“Get some sleep ...
Contemplate everything’s opposite ...
Read and reread great books”

—”How to Be Perfect,” Ron Padgett, 2013

In this season of resolutions, expand your understanding at the Boston Athenæum. So much awaits: more than 20 discussion groups for readers and writers, 100s of new titles added each week, 1000s of time-honored volumes, and dozens of programs—including concerts, lectures, tours, gallery talks, coffee hours, poetry readings, and a martini movie night. From Fred and Ginger to cooking with ginger, our events offer something to tempt every taste. A special series explores the intersection of art and war, inspired by Proprietor Richard Cheek’s recent transformational gift of WWII posters and visual materials. In 2017, resolve to spend more time at 10½. We’d love to see you!

Elizabeth E. Barker, Ph.D.
Stanford Calderwood Director

—Glimpsed at 10½—

Members enjoy current exhibition Daniel Chester French: The Female Form Revealed in the Norma Jean Calderwood Exhibition Gallery.
Daniel Chester French: The Female Form Revealed

Don’t miss our current exhibition, described by the Boston Globe as “worth seeing not only because French was such a superb sculptor, but because it expands our idea of his achievement, and affords all kinds of insights into sculptural process.”

Daniel Chester French (1850-1931) was one of America’s foremost sculptors of public monuments, known for his heroic bronze The Minute Man (1875) in Concord, MA, and his colossal marble Abraham Lincoln (1922) in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. His renown for these male-oriented images is merited, yet female beauty in its classicizing, idealized form was often at the forefront of his work. French’s allegorical depictions of women, which have previously received little scholarly attention, are the focus of Daniel Chester French: The Female Form Revealed.

ONGOING EXHIBITION
Through February 19, 2017
Norma Jean Calderwood Gallery
Members Free  Non-members $5

CURATOR-LED GALLERY TALKS
Thursday, January 12, 2-3 pm
Registration begins December 29, 9 am
Thursday, February 2, 5:30-6:30 pm
Registration begins January 19, 9 am

DOCENT-LED GALLERY TALKS
Wednesday, January 4, 2-2:30 pm
Thursday, January 19, 2-2:30 pm
Wednesday, January 25, 2-2:30 pm
Wednesday, February 8, 1-1:30 pm
Monday, February 13, 4:30-5 pm
Registration not required
Members Free  Non-members $5

ANDROMEDA: DANIEL CHESTER FRENCH’S UNKNOWN MASTERPIECE
Thursday, February 9, 6-7 pm
Registration begins January 26, 9 am
Members Free  Non-members $15

Andromeda, Daniel Chester French’s provocative masterpiece in marble, makes for an elusive subject. Sculpted only two years before the artist’s death in 1931, the work has never been exhibited outside of French’s studio at Chesterwood. The compelling story of its creation will be the subject of this lecture by Donna Hassler, Executive Director of Chesterwood and co-curator of our current exhibition.

Art and Architecture Tours

Sundays, 1-2 pm
Mondays, 5:30-6:30 pm
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3-4 pm

Tours in French
Tuesday, January 10, 4:30-5:30 pm
Tuesday, February 7, 3:30-4:30 pm

Tours in Spanish
Monday, January 9, 4:30-5:30 pm
Monday, February 6, 3:30-4:30 pm

Join a docent for a free, one-hour tour and discover the history of the Athenaeum, its iconic building, and its extraordinary collections.

Call 617-227-0270 ext. 221 to register.
THE ART OF WAR

Centuries of astute collecting have established the Boston Athenæum as a vital center for the study of America’s major wars. In this four-part series, we will consider artists’ responses to war and trauma from the American Revolution to today.

BEYOND STEREOTYPE: WAR, WARRIORS, AND THE CREATIVE ARTS
Monday, January 30, 6-7:30 pm
Registration begins January 16, 9 am
P R Members $15 Non-members $30
Former US Marine Corps combat artist Michael D. Fay and cultural historian Tara Leigh Tappert will discuss the role and influence of wartime experiences on culture and the arts since WWI. They will address art’s capacity to subvert stereotypes, and the impact that art made by combat artists and veterans can have on our national discourse about the military.

THE (MODERN) ART OF WAR
Wednesday, February 8, 6-7 pm
Registration begins January 25, 9 am
P R Members $15 Non-members $30

Author Sally Pemberton recounts the gripping narratives of the first wave of modern artists to arise during WWII, chronicling the visual reporting of bravery and suffering during this consequential chapter in world history.

A REVOLUTION IN COLOR: THE WORLD OF JOHN SINGLETON COLEY
Monday, February 27, 6-7 pm
Registration begins February 13, 9 am
Author Jane Kamensky presents an intimate portrait of John Singleton Copley, colonial America’s premier painter of revolutionary heroes such as Paul Revere, John Hancock, and Samuel Adams—and a British citizen painting the American War of Independence from a distant shore.

MAKE ART NOT WAR: ANTI-WAR ARTISTS’ BOOKS IN THE RARE BOOKS COLLECTION OF THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM
Thursday, March 9, 6-7 pm
Registration begins February 23, 9 am
P R Members $15
Stanley Ellis Cushing, Anne C. and David J. Bromer Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts, leads this presentation, drawn from the Boston Athenæum’s remarkable collection of artists’ books.

Spotlight on Charlotte Emans Moore, Ph.D.

Q & A with the Athenæum’s first Polly Thayer Starr Post-Doctoral Curatorial Fellow

Q: Congratulations on your fellowship appointment. Who was Polly Thayer Starr, and why is this fellowship named in her honor?
A: Polly Thayer Starr was an extraordinary modernist painter and a fierce patron of the arts (and a particularly strong advocate for women in the arts). Her works energize the spaces of the Boston Athenæum, and her Charitable Trust has made possible lectures, internships, and fellowships across New England institutions. This particular fellowship supports scholarship in American art.

Q: What will you research during the course of your fellowship?
A: In 1833, several Boston women donated Chester Harding’s 1827 likeness of Hannah Adams to the Boston Athenæum. This gift of a portrait of a significant early American woman of letters was the result of a group subscription organized by her female friends and admirers. Through an interdisciplinary approach that draws upon the Athenæum’s manuscript, library, print, and art collections, I will examine the role of 19th-century women as patrons, collectors, and supporters of the arts, placing this community of women and their activities in historical, biographical, art historical, and cultural contexts.

Q: How can members find out more about your research?
A: Stay tuned! At the end of my two-year fellowship, I will present on my discoveries in the Athenæum’s collections, which provide an invaluable case study for understanding the historic role of women in the arts.
Introducing the Richard W. Cheek World War II Graphic Arts Collection

The Boston Athenæum is honored to receive an important donation of World War II visual materials from the extensive collection of architectural photographer and Athenæum Proprietor Richard Cheek. The Richard W. Cheek World War II Graphic Arts Collection contains over 2,000 posters and war maps, 189 linear feet of books, 4,000 magazines, and approximately 6,500 pieces of WWII ephemera, including board games, playing cards, pin-ups, and postage stamps.

A transformational addition to the Athenæum’s holdings, the Cheek collection complements existing strengths in Civil War and WWI-related materials (among the finest in the country), and provides an essential resource for the study of American society and culture during WWII. This extraordinary visual and textual record of the country’s wartime values and beliefs will further scholarship across disciplines and intrigue the general public.

Of the collection’s breadth, Catharina Slatterback, Curator of Prints and Photographs, explains that “part of its value lies in its sheer numbers.” Indeed, the collection’s diversity of materials “conveys, in a way that a smaller collection could not, the pervasiveness of propaganda in American society during the war.” Propaganda, she adds, “was present in every aspect of American life and it both encouraged conformity of thought and discouraged dissent.” The intellectual value of these materials, evidence of an era rapidly receding into the historic past, will only increase with time.

The son of a WWII veteran and the grandson of a renowned Civil War historian, Richard Cheek began collecting WWII graphic materials as a child. An exhibition of the Cheek collection is planned for 2020, to be curated by Mr. Cheek and Ms. Slatterback. A fully illustrated catalogue will accompany the exhibition.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

EMMANUEL MUSIC PRESENTS
MENDELSSOHN AND WOLF
Thursday, February 2, 6-7 pm
Registration begins January 19, 9 am
P Members $15 Non-members $30

Emmanuel Music performs the instrumental chamber music and songs of Felix Mendelssohn alongside the intensive, reflective art songs of Hugo Wolf. This program will emphasize each artist’s relationship with the works of poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. Ryan Turner, Artistic Director of Emmanuel Music, explains, “Mendelssohn revered the elder poet Goethe, to the point of dedicating his final piano quartet to him. Taking inspiration from Mendelssohn, I have paired his Songs without Words with Wolf’s masterful Goethe-Lieder to explore how these two composers and one poet dialogue with each other.”

ECCE AT THE ATHENÆUM: AN EVENING OF MUSIC ON SOCIAL JUSTICE
Monday, February 20, 6-7 pm
Registration begins February 6, 9 am
P Members $15 Non-members $30

An evening of contemporary music dedicated to the topic of social justice, intended to inspire thought and spark conversation. Ecce’s residency at the Athenæum continues our longstanding role as a hub of civic discourse.
NEW MEMBERS’ RECEPTION
Tuesday, January 17, 5:30-7 pm
M F Invite-only, RSVP by January 10
This wine and cheese reception offers new members an opportunity to meet fellow members of the Athenaeum’s energetic, intellectually curious community and explore its labyrinthine building. Questions? Contact membership@bostonathenaeum.org.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

WRITERS, CONNECT!
Seeking commiseration, comments, or cheer? Join the Writers’ Workshop on the 3rd Sunday of every month from 2-3:30 pm.

SAVE THE DATE
The Athenaeum’s next members trip, to Vienna, Dresden, and the Czech Lands, will take place from October 1 to 11, 2017. Call 617-720-7661 or visit our website for complete details.

NEW FACES
Welcome Nicole Critchley, Reader Services Intern; Adriene Galindo, Annual Giving Assistant; Sarah Grace Glover, Reader Services Intern; Tyrone Smith, Director of Security; and Makesha Udinarain, Advancement Systems Manager.

STUDENT COFFEE HOUR
Are you an undergraduate or graduate student? Join Director of Education Hannah Weisman for monthly coffee breaks to meet other student members, learn about resources available to you, and offer feedback on your experiences at the Athenaeum. Contact weisman@bostonathenaeum.org for a schedule of upcoming coffee breaks.

NURSERY RHYME TIME
Fridays, 10:30-11:30 am
M F Registration not required

AFTER-SCHOOL READ ALOUD Ages 5+
Wednesdays, 4-5 pm
M F Registration not required

INDEPENDENT READER’S BOOK GROUP Ages 6-8
Tuesday, January 17, 5-6 pm
Tuesday, February 21, 5-6 pm
M F Register; email Dani Crickman at crickman@bostonathenaeum.org

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME
Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am
M F Registration not required

STORIES, SONGS, AND ACTIVITIES Ages 0-2
Thursdays, 10:30 am
M F Registration not required

FAMILY STORY TIME Ages 0-5
Saturdays, 10:30 am
M F Registration not required

LEGOS*, CHESS, & PUZZLE CLUB Ages 5-8
Saturdays, 2:30-3:30 pm
M F Registration not required

JUST for KIDS

A CHILD OF BOOKS
Saturday, February 25, 1-2:30 pm
Registration begins February 10, 9 am
P Members $10  Non-members $15
Free for ages 10 and under

TWEENS & TEENS

FRIDAY DIY Ages 8-12
Fridays, 4-5 pm
M F Registration not required

HOMEWORK HANG-OUT Ages 8+
Thursdays, 5-7 pm
M F Registration not required

TEEN READERS’ BOOK GROUP Ages 14-18
Wednesday, January 18, 5-6 pm
Wednesday, February 22, 5-6 pm
M F Register; email Dani Crickman at crickman@bostonathenaeum.org

YOUNG READERS’ BOOK GROUP Ages 9-13
Monday, January 23, 6-7 pm
Monday, February 27, 6-7 pm
M F Register; email Dani Crickman at crickman@bostonathenaeum.org
SELECT JANUARY-FEBRUARY EVENTS
Visit our website for a complete calendar of upcoming programs.

MARTINI MOVIE NIGHT:
ROBERTA
Thursday, January 5, 5:30-8 pm
Registration begins December 20, 9 am
M Members $40
Fun is in fashion in Roberta, the third Astaire-Rogers film. Theater snacks and light fare will be served with gin and vodka martinis before the show.

A CITY BAKER’S GUIDE TO COUNTRY LIVING
Wednesday, January 11, 12-1 pm
P Registration not required
Join Louise Miller, pastry chef at the Union Club of Boston, for a book talk and reading from her debut novel, hailed by the New York Times Book Review as a “Pinterest fantasy of rural America” and an appealing “reverie of country life.”

THE REMARKABLE NATURE OF EDWARD LEAR
Thursday, January 19, 12-1 pm
P Registration not required
Edward Lear may be best known for his works of literary nonsense, but he was also an accomplished scientific illustrator and landscape painter. Robert McCracken Peck, author of The Natural History of Edward Lear, will discuss the extraordinary life and work of the writer and artist, who abruptly abandoned his scientific aspirations soon after achieving preeminence in the field.

STORIES FROM THE GREAT TRANSITION: HOW THE ARTS PREPARE US FOR LIFE IN THE TIME OF CLIMATE CHANGE
Wednesday, February 15, 6-7 pm
Registration begins February 1, 9 am
P R Members $15 Non-members $30
In this presentation, Laird Christensen, professor of English and environmental studies at Green Mountain College, will explore the ways in which American writers and artists imagine and translate the impact of climate change.
This event is the first program in Crossroads, a series exploring the intersections of the arts, humanities, and sciences.

COOK’S SCIENCE: HOW TO UNLOCK FLAVOR IN 50 OF OUR FAVORITE INGREDIENTS
Thursday, January 26, 6-7 pm
Registration begins January 12, 9 am
P R Members $15 Non-members $30
For the past 25 years, America’s Test Kitchen has used the art of science to perfect cooking. Cook’s Science distills thousands of kitchen tests and decades of recipes into a landmark volume that will change the way Americans cook at home. During this event, two executive editors of Cook’s Science will explore the basic science behind different cooking methods that make ingredients taste their best.

LARZ AND ISABEL ANDERSON: WEALTH AND CELEBRITY IN THE GILDED AGE
Thursday, February 16, 12-1 pm
Registration not required
Author and historian Stephen Moskey’s illustrated lecture will highlight the literary and theatrical accomplishments of Isabel Weld Perkins Anderson, a Boston heiress and socialite whose legacy and public image have been transformed by the publication of his recent book. Moskey’s research has exposed Anderson as a prolific writer and editor, a librettist and impresario, and a courageous nurse serving on the battlefields of Europe during WWI.