

BOSTON ATHENÆUM

MARCH-APRIL 2017

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

A flicker of leaves
Across my book,
And a quavering bird-note,
Call me
To the window;
And there—
Is Spring ...

- Mabel Linn, "Spring" (1917)

IN THIS SEASON OF RENEWAL, revive your imagination at the Boston Athenæum. Find your next great read: Every month, we acquire dozens of new titles—and enrich the cataloguing information on hundreds of long-held volumes. View compelling art: Our spring exhibition, opening on April 6th, features 21st-century prints of our New England environment. Take part in a program: Our spring events include a performance of abolitionist poetry; a presentation on cultural innovators; an exploration of gender and opera; discussions about civic engagement and the intersection of science and photography; talks on American imperialism and anti-war artists' books; and a teddy bears' picnic. From a Pulitzer prize-winning poet to Elena Ferrante's translator; from Mozart to newly commissioned chamber works; contemporary art to ancient ruins—we invite you to savor it all.

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

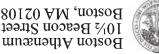
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CLOSED

Monday-Thursday, 9 am-8 pm Friday, 9 am-3:30 pm Saturday, 9 am-4 pm Sunday, 12 pm-4 pm

OPEN





Vintage valentines donated by Evelyn M. Coker. See more on Instagram: @bostonathenaeum!



—Glimpsed at $10^{1/2}$ —

New England on Paper

Contemporary Art in the Boston Athenæum's Prints & Photographs Collection



Daryl V. Storrs, Blue Forest. Linocut, Boston Athenæum.

This exhibition will showcase contemporary prints, drawings, and photographs by New England artists, reflecting diverse interpretations of the region's built and natural environment as well as its rural and urban society and culture. A broad range of media will be represented, from linocuts, lithographs, and whiteline woodcuts to hand-toned silver gelatin prints and digital photographs. Artists' statements will accompany their works, providing a glimpse into the artistic philosophy of some of New England's finest artists and artisans.

ONGOING EXHIBITION

April 6-September 3, 2017

Norma Jean Calderwood Gallery

P Members Free Non-members \$5

EXHIBITION OPENING

Wednesday, April 5, 5:30-7:30 pm

P P Registration not required

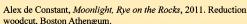
GALLERY TALKS

Gallery talks begin in May—find details online in April.

Members Free Non-members \$5

An Active Legacy

Every work in the exhibition was acquired with support from the Francis Hovey Howe Print Fund, established in 2000 in honor of its namesake—a Trustee emerita (1917-2000), early childhood education specialist, and contemporary art collector—through generous gifts from Trustees emeriti Edward B. Baldini, John G. Cabot, Bayard Henry, and Lionel Spiro, together with Barbara de Braganca, Dorothy H. Baldini, Enid L. Beal, G. d'Andelot Belin, Dudley H. Ladd, Esther S. Yntema, and an anonymous donor. This exhibition is co-sponsored by *Artscope*.





artscope

Spotlight on Planned Giving Realize the power of a planned gift

A planned gift can allow you to continue to support the Athenæum's mission even after your lifetime. There are many ways to make a gift.

A **charitable bequest**, or gift in your will or living trust, entitles your estate to an unlimited federal estate tax charitable designation.

Beneficiary designation is flexible and entirely separate from your will. Name the Boston Athenæum as a beneficiary to receive assets such as retirement plans and life insurance policies after you are gone.

Other options allow your generosity to provide you with a lifetime of income. With a **charitable gift annuity**, you support the Boston Athenæum's work while receiving fixed payments for life.

We are grateful to have received several bequests from departed members of our community in the past year. Proprietors Cynthia Mutti and Marilyn L. R. Peterson, both members of the Bromfield Society, and life member Robert L. Barry left planned gifts totaling over \$800,000. Life member and Bromfield Society member Harold J. Gaarder donated the proceeds from the sale of his home in South Boston.

To learn more about planned giving, please contact **Robert** West at 617-720-7682.

CROSSROADS

In this four-part series taking place between February and May, we will consider the relationships between, and the intersections of, the arts and sciences.

MUSIC, CONSERVATION, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Thursday, April 13, 6-7 pm

Registration begins March 30, 9 am

P Members \$15 Non-members \$30

Join us for an evening of contemporary music dedicated to the topic of environmental conservation, intended to inspire thought and spark conversation. This performance by the resident ensemble ECCE will include a community forum with presentations by leading environmental innovators.

FRAME BY FRAME: SNAPS OF THE INTERSECTION OF SCIENCE AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Tuesday, April 18, 6-7:30 pm

Registration begins April 3, 9 am

P R Members \$15 Non-members \$30

Join photographers Bob Hesse, Jim Nickelson, and Thibault Roland for a discussion of the intersection of science and photography. Each artist will explain how a knowledge of science influences the creative process and will present samples of his own work. This panel will be moderated by Emily Handlin, Ph.D, gallery director of the Eastern Connecticut State University Art Gallery.



Image courtesy of Thibault Roland.

OFF STAGE: READING AFTERMATH (A GEOLOGICAL SURVEY)

Thursday, May 4, 6-7 pm

Registration begins April 19, 9 am



Members Free

Sharon Harper, professor of visual and environmental studies at Harvard University, whose work explores the intersection of technology and perception, will give this year's Torrence C. Harder Endowed Lecture.

Members' Trip: Dresden, Prague, and the Czech Lands

Our next trip for members—a once-in-a-lifetime journey to Dresden, Prague, and the Czech Lands—will take place from October 6-17, 2017. The bespoke tour, designed for the discerning tastes and diverse interests of Athenæum members, will showcase magnificent works of art and architecture in historic residences, palaces, galleries, monasteries, and private libraries in the breathtaking metropolises and provincial villages of Saxony, Moravia, and Batavia.

Jarl Kremeier, Ph.D., an art historian specializing in 17th- to 19th-century architecture and decorative arts, will accompany the tour. Accommodations include a converted 16th-century Jesuit monastery and perfectly located heritage hotels.

For more information, please contact Emily Cure at 617-720-7661.



Baroque library hall in Klementinum, Prague.

Trip Highlights

- Reception and dinner in the porcelain collection of the Zwinger, a unique Baroque confection: part festival arena, part exhibition gallery
- Visit by special arrangement of the library of the counts Kinsky (established through a single purchase of more than 18,000 volumes in the early 19th century and recently returned to its original interior in the Kinsky Palace in Old Town Square) and the Nostitz majorat (fideicommis) library, deposited in the original Baroque interiors of the Nostitz Palace in Prague
- Evening concert at the Rudolfinum with Magdalena Kožená (soprano)

Take the survey!

We're asking members about reading habits. Please complete the survey, emailed to all members and available on site in paper form, by March 14th.



Where to sit?

At a recent Director's Coffee Hour, members asked where to perch when the fifth floor is full. We recommend:

- **B** Upper Pilgrim
- **1** Sitting room
- 3 Bow Room
- **3G** Gallery seating



Recent Gift: The Archives of the Wednesday Evening Club

We are pleased to announce the generous donation by 15 members of the Wednesday Evening Club of its institutional archives, along with a monetary gift for the purposes of cataloging, preserving, and sharing these records with members, scholars, and the general public. A social club established in Boston in 1777, the Club survives today, with members dining at one another's homes weekly from October to June.

The Club's former members include senators and justices, physicians and clergymen, merchants and scholars, and one President of the United States (John Quincy Adams, a founding member). At the Club's centenary celebration in 1877, its Secretary stated: "That a social organization so simple as this—a weekly gathering of a few gentlemen at each other's private dwellings—should last a century is rather remarkable ... [The Club] has done nothing but give a large amount of social pleasure to its members, and no small measure of that intellectual improvement which comes from intercourse with intelligent and cultivated minds."



Henry Sargent's *The Dinner Party*, ca. 1821 (Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Gift of Mrs. Horatio Appleton Lamb in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop Sargent) is thought to depict a meeting of the Wednesday Evening Club.

Annual Giving

The Annual Fund is the name given to donations that are available to use immediately in the areas of greatest need—from collections to member services, maintenance to educational programs. 23% of the budget is funded through such gifts; the remainder comes from the endowment (59%) and from membership dues (18%). As you consider our next appeal, please remember that every contribution, in any amount, truly matters. Thank you!



NEWS YOU CAN USE

JOINT DISCUSSION

On March 6, the Civil War and Fiction discussion groups will hold a joint meeting to discuss Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage*. Both are currently accepting new members. For more information about discussion groups, contact Arnold Serapilio at 617-720-7633.

NEW FACES

Welcome Daniel Axmacher, Rare Materials Catalog Librarian; Benjamin Chen, Security Officer; Danny Norton, Reader Services Intern; Carey Shockey, Security Officer; and Travis Werlen, Digital Programs Intern.

E-NEWSLETTER

Having trouble with our e-newsletters getting caught in your spam filter? Simply add events@bostonathenaeum.org to your contacts or flag the next e-newsletter as "not junk."

EMMANUEL MUSIC

Emmanuel Music is offering half-priced tickets to Athenæum members for its chamber series concerts, which will take place April 23 and 30 at 4 pm in the intimate Parish Hall at Emmanuel Church. When purchasing tickets online, use discount code "save50."



NURSERY RHYME TIME

Up to 18 months Fridays, 10:30-11:00 am

M 🕟 Registration not required

AFTER-SCHOOL READ ALOUD

Ages 5+

Wednesdays, 4-5 pm

M Registration not required

INDEPENDENT READERS BOOK GROUP

Ages 6-8

Tuesday, March 21, 5-6 pm Tuesday, April 18, 5-6 pm

M P To register, email Dani Crickman at crickman@bostonathenaeum.org

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am

M P Registration not required

STORIES, SONGS, AND ACTIVITIES

Ages 2-4

Thursdays, 10:30 am

MR Registration not required

FAMILY STORY TIME

Up to age 5

Saturdays, 10:30 am

M Registration not required

LEGO®, CHESS, & PUZZLE CLUB

Ages 5-8

Saturdays, 2:30-3:30 pm

M F Registration not required

JUST for KIDS

TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC & SLEEPOVER

Saturday, March 25, 11 am-2 pm

Registration begins March 10, 9 am

P Members \$3 Non-members \$5

We're hiring! The Boston Athenæum seeks qualified stuffed animals, action figures, and dolls to work for one special night in Reference, Circulation, Security, and other departments. Human friends are invited to join us for a brown-bag picnic and movie screening of *Zootopia* before the stuffies, lovies, and toys get to work!

PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP Ages 8+

Saturday, April 22, 1-2 pm

Registration begins April 13, 9 am

Members \$3 Non-members \$5

Teaching artist Annie Silverman helps children discover how artists capture the look and feel of New England's built and natural environments. After visiting the exhibition for some close looking at featured artworks, participants will carve and create their own stamps from malleable rubber, then use them to create an original print.

TWEENS & TEENS

FRIDAY DIY

Ages 8-12

Fridays, 4-5 pm

MR Registration not required

HOMEWORK HANG-OUT

Ages 8+

Thursdays, 5-7 pm

M R Registration not required

TEEN READERS BOOK GROUP

Ages 14-18

Wednesday, March 22, 5-6 pm

Wednesday, April 19, 5-6 pm

M Members \$3 To register, email Dani Crickman at crickman@bostonathenaeum.org

YOUNG READERS BOOK GROUP

Ages 9-13

Monday, March 27, 6-7 pm

Monday, April 24, 6-7 pm

Members \$3 To register, email Dani
Crickman at crickman@bostonathenaeum.org

SELECT MARCH-APRIL EVENTS

Visit our website for a complete calendar of upcoming programs.



THE BOSTON ABOLITIONISTS

Sunday, March 5, 1-2 pm

Registration begins January 23, 9 am Members and Poets' Theatre Supporters \$25 Non-members \$30

The Poets' Theatre gives voice to anti-slavery attitudes in Massachusetts during the decades leading up to the Civil War. This original program is offered in partnership with the Museum of African American History and the Poets' Theatre.



THE ART AND CRAFT OF **TRANSLATION**

Wednesday, March 8, 6-7 pm

Registration begins February 22, 9 am P R Members \$15 Non-members \$30

Join Ann Goldstein—translator of works by Elena Ferrante, Primo Levi, Pier Paolo Pasolini, and Alessandro Baricco-for a lecture on the art and craft of translation. with examples from the broad range of works she has translated.

BOSTON'S JOURNALISM TRAIL

Monday, March 13, 6-7 pm

Registration begins February 27, 9 am P Members Free Non-members \$15

American journalism was born in Boston in 1690 with the publication of the first colonial newspaper. In this lecture, Manny Paraschos, Ph.D., traces the history and legacy of significant Boston journalism "firsts."

EYE OF THE EXPERT

Leading the Way: Innovators and Pioneers at the Boston Athenæum Tuesday, March 28, 5:30-7:30 pm

Registration begins March 14, 9 am

Members \$35

Throughout its history, the Boston Athenæum has been an important incubator of innovation and home to intellectual



pioneers. In this special presentation, colleagues David B. Dearinger, Ph.D., Carolle R. Morini, and Mary Warnement offer a glimpse into the lives of three significant cultural figures with historic connections to the Boston Athenæum.

BRAVO! BRAVA! GENDER. OPERA, AND THE MARRIAGE **OF FIGARO**

Wednesday, March 29, 6:30-7:30 pm Registration begins March 1, 9 am

n Members \$20 Non-members \$30



Laurence Senelick, Ph.D., delves into the rich tradition of gender-bending on the operatic stage, illustrated with musical examples from Mozart's The Marriage of

Figaro performed by BLO artists. This program is offered in partnership with the Boston Lyric Opera.

ELIZABETH BISHOP: A MIRACLE FOR BREAKFAST

Tuesday, April 4, 6-7 pm

Registration begins March 21, 9 am Members Free

Pulitzer Prize-winning author and professor of nonfiction writing Megan Marshall offers an intimate look into the life and creative achievement of one of America's most beloved poets, who published only 100 poems in her lifetime.



Members only Open to the public



Reception to follow



Free event

UNFATHOMING

Wednesday, April 12, 12-1 pm

P Registration not required

Andrea Cohen reads from her latest book. Cohen's poems search the shadow regions of yearning and loss, and take surprising, sometimes meteoric leaps, landing in a place where brightness reigns.



EMMANUEL MUSIC PRESENTS MENDELSSOHN AND WOLF

Thursday, April 20, 12-1 pm

P Registration not required

Emmanuel Music performs the instrumental chamber music of Felix Mendelssohn alongside the intensive, reflective art songs of Hugo Wolf, emphasizing each artist's relationship with the works of poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: PURPOSEFUL CONTRIBUTIONS TO A GREATER GOOD

Tuesday, April 25, 6-7:30 pm Registration begins April 11 at 9 am

P R Members \$15 Non-members \$30

Instructors from Boston University, Clark University, and Harvard University consider the significance of civic engagement, inspiring a conversation about how the participation of every citizen is important to a thriving society. WGBH reporter Adam Reilly will moderate the discussion.

PRINCE CHARLES

Wednesday, April 26, 6-7 pm Registration begins April 12, 9 am



Members \$30

In this illustrated lecture, New York Times bestselling author Sally Bedell Smith draws on her exclusive access to the royal family's inner circle and lays bare the contradictions of a man who is more complicated, tragic, and compelling than we knew—until now.