the public in 1898, is world-renowned for its 35,000-piece collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings and new media. The works span 5,000 years of art and culture, ranging from ancient Roman mosaics to Colonial silver, Impressionist paintings and contemporary art. Dedicated to the promotion of art and art education, the Museum offers a year-round studio art and art appreciation

program that enrolls over 6,000 adult and youth students each year. Public tours are offered Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m., September through May. Audio tours are also available in English and Spanish.

Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. (evening hours sponsored by Commerce Bank), and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and full-time college students with current ID, and FREE for Members and all youth 17 and under. Admission is also FREE for everyone on Saturday mornings, 10 a.m.-noon (sponsored by The TJX Companies, Inc. and National Grid). The Museum is located at 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, Mass., easily accessible from the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90), Route 290 and Route 9. Free parking is available near entrances on Salisbury, Lancaster and Tuckerman streets. For more information, call (508) 799-4406 or visit the Museum web site at [www.worcesterart.org](http://www.worcesterart.org).

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