

NEWS

from the Worcester Art Museum

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GET CREATIVE WITH FRIDAY NIGHT ART ADVENTURES AT THE WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

(WORCESTER, Mass., Aug. 10, 2005) — The Worcester Art Museum puts a new spin on date night this fall with a line-up of Friday evening classes to take with friends or to make new ones.

Seven fun, new exploratory Friday night offerings complement a broad palette of studio art, art appreciation, writing and literature classes for adults at the Worcester Art Museum. The 10-week fall session begins Sept. 19. The public is welcomed to explore class offerings, meet instructors, watch demonstrations and view student work at an Open House from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 8.

“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.”

From the beginner-level *Friday Night Drawing* class to the *T.G.I.F. Writer’s Circle*, the new Friday night classes are purposely social, designed to cap the workweek in a laid-back but creative way. *The Evolution of the Horror Movie* puts a playful tack on film theory and even includes the popcorn and soda. *Write a Novel in 30 Days (Really!)* is a five-week class to coincide with National Novel Writing Month (November) that challenges participants to draft a 175-page novel by midnight on Nov. 30. No sewing machine is necessary for *The Art of the Quilt*, a novice class that explores the versatile, tactile medium of fabric. Two computer courses round out the fall Friday night schedule: a two-session *Introduction to Microsoft Office for Artists* and a five-week *Introduction to QuarkXPress*, the industry-leading layout and design software.

The classes end between 7:30 and 8 p.m. so that students may continue to enjoy their evenings out with drinks or dinner.

Of course, 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*, *Introduction to Japanese Anime*, *African Art and its Worldwide Influences*, and *The Art and Language of Italian Cuisine*. 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.

In recent years, the Museum has expanded its writing program and this fall offers eight writing classes, including a playwriting workshop and a memoir writing class. Through class exercises, reading, instruction and critiques, students find the motivation and support they need to develop their voice.

Not all classes happen at the Worcester Art Museum. Faculty member Susan Swinand leads seasonal Art and Literature Daytrips to explore the museums and cultural landmarks of New England locales. Her next trip, Saturday, Oct. 8, heads to the Longfellow House and Harvard Museums in Cambridge. Much farther abroad, a two-week trip to Greece is planned for next May. After a two-day stay in Athens, participants will head to the Greek Island of Skopelos for a special landscape painting class with Worcester Art Museum instructor Kat O'Connor. The Museum's inaugural trip to Greece this September booked quickly, so early registration is recommended.

"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."

Complete course listings and registration are accessible on the Museum's website at www.worcesterart.org. Or, call 508-799-4406, ext. 3129 to receive the fall *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 \$8 for adults, \$6 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 Massachusetts Electric, a National Grid Company). 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.

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