

Worcester Art Museum Announces a New Season of Master Series Lectures

Third Thursdays bring art and people together for inspiring, enlightening discussions

WORCESTER, MA (October 6, 2016) — The Worcester Art Museum has launched its third season of [Master Series Third Thursday](#) events. These engaging evenings, which include an art talk and reception, bring to the fore a significant work or works of art from WAM's encyclopedic collection or from a Museum exhibition. The series features acclaimed speakers drawn from around the country whose relevant expertise stimulates lively, thought-provoking discussions among lovers of art.

Hosted by the Worcester Art Museum's Members Council, each [Master Series](#) event is held on a third Thursday of the month from 5 to 8 p.m., with the art talk taking place from 6 to 7 p.m. The events are free with Museum admission. Third Thursdays at WAM are free for any college student with a valid ID. Events include ASL interpretation. More information about the speakers and works of art can be found at [worcesterart.org](#).

"The Museum galleries are always open until 8 p.m. on third Thursdays of the month, which makes it an ideal time for our Master Series events," says Katrina Stacy, associate curator of education and the Master Series coordinator. Along with the lecture and viewing of the work of art in the gallery, says Stacy, guests are invited to join friends and Museum staff for conversation, light refreshments, and a cash bar. "These art-fueled, social evenings have caught on with guests and members who have a real interest in art. The lectures are always well attended."

The Master Series Third Thursday events are sponsored by [Abbvie](#) and the Amelia and Robert Hutchinson Haley Memorial Lecture Fund. Media partner is [WGBH Forum Network](#).

Master Series Third Thursday Schedule: 2016–2017

October 20, 2016, 6pm

The 1920's ... The Migrants Cast Their Ballots, by Jacob Lawrence

Speaker: Valerie J. Mercer, curator of the General Motors Center for African American Art, Detroit Institute of Arts

Jacob Lawrence's print is one of the featured works in WAM's exhibition about citizenship, physical spaces and engagement within those spaces, *Picket Fence to Picket Line: Visions of American Citizenship*. The large and stunning work, rarely on view, is exhibited from October 15, 2016 to February 5, 2017. Speaker Valerie J. Mercer, an expert on this important African-American artist, has curated several exhibitions of Lawrence's work.

November 17, 2016, 6pm

The Jewish Wedding, by Pierre-Auguste Renoir

Speaker: Judith Dolkart, The Mary Stripp and R. Crosby Kemper Director, Addison Gallery of American Art

Recently conserved at the Worcester Art Museum, *The Jewish Wedding* has been restored to a level of vibrancy most likely not seen since its creation in 1875. The slow, systematic and exacting process of cleaning WAM's treasured Renoir will be part of Renoir expert Judith Dolkart's presentation. *The Jewish Wedding* is featured in WAM's Jeppson Idea Lab through March 26, 2017, where viewers can take a closer, more intimate look at a work by this celebrated impressionist.

February 16, 2017, 6pm

Reine Lefebvre Holding a Nude Baby (Mother and Child), by Mary Cassatt.

Speaker: Heather Lemonedes, chief curator, Cleveland Museum of Art

Speaker Heather Lemonedes is an expert on master painter Mary Cassatt and her signature portraiture that often features mother and child in distinctive and evocative postures. Cassatt's impressionistic techniques, her focus on mother and child, and her use of models are all part of the February discussion.

March 16, 2017, 6pm

Our Lady of Mount Carmel with Bishop Saints, by Gaspar Miguel de Berrío. From the Roberta and Richard Huber Collection

Speaker: Thomas B.F. Cummins, Dumbarton Oaks Professor of Pre-Columbian and Colonial Art, Harvard University

A reverent and formal rendering of mother-and-child is seen in Gaspar Miguel de Berrío's *Our Lady of Mount Carmel with Bishop Saints*. This mid-18th century work of South American colonial art is featured in WAM's exhibition, *Highest Heaven: Spanish and Portuguese Colonial Art from the Roberta and Richard Huber Collection*, which runs from March 11 through July 9, 2017. De Berrío's oil on canvas, like all the works in the exhibition, was intended to deepen religious understanding and Christianity in the Spanish and Portuguese colonies. The evening's speaker, Thomas B.F. Cummins of Harvard University, co-authored the exhibition catalog.

April 20, 2017, 6pm

Master Vases of Ancient Greece

Speakers: Paula Artal-Isbrand, Objects Conservator, Worcester Art Museum, and Amanda Reiterman, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania

This Master Series lecture focuses on three exquisite ceramic vases made in Athens over 2,500 years ago. On view in the Jeppson Idea Lab from April 5 – October 1, 2017, each vase has a unique shape and is representative of one of three major Attic painting techniques. Objects Conservator Paula Artal-Isbrand discusses how these masterpieces were shaped, decorated and then fired using an ingenious—and mysterious—method that potters were not able to replicate until recently. She also shares highlights of discoveries made during the lengthy conservation campaign, including finding a secret inner vessel within one of them. The rich depictions on these vases are brought to life by archaeologist Amanda Reiterman, who explains the function and relevance of these finely made objects in the context of the thriving metropolis of Athens.

May 18, 2017, 6pm

Lady with a Red Box. Chinese, 18th century, Qing dynasty (1644-1912)

Speaker: Vivian Li, Assistant Curator of Asian Art, Worcester Art Museum

Assistant Curator of Asian Art Vivian Li discusses Florance Waterbury and the role of the Worcester Art Museum in the early study and collection of Asian art in America. Waterbury—a painter, art collector, and recognized Chinese art scholar— was an extraordinary figure in the formation of Asian art in the first half of the 20th century. The exquisite painting *Lady with a Red Box* is one of the foundational works of Asian art Waterbury gifted to the Museum and is a notable example of the art Waterbury sought to collect and share.

About the Worcester Art Museum

Founded in 1896, the Worcester Art Museum's encyclopedic collection of 37,500 objects covers 51 centuries of art. Highlights include the Medieval Chapter House, Renaissance Court, and Worcester Hunt Mosaic, as well as the recently integrated John Woodman Higgins Armory Collection of arms and armor. The Museum is internationally known for its collection of European and American art. It was the first in America to acquire paintings by Monet and Gauguin and one of the first to collect photography. As the first U.S. museum to focus on collaborating with local schools, it has been at the forefront of engaging audiences and giving them a meaningful and personal experience.

The Worcester Art Museum, located at 55 Salisbury Street in Worcester, MA, is open Wednesday through Friday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and every third Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is \$14 for adults, \$6 for children 4-17, \$12 for seniors 65+, and \$12 for college students with ID. Members and children under four are free. Admission is free for any college student with a valid ID on the third Thursday of each month. Parking is free. For more information, visit worcesterart.org.

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