

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM ANNOUNCES FREE ADMISSION DURING AUGUST

Free August includes month-long roster of exhibitions, drop-in workshops, and other programs available to visitors of all ages

Worcester, MA (July 28, 2014) -- To celebrate the last month of summer, the Worcester Art Museum (WAM) is offering free general admission throughout August. This initiative is made possible by a generous gift from the Kirby Foundation.

Free August invites visitors of all ages to engage in a variety of programs from story readings and family tours that bring to life works of art in the collection, to nude drawing lessons among masterpieces by Veronese, El Greco, and Rembrandt. Guests will also have the opportunity to experience WAM's current exhibitions before summer comes to a close, including Knights!, which features one of the nation's best collections of arms and armor, and two newly restored portraits by William Hogarth.

"Thanks to the Kirby Foundation's generous gift, WAM is able to build on its commitment to create a more accessible museum experience," said Museum Director Matthias Waschek, "We look forward to welcoming new and old faces to WAM next month, and fostering a memorable summer experience for everyone who walks through our doors."

"Free, unlimited access to art at the Worcester Art Museum for the entire month of August is my idea of a gift with impact. The Kirby Foundation is thrilled to sponsor Free August," said Lisa Kirby Gibbs, trustee of both the Kirby Foundation and the Worcester Art Museum. "Providing free general admission to the public for 4 weeks allows families from all over New England and as well as our Worcester community to experience the spectacular treasures that the Museum has to offer."

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM HOURS

Galleries

Wed-Sun 11am-5 pm

Sat 10 am-5 pm

Third Thurs 11am-8pm

Closed Mon, Tues and holidays

Café

Wed-Saturday 11:30-2pm, featuring outdoor dining

Sip (café cart in Lancaster Lobby)

Wed-Sunday 10:30-3pm, featuring coffee, beverages, sandwiches, and snacks

Shop

Open during gallery hours

Library

Wed-Friday, 11am-5pm

Extras

Always free parking

Always free WIFI

Bring your WOO Card and swipe for points!

SCHEDULE OF FREE ACTIVITIES DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST:

WEDNESDAY

Drawing Club

1-3pm

Drop in and draw in a different gallery each week. Discover WAM's art and make it your own. Supplies will be provided, or bring your own. All ages welcome. (Gallery location rotates: check with the visitor services desk upon arrival).

August Tour of the Month

How to Read an Abstract Painting

August 13, 2pm

Discuss the evolution of abstract art and how to make sense of it. Docent Paul Steen will lead the conversation in the Museum's vibrant twentieth-century galleries.

THURSDAY

Nude Drawing

2 - 5pm

The nude takes center stage among our old masters. Try your hand at drawing a live nude model with the guidance of our expert faculty among masterworks by Veronese, El Greco, and Rembrandt.

FRIDAY

Children's Story Time

11-11:45am

Listen to a storybook read by a Museum educator and get to know a related work of art in one of the galleries. Meet in the Lancaster Street lobby.

SATURDAY

Art + Market

Saturdays, 10am-2pm

Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot, 73 Lancaster Street

Enjoy art, craft, food, music and more at WAM's weekly Art + Market, Worcester's new alternative farmer's market. Each week features a different theme and community organizations; visit worcesterart.org for more information.

Family Tour

10:30 - 11am

Explore the museum galleries with your family on a docent-guided discovery tour. Hear fun facts, stories and enjoy sharing observations and time together. Tours last approximately 30 minutes.

Families @ WAM: Make Art!

11-11:30am

Stay after your family tour (starting time 10:30 am), or drop-in for this fun intergenerational time in the galleries. Get inspired by our art and try making something uniquely yours. Materials will be provided. Rediscover your childlike sense of free spirited play!

Zip Tours

12 noon

Join one of our talented Museum docents. Zip tours are fast paced views of one artist or work of art, and last only 20 minutes.

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How to Read an Abstract Painting

August 16, 2pm

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SUNDAY

Arms and Armor Demonstrations

12:30 and 2:30pm

Learn about different kinds of arms and armor used by knights and soldiers, including Roman soldiers, Celtic warriors, Medieval knights and beyond! Check worcesterart.org for weekly themes.

Public Tours

1pm-2pm

Join one of our talented Museum docents for an overview of the Museum collection.

EVERY DAY

Audio Tours

Available at the Visitor Services Representative Desks at the Lancaster and Salisbury Street Entrances. Now offered in English and Spanish! A self-guided audio tour of some of the Museum's greatest treasures is available for rent (free for Members).

One-Day Artist Residencies

Use the WAM collection as inspiration for your own art. Sketch, draw, write, or photograph in the Museum galleries as part of the "work-of-art-in-a-day" program. Share a photo of your work on the WAM Flickr and Facebook sites.

WHAT'S on VIEW?

Visit the Museum's website for information on current and upcoming exhibitions (worchesterart.org).

About the Worcester Art Museum:

Founded in 1896, the Worcester Art Museum serves Worcester and the broader region. The Museum houses an encyclopedic collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings, and new media. WAM's collection has historically been strongest in European Renaissance paintings, but with recent acquisitions and donations, like Veronese's Venus Disarming Cupid and the integration of the collection from the Higgins Armory Museum, it continues to diversify and expand its curatorial and programmatic offerings. Symbolized by the opening of the Salisbury Street doors in 2012, the Museum continues toward its goal of accessibility for all visitors. For more information, visit worchesterart.org.

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