

FRIENDS OF THE INSTITUTE

DECEMBER 2014

FRIENDS LECTURE SERIES | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11 | PILLSBURY AUDITORIUM, 11 A.M.

Annie Griffiths: “A Camera, Two Kids, and a Camel”

Sponsored by the Mark and Mary Goff Fiterman Lecture Fund



Winter is beginning to close in around Minnesota, but the MIA Friends can soar free this month as armchair travelers accompanying our special guest lecturer, Annie Griffiths.

One of National Geographic Society’s first female photographers, Griffiths has worked in more than 125 countries in her illustrious career. An award-winning photographer, she remains perhaps the only photographer in history to pack her camera gear in Pampers. Her Friends presentation, “A Camera, Two Kids and a Camel,” is an extraordinary photographic on-stage journey based on her memoir of the same name. We will travel with Annie as she describes three decades of international expeditions filled with astonishing cultural observations and revealing stories.

Griffiths grounds her work in the belief that all people share a common humanity. Recognizing long ago that we all essentially want the same things—a roof over our heads, healthy food on the table, and meaningful work—she has earned the trust of her subjects without benefit of shared language, culture or experiences. She has covered some of the world’s most contentious places, including Syria, Pakistan, and Lebanon where her fearlessness and ability to open doors allowed her extraordinary entree. The results, as we will see in her lavish photographs, are powerful.

In addition to numerous award-winning magazine projects for the Society, Griffiths’ books depict some of the world’s most beautiful places, as in her collaboration with author Barbara Kingsolver on *Last Stand: America’s Virgin Lands*. In 2010, Amazon and Barnes and Nobel named Annie’s book *Simply Beautiful Photographs* the top photo/art book of the year. In 2014, National Geographic launched her newest book, *Stunning Photographs*.

Griffiths will also take us behind the scenes as founder of Ripple Effect Images, a collective of world-class photojournalists dedicated to documenting and empowering women in emerging nations. Named one of the “Best of the Best Speakers” by the World Presidents’ Association, Griffiths captivates audiences and is considered one of National Geographic’s most popular speaking ambassadors.

Ticketing for Friends Lectures

Free tickets are now offered for seating in the Pillsbury Auditorium for Friends lectures. Tickets are available at (612) 870-6323. Doors open for ticket holders at 10:30. To ensure a full auditorium, please be seated by 10:50. Any available seats will be filled at that time. Lectures begin promptly at 11 a.m. Guests without tickets may attend a live broadcast of the lecture in overflow seating in the Wells Fargo Community Room on the first floor.

Beginning in December, tickets will be available for Friends members only on the 15th and 16th of each month preceding the lecture. General ticketing will be available to the public beginning the 17th of the month.

Recent lectures from the Mark and Mary Goff Fiterman Lecture Fund series are available to watch. It provides easy access to all lectures both past and present. ▶ <http://new.artsmia.org/third-AV#/lectures>

SAVE THE DATE FRIENDS LECTURES

January 8, 2015

Géza von Habsburg

“Early Habsburg Collectors (1500–1650): The Birth of the Vienna Kunsthistorisches Museum”

February 12, 2015

Diana Picasso

“Pablo Picasso in Vallauris: The Artist and the Artisans, 1954–1964”

Presidents Letter



Hello Friends Members,

Has anyone of us completely recovered from the Polar Vortex of last winter and are we really ready for another winter? Seriously, I am still not quite over this summer being over so quickly! Perhaps it is because I am so incredibly busy with family and Friends activities that I have lost track of time. Yes, that is it I do believe!

We are celebrating the success of our fall fundraiser, *Salon: An Evening with Friends* where we gathered some of the most interesting design minds in the Twin Cities to chat over dinner. We learned about what drives design from formidable personalities visiting us from NYC, and most importantly we enjoyed an evening with our friends at the museum. An enormous thank you to my dear friends Mary Merrick and Linda Goldenberg and their committee, for orchestrating this innovative evening.

Our Friends lectures and programs continue to be top-notch, creative, and well attended. The candy dish and coffee pot in the Friends office are emptying a bit quicker, telling me our volunteers and visitors are stopping in more often to work or simply to say hello. I love the chatter in the office and am so appreciative of how our office administrator, Kate Smith, welcomes everyone to the office with an enormous smile!

The winter months ahead hold grand opportunities for our members, as well as intensive planning for Art in Bloom 2015. We always welcome your faithful attendance as a participant in our programs but also, of course, as a volunteer to assist with all. This is a good opportunity to remind everyone that giving a gift to one of the Friends' many funds, at this time of year especially, is important in maintaining the quality of work we hope to continue for the museum and our community.

Friends plans to make its first large installment of the 100th Year Birthday Celebration gift to the MIA very soon. We will be prominently recognized whenever possible in the coming year and we should be proud to know that we were the first of any sponsor to step forth and to step forth in such a generous manner! Each of the Friends plays a role in fulfilling this commitment. We are all to be thanked!

This holiday season my family will be gathering together with our first grandchild. No matter how busy anyone is this time of year, take time out to stop and observe the delight family brings to one's life and spread that amazement and joy to all.

With greetings of cheer and warmth,

Pamela Friedland
Friends of the Institute President

Friends December 11 Luncheon

Following the lecture by Annie Griffiths, please join the Friends in the Villa Rosa Room for a delicious winter luncheon of sautéed chicken breast with saffron, roasted tomato with olive sauce, herb basmati rice, and seasonal vegetables. Pistachio mousse served in a martini glass will complete the menu. You may request a vegetarian option when you reserve. Call (612) 870-6323 today to reserve your luncheon space. Online ticketing is not available for this luncheon. The cost is \$25, and all reservations must be received by 9 p.m., December 4.

Art in Bloom 2015

Art in Bloom 2015
Co-Chairs Arna
Yetter and JeanMarie
Burtness are delighted
to be working with
an enthusiastic group
of Friends volunteers
and gearing up to
make Art In Bloom
2015 extraordinary.



As chilly Minnesota weather causes us all to layer on warm clothing, Arna and JeanMarie are dreaming of sunny days at the museum packed with visitors enjoying the sights and scents of fresh flowers and timeless art. Mark your calendars now for Thursday, April 30 through Sunday, May 3, 2015! In addition to the stunning floral arrangements, they have conjured up a special Art in Bloom "surprise" honoring the Minneapolis Institute of Arts 100th Birthday.

Arna began volunteering at the MIA in 1991 when the Art Adventure Guide program began, and quickly became its first Art Adventure Guide Council President. Previously Arna had been a tour guide at the Walker Art Center, worked in education as an art consultant, was director of a gifted and talented program, and executive director of a nonprofit organization. She now holds the prestigious position of Art in Bloom Co-chair on the Friends Board of Directors with JeanMarie. As a recent retiree, Arna thoroughly enjoys sharing her love of art with others and spending time with her three new grandsons.

JeanMarie Burtness became a Friends member in 2005 when she studied to become a docent at the MIA. She has served as Chair of the Docent Executive Committee and on the Friends Board in many capacities, including Friends Executive Committee as Assistant Treasurer. As a former high school Humanities teacher and International Baccalaureate Coordinator, JeanMarie loves planning and leading tours of the museum's permanent collection and special exhibitions. "It's one of the most rewarding things I do!" In July, JeanMarie became a grandmother to an adorable grandson.

JeanMarie and Arna, handpicked to head up the Friends most important fundraiser, bring all their energy and excitement to the job. That in itself is enough to assure success, but their many engaged volunteers provide them with the help they need and the special opportunity to make many new friends along the way.

Winter Solstice: *The Return of Light*

It is December, the month when many of us will leave our homes in the dark and return in the dark. That is until December 21, the winter solstice, when we begin to call back the sun. Solstice occurs on the shortest day of the year when the “sun stands still;” from the Latin roots “sol” for sun and “sistere” for still. At last the sun will grow stronger and the days longer! In this time of darkness many cultures celebrate the welcome return of the light.

For the Hopi culture of northeast Arizona, the winter solstice is an occasion for festivities. There are over 250 spirits known as Kachinas in Hopi cosmology. They visited the world long ago from the clouds to deliver rain essential for the rejuvenation of crops in their arid climate. Today, representatives dressed as Kachinas perform in the villages during the winter solstice celebrations until mid July. Children are given small, carved dolls in the likeness of the Kachinas. Parents hang them on their walls at home to use as educational tools for teaching Hopi values.

The Kachina which graces our gallery is known as the *Butterfly Maiden*. She is painted in vivid orange, black, peach, yellow and light blue. The seventeen-inch standing wooden figure has arms bent at the elbows and forearms raised. She has a large headdress with stepped edges symbolizing rain and clouds. The small, wooden objects protruding from her head symbolize flowers

and the reblossoming of the earth. The rectangular design on her forehead is an ear of corn, an important crop to the Hopi. At the bottom of her skirt are black geometric designs that represent the rain. These same designs can be seen on other Hopi figures and textiles. The entire object is a symbol of renewal and regeneration.

As December 21 approaches, we can all breathe a sigh of relief that the days will be getting longer and begin our celebration of the return of light.



Hopi Culture, Southwest Region, United States, 1880-1920, *Butterfly Maiden Kachina*, Wood and Pigments, Gallery 259, 2010.1

Friends BOGO

The Friends have a suggestion for a creative holiday gift for a friend or family member: a membership for The Friends of the Institute! When you renew your membership during December, regardless of when it expires, you will receive an additional gift membership. Your own membership will be extended for a full year beyond its expiration, and the recipient of your gift will enjoy our exciting, monthly lectures, luncheons and Friends-Only events. Be sure to take advantage of the Friends BOGO, by contacting Kate Smith in the Friends office. (612) 870-3045.

Lecture Day Tour for Friends Members

Friends members are invited to participate in a private docent-led tour offered before the December 11 lecture by Annie Griffiths. The topic is “Cultural Encounters/Artistic Exchanges.” The tour begins at 10:00 a.m. and we will meet in the MIA’s Third Avenue lobby across from the security desk. Tours begin promptly so please arrive early in the lobby.

Space is limited, so please reserve with Friends-Only Events co-chair Diane Skrien (651)-222-0054 or dianeskrien361@msn.com. Tour participants will also receive tickets and reserved seats for the 11:00 lecture.



Friends-Only Book Club

There is no Book Club in December. All Friends members are invited to attend Friends-Only Book Club on January 16, when the book club will discuss *Lady in Gold: The Extraordinary Tale of Gustav Klimt’s Masterpiece, Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer*, by Anne-Marie O’Connor.

DECEMBER AT THE MIA

December floral arrangements at the Visitor & Member Services Desk are created by **Arts and Flowers**. Please call the Friends office for more information about our florists.

NEW MEMBERS

Bill Ecklund
Kareen Ecklund
Sunny Floum
Elizabeth Genovese
David Holets

LECTURE SERIES

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Ticketed Luncheon Following

GIFTS TO THE FRIENDS

Rosella Fefercorn in honor of Carolyn Ackerberg's birthday

March 12, 2015

Maya Lin

"The Intersection of Art, Architecture, and Memorial"

April 9, 2015

James Fox

"Bolts from the Blue"

May 14, 2015

Glenn Lowry

"In Between Places: Contemporary Art and the Middle East"
Ticketed Luncheon Following

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Friends Web Site

www.artsmia.org/friends

Live Lecture Videos

new.artsmia.org/third-av/#/lectures



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