

FRIENDS OF THE INSTITUTE

MAY 2014

FRIENDS LECTURE SERIES | THURSDAY, MAY 8 | PILLSBURY AUDITORIUM, 11 A.M.



Kathleen Weil-Garris Brandt: “Michelangelo’s Genius: Nature vs. Nurture”

Sponsored by the Mary and Mark Fiterman Fund

SAVE THE DATE
 FRIENDS ANNUAL
 MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 8
 11 a.m.

**PRECEDING THE
 FRIENDS LECTURE**
 All Friends members
 are invited to attend
 for a recap of the year’s
 activities and to vote
 on incoming executive
 officers.



For decades a small, much damaged marble statue of a young archer stood in the shadowy foyer of the French Cultural Services townhouse on New York’s Fifth Avenue. Kathleen Weil-Garris

Brandt, an internationally acclaimed Renaissance scholar, had walked past the building’s glass door many times without seeing the sculpture inside. Then, on a miserable, rainy evening in 1995, when the foyer was brilliantly lit for a reception, Brandt paused to look and recognized a long lost sculpture once attributed to the teenaged Michelangelo, but known only through a photograph.

She returned to document the sculpture with new, comprehensive photos in order to eliminate it from any discussion of Michelangelo. But photographer’s lights revealed in the Young Archer “passages of the most extraordinarily delicate modeling” that recalled the earliest Michelangelo. At the same time, however, Brandt was the first to point out how different the sculpture looked in comparison to the artist’s familiar, mature work.

In the next ten years, reaction to the sculpture moved from indignant rejection to a widespread general acceptance of the work, culminating in the generous loan by the French Republic, of the Young Archer to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where it will be visible for at least the next decade. In her lecture Brandt explores the reasons for this shift of opinion and suggests what the little figure can tell us about the ways the training of young artists confronted them with contradictory mandates. It appears we need to rethink the way we identify the earliest works of the most famous artists.

Born in England, Brandt was educated in the United States and Germany, received a PhD in art history at Harvard and has received numerous prestigious grants. She was editor-in-chief of the

Art Bulletin. Brandt is professor at New York University’s Institute of Fine Arts and the College of Arts and Science and serves as Permanent Consultant for Renaissance Art to the Vatican Museums. She was on the Vatican team for the cleaning, conservation and study of Michelangelo’s Sistine Chapel frescoes. In 1999, she organized an international exhibition in Florence on the young Michelangelo, creating its catalogue in collaboration with European and American scholars. In May 2012, she helped organize and spoke at the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s international symposium, *Michelangelo and His World in the 1490s*. She has written widely on the works in all media of Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Michelangelo and their contemporaries and has collaborated and starred in TV and films on the Renaissance.

Ticketing for Friends Lectures

Free tickets are now offered for seating in the Pillsbury Auditorium for Friends lectures. Tickets are available at (612) 870-3000 or tickets.artsmia.org. Space is limited for auditorium seating, so call early! Doors open at 10:30 a.m. for ticket holders, who are requested to be seated by 10:50 a.m. Overflow seating in Target Reception Hall will not require advance tickets. Lectures begin promptly at 11 a.m.

We encourage all to be patient with this change in policy. It is the intent of Friends to provide exceptional free lectures, minimize pre-lecture inconveniences and invite all to enjoy conversation and treats before the featured speaker.

A Letter from Friends President Pamela Friedland



It never ceases to amaze me witnessing the bevy of activity and the volunteer dedication always evident in the Friends office! I can only hope each of you has had the good fortune to have experienced at least one of our incredible events offered this year.

What a stellar line-up the **Fiterman Fund** has afforded the Friends lecture series. The outreach commitment on behalf of the MIA's staff is credited for helping to ensure a wide variety of community members attend our lectures and how wonderful to welcome new guests! A huge thank you to our volunteer ushers each month, aiding the experience of each lecture.

Friends members enjoy treasured benefits such as docent and curator-led tours, as well as an extremely successful and well attended **Book Club** each month.

Art Perchance celebrated its 10th year anniversary with an incredible vibe. It was terrific to enjoy each other's company during this very successful fundraiser, while at the same time supporting local artists. **Art in Bloom**, celebrating its 31st year, continues to fill the museum with beauty and floral scents almost impossible to describe. What better way could Friends offer such an outstanding gift to the community?

Friends **Children's Fund** continues to provide enriching opportunities for young people to experience and be wonderfully inspired by the world of art. A second year of the important Creativity Academy will be generously financed by this fund.

Once again Friends has contributed roughly \$80,000 to the museum's Learning and Innovation Department with monies coming from **Friends Endowment for Education** (FEFE).

Each week fresh floral arrangements enjoyed by museum visitors are made possible in part by the generosity of the **Harris/Phelps Fund**, as well as the holiday decorating of the fountain court. The tree was lovely this year.

To assure the continued success and support of these programs and opportunities, Friends feel confident in knowing its endowed funds maintain a market value of over five million dollars. Due to the strong success of our fund raisers and the health of our funds, Friends was the first to step up to the plate, announcing a \$500,000 gift to the MIA in recognition of the MIA's 100th year celebration. This extremely important gift speaks to our valued partnership and support of the museum.

I look forward to another year ahead, welcoming everyone into the Friends office to say hello, have some coffee, and share your thoughts and ideas.

As with the activity of the MIA's successful rooftop beehive presence, Friends volunteers also remain very busy, achieving remarkable success with a very sweet outcome. It is way too difficult to thank all enough.

Happy spring at last!

Pamela

Art and Architecture Tour, June 24



Pablo Picasso, *Homme Assis*, 1933, watercolor and ink on paper, Private Collection Minnesota Marine Museum of Art—Winona, Minnesota

You may have read about Winona's Minnesota Marine Art Museum in the Minneapolis Star Tribune or the St. Paul Pioneer Press. Or perhaps you've come across an article about MMAM in one of the national publications featuring the museum. Opened on the banks of the Mississippi River in 2006, MMAM has become known around the world for its outstanding collection of impressionism and Hudson River School

paintings, including works by Cezanne, Monet, Gauguin, van Gogh and J.M.W. Turner. Now you can see for yourself what all the excitement is about. Join your friends in the **Friends on Tuesday June 24** for the **2014 Art and Architecture trip to Winona MN**.

We will tour the museum, including a new gallery opened in September 2013, and meet with Robert "Bob" Kierlin and his wife Mary Burrichter, the museum's principal benefactors. They'll share with us their passion for collecting and explain how their definition of marine art has expanded since they began acquiring art over a decade ago. We should also have some time to enjoy the museum's outdoor gardens.

In addition, on this year's trip we'll visit two of Winona's architectural gems: the Chapel of Saint Mary of the Angels on the campus of the former College of St. Teresa, and the historic downtown office of Winona National Bank. The chapel, built in 1926 and renovated most recently in the 1990's, features Romanesque architecture, stunning mosaics and beautiful stained glass. Winona National Bank was designed by a Frank Lloyd Wright contemporary in the Egyptian Revival style with Prairie School influences; the stained glass throughout the building is by Tiffany studios.

Plan on a full day; the bus will leave the MIA at 8:30 a.m. on June 24 and return at approximately 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$60 per person, which includes transportation, admission to MMAM, lunch at Signatures Restaurant in Winona and incidentals. This is a Friends-only event, and space is limited. **To reserve, call MIA tickets at (612) 870-6323.**

Great News from the Museum Store

For all you consummate shoppers—here's very good news! Ryan Ross, Head of Retail at the Museum Store, offers "the amazing group of Friends" a 20% discount any time we care to shop. Thank you, Ryan. We all like the beautiful, spacious new look of the Store.

Mapping Venice

Men have made maps ever since people moved about exploring the earth. The oldest known map is a small clay tablet from 2300 BCE in Babylonia. Today's technology allows us to simply "google" our need for maps and directions.

In 1500, Venice was the richest, most powerful city in Europe. Its prime access to the Mediterranean Sea made it the hub of trade, and it was a magnet for artists from all parts of Italy. It was at this time that Jacopo de'Barbari, an artist, would produce a magnificent map of Venice, larger and more accurate than any other. City views were being produced in growing numbers, and Anton Kolb, a Nuremberg merchant, received exclusive copyright privileges from the Venetian Senate to publish this work. According to Kolb, Barbari spent three years creating the map, and nothing so large had ever been produced. Incredibly accurate, the map includes thousands of buildings, hundreds of bridges and a network of canals and narrow streets. Over the course of three years, Barbari made hundreds of drawings from palace rooftops and bell towers and may have had assistance from a team of surveyors. Six individual woodblocks were carved for the print, oversized sheets of paper, twice the size of the largest available were needed, as well as a custom-made printing press.

Always considered a luxury item, the incredible price of three ducats per print was charged, a two-month salary for a teacher in this period.



Jacopo de' Barbari, Italian (Venetian), *View of Venice*, 1460/70 before 1516, woodcut from six blocks on six sheets of paper
The John R. Van Derlip Fund 2010.88

Barbari embellished his map with drawings: at the top, Mercury, God of Commerce, presides over the city holding a caduceus, and below, Neptune, God of the Sea, rides his dolphin through the harbor. Faces of the trade winds blow from every side, and the maritime activities that made Venice the international center of commerce at the time are depicted. Barbari's map shows what would not have been possible in 1500: the entire breadth of the city of Venice from above. Nine feet in length, the map commands our attention and admiration. In 2011 the map, located in the introductory gallery of the exhibition, *Titian and the Golden Age of Venetian Painting*, greeted viewers. Recently installed in Gallery 341, this Renaissance treasure invites a return visit.

Thank You, AIB 2014 Sponsors!

The Friends and Art in Bloom 2014 Committee want to express our thanks to our Honorary Chairs, Ben Jaffray and Nivin MacMillan, for their extraordinary support.

Generous support was provided by Gabberts Design Studios and Fine Furnishings, Lakewood Cemetery, Bachman's, Martha Head, Dorsey & Whitney LLP, Renata Winsor, Lucille Amis, RBC Wealth Management, The Todd L. and Barbara K. Bachman Family Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation, Caldrea, The Phillips Family and Tom and Lynn Schaefer.

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Media Partner: myTalk 107.1

Rochester Friends Lecture, May 15

Rachel McGarry, Associate Curator in the Department of Prints and Drawings, will speak to the Rochester Friends Thursday, May 15, on *Window to the Artist's Mind: Master Drawings from the MIA*. The lecture will be held at the Rochester Golf and Country Club, 3100 Country Club Road West, Rochester. Coffee is at 10 a.m., and the lecture will follow at 10:30 a.m. Guests are welcome to stay for lunch.

Spring Luncheon, May 8

Following the lecture, the Italian theme continues at lunch with a Panzanella salad of grilled chicken, grilled bread, baby arugula, grape tomatoes, cucumber, mint, basil and red wine vinaigrette. Family-style fancy Italian cookies complete the menu. You may request a vegetarian option when you reserve. Call (612) 870-6323 or go to tickets.artsmia.org to reserve your luncheon space. The cost is \$25. All reservations must be received by 9 p.m., May 1.

Lecture Day Tour for Friends Members

Friends members are invited to participate in a private docent-led tour offered before or after the May 8 lecture and luncheon. Our topic is *Arts of the Renaissance*. Join us as we explore the astonishing rebirth of art that began in Italy and spread throughout Europe, redefining western art.

10 a.m. tour: Meet across from the security desk in the MIA's Third Avenue lobby

1:30 p.m. tour: Meet in the Friends office on the first floor

Space is limited, so please reserve with new member liaison Toni DuFour (952) 994-8700 or tonidufour@comcast.net. Tours begin promptly, so please arrive early at the meeting place.

MAY AT THE MIA

May floral arrangements at the Visitor & Member Services Desk are created by **Acanthus Floral Art**. Please call the Friends office for more information about our florists.

NEW MEMBERS

Emilie Anderson
Janette Beagan
Nicole Berns
Suzanne Kavanaugh Dinnuson
Patricia J. Grazzini
Monika and Douglas Hegley
Marie Jacobson
Nancy Jamieson
Andrea Kerrison
Teresa Luterbach
David and Pat Krueger
Barbara Redmond
Barbara Ribnick
Hunter Wright

GIFTS TO THE FRIENDS

President's Fund

In memory of Steve Gray's father
From Connie Sommers

ON VIEW AT THE MIA

Marks of Genius
100 Extraordinary Drawings from
the Minneapolis Institute of Arts
July 13, 2014–September 21, 2014
Target Gallery (Admission charged)
Organized by the Minneapolis
Institute of Arts

31 Years: Gifts from Martin Weinstein"
November 2, 2013–August 31, 2014
Harrison Photography Gallery

VOLUNTEERING

We update our volunteer database on a regular basis. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities, please email friends@artsmia.org with your name and, if you like, any specific areas in which you'd like to volunteer (e.g., special events, fund-raising, greeting visitors, etc.). Or, simply check the box on your membership renewal form indicating that you wish to be contacted. Questions? Call the Friends office: (612) 870-3045.

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