

Greenwich Historical Society

Explore our colorful past



news+programs

november | december 2013

GREENWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

is dedicated to promoting Greenwich's unique and colorful past. Our Archives actively chronicle the life of our town for future generations, our programs and exhibitions help people of all ages better understand their connection to history, and our preservation efforts safeguard an architectural heritage that includes the National Historic Landmark Bush-Holley House, the site of the Cos Cob art colony.

BUSH-HOLLEY HISTORIC SITE

is a member of the Connecticut Art Trail, a partnership of 15 world-class museums and historic sites across the state. Discover collections rich in history and heritage, including European masterpieces, American Impressionism, ancient art and contemporary culture.

HOURS

Storehouse Gallery

Open Wednesday through Sunday, 12–4 pm

Docent-led tours of Bush-Holley House 1, 2 and 3 pm

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Library and Archives

Wednesdays, 10 am–12:30 pm and 1 pm–4 pm, or by appointment

ADMISSION

\$10 for adults

\$8 for seniors and students

Admission always free to members.

Free to the public the first Wednesday of every month.

CONTACT US

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Cos Cob, CT 06807
203-869-6899
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DIRECTIONS

Off I-95 at exit 4. Visit
www.greenwichhistory.org
for details.

Lauded as one of the most influential events in the history of American art, The International Exhibition of Modern Art in 1913—popularly known as the Armory Show—was the first large exhibition of modern art in the United States, and one that introduced astonished Americans to European “avant-garde” artists such as Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse and Paul Cezanne. Much has been written about the impact of the show, yet no exhibition to date has explored the direct effect that the Armory Show had on artists and their artistic production. The Greenwich Historical Society is about to change that.

Beginning October 9, the Greenwich Historical Society is presenting *The New Spirit and the Cos Cob Art Colony: Before and After the Armory Show*, which, for the first time, shows the direct impact of the Armory Show on the Cos Cob art colony artists. It also highlights the involvement of Cos Cob artists, such as Elmer MacRae and Henry Fitch Taylor, in producing the Armory Show, and brings the public's attention to several of the accomplished Cos Cob artists who have been virtually unknown until now.

“This is the first exhibition to illustrate the Armory Show's direct influence on a group of

THE NEW SPIRIT AND THE COS COB ART COLONY: BEFORE AND AFTER THE ARMORY SHOW



OCTOBER 9, 2013–JANUARY 12, 2014

artists, specifically the Cos Cob art colony,” says Valerie Ann Leeds, guest curator of *The New Spirit*. Viewers will be able to compare artists' works from before and after the Armory Show and see to what degree each embraced Modernism as the movement became assimilated into the mainstream of American art.

The tightly focused exhibition is comprised of 41 works of art by 12 Cos Cob artists, including several pieces that were shown in the 1913 Armory Show, and enhanced with

archival material and ephemera from the Greenwich Historical Society and private and museum collections. In addition to MacRae and Taylor, the show features artists D. Putnam Brinley, Childe Hassam, Ernest Lawson, Carolyn C. Mase, Frank A. Nankivell, Allen Tucker, Alden Twachtman and J. Alden Weir. It also includes influential pioneering artists Theodore Robinson and John H. Twachtman, whose works were part of the Armory Show but who had died years earlier.

A number of related events and programs are planned in conjunction with the exhibition, and a catalog for the exhibit will be available.

The New Spirit and the Cos Cob Art Colony has been funded by a lead gift from Deborah and Chuck Royce. Additional funding has been provided by the Joseph J. and Claire Morrow Foundation, donors to the Greenwich Historic Trust and members of the Exhibition Patrons Council.

Above: Elmer MacRae, *Hollyhocks*, 1914, oil on canvas, 32 x 24 in. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, The Joseph H. Hirshhorn Bequest, 1981. Photo Credit: Lee Stalsworth



The Big Show: A 100-Year Legacy

Lecture by Art Historian William C. Agee

Professor William C. Agee will address the legacy of the 1913 Armory Show in America, focusing primarily on Henri Matisse and Marcel Duchamp. Duchamp's *Nude Descending a Staircase* was a source of outrage and bemusement at the Armory Show, yet what is less known is that Matisse's *Red Studio* (1911) was a target

such diverse artists as Stuart Davis, Charles Sheeler, Mark Rothko and Andy Warhol, inspiring them to explore new approaches to color and form. Agee will share examples of their work and talk about subsequent exhibitions to shed new light on oft-forgotten aspects of the Armory Show's legacy.

William Agee received degrees from Princeton and Yale and has taught at Hunter College for 25 years, where he holds the Evelyn Kranes Kossak Endowed Chair as Professor of Art History. He specializes in modern art in America from 1900 to 1970 and has published numerous articles, catalogues and monographs on the subject. He is currently preparing a book for Phaidon Press, *Modern Art*



of equal abuse. What's more, Matisse's entire wall's worth of paintings (Duchamp exhibited only one) was the subject of such controversy that it led to his being hung in effigy!

Agee will compare Matisse's impact on American art vis-à-vis Duchamp's, focusing on how *Red Studio* in particular galvanized

in America 1908-1968. Prior to teaching at Hunter, Agee held directorships in museums in Houston and California and was a curator at the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Tuesday, November 5, 2013, 7:30–8:45 pm
\$10 for members; \$15 for nonmembers

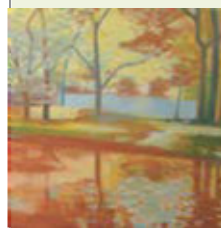
HEADS: Business Lessons from an Executive Search Pioneer

In partnership with the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce, we are proud to host Russell S. Reynolds, Jr., in a talk and reception featuring his book *HEADS*. A pioneer and key player responsible for raising the level of professionalism that has propelled executive search to its current stature as a respected, multibillion-dollar industry, Reynolds will offer insights into the critical role of executive search in today's business world and invaluable career advice for all.

Reynolds is founder and chairman of RSR Partners, a leading executive and board search firm based in his native Greenwich that recruits corporate directors, CEOs and senior executives in a broad range of indus-

tries. He is a Yale graduate and, prior to founding his first search firm, Russell Reynolds Associates, was a lending officer at J. P. Morgan & Company. He is a long-time supporter of the Greenwich Historical Society on its advisory board and has served as a trustee on multiple community organization boards.

Wednesday, November 20, 2013, 5:30–7:00 pm
\$15 for members of the Greenwich Historical Society or members of the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce; \$20 for nonmembers



Modernist Painting Workshop with Deborah Bonnell

This family workshop will begin in the Storehouse Gallery with a brief tour, activity and discussion about the before and aftereffects of the 1913 Armory Show. Then professional artist Deborah Bonnell will lead families in a workshop that explores Modernist concepts and techniques so they can create their very own Modernist works. All materials included. Appropriate for "kids" ages 3 to 99.

Sunday, November 10, 2013, 1:30-3:30 pm
\$10 for members; \$15 nonmembers
Meet at Storehouse Gallery

Holiday Marionette Show: Bully! For the Three Wee Pigs

How will a sensational singer, a prolific painter and an industrious architect deal with the nonstop taunting of a puffed-up bully? No Strings Marionette Company's rendition of "The Three Little Pigs" will make it all clear in the end. This new production serves up a hilarious romp through an opera stage, an artist's studio and the problem-solving mind of a designer of buildings. Be sure not to miss one of the Greenwich Historical Society's most beloved family events. There will also be a craft activity and refreshments in the classroom between performances.

Vanderbilt Education Center
Sunday, December 8, 2013, 2:00, 4:00 or 6:00 pm
\$10 for members; \$15 for nonmembers
Reservations strongly suggested. Space limited.



Winners of the Frolic at French Farm Apple Guessing Contest were Ella and Jasper Larken with a "guesstimate" of 112. Only three off from the exact count!



Designer Forum Added to Antiquarius 2013 Lineup

In addition to the Greenwich Winter Antiques Show, Holiday House Tour and Holiday Boutique, Antiquarius 2013 will offer two design programs during the Greenwich Winter Antiques Show featuring noted designers.



A Life in Design: Lecture by Mary McDonald

Mary McDonald, celebrated Los Angeles-based interior designer and Honorary Chair of Antiquarius 2013, will provide her unique take on contemporary design. McDonald has been ranked as one of *House Beautiful's* Top 100 designers, and her work for international clients has been featured in major publications. Her talent for wedding old-school elegance with a modern sensibility and her impeccable sense of color together with her ability to combine bold patterns, Chinoiserie and classic antiques with contemporary lines define her signature style. Her design sensibility is a perfect fit for Antiquarius, and we are honored to have her join us.

Ms. McDonald is currently starring in the second season of the hit Bravo television show *Million Dollar Decorator*, launching her first fabric collection for F. Schumacher & Co. and preparing a new line of rugs for Patterson, Flynn & Martin, due out early next year. She also designs a lighting

collection for Robert Abbey.

Post-lecture, the designer will be available to autograph her book, *MARY MCDONALD INTERIORS, The Allure of Style* (Rizzoli 2010, available for purchase at the show), which includes 250 sumptuous color photographs showcasing her ravishing and sophisticated interiors.

*Eastern Greenwich Civic Center
90 Harding Road, Old Greenwich, CT
Saturday, December 7, 2013, 10:30 am–12:00 pm
Admission: \$100. Space is limited. Reservations strongly advised.*

Designer Panel Discussion



Featuring Amanda Nisbet, Matthew Patrick Smyth and Ashley Whittaker, moderated by Connecticut Cottages & Gardens' D.J. Carey

Connecticut Cottages & Gardens is an award-winning publication recognized for its lavish design, its editorial "sense of place" and its intimate connection with its readers. It has also been a loyal and active media sponsor of Antiquarius since 2011. Expanding its role this year, editorial director and editor D.J. Carey will lead three of today's most sought-after New York-based designers whose work is frequently featured in major design publications in a lively discussion. Panelists include:

Amanda Nisbet

Nisbet mixes classical motifs and contemporary idioms, creating refreshingly elegant interiors marked by a bold embrace of pattern, color and texture. Her refined yet livable interiors enliven exclusive residences throughout North America and Europe.

Matthew Patrick Smyth

Smyth, who specializes primarily in residential interior design for an international clientele, maintains a consistent focus on fine detailing within a range of styles, working with skilled craftspeople to provide a finished product that reflects his clients' needs and interests as well as their comfort.

Ashley Whittaker

"Neo-traditionalist" Whittaker is noted for her fresh and modern perspective on traditional design and architecture. Her chic and classic interiors are characterized by tailored rooms that incorporate charming detail and an engaging play on color and pattern.

Book signings after both events.

*Eastern Greenwich Civic Center
90 Harding Road, Old Greenwich, CT
Saturday, December 7, 2013, 2:30–4:00 pm
Admission: \$100. Space is limited. Reservations strongly advised.*

Candlelight Tour



Docent Lorraine Hufnagel describes a Holley/MacRae family Christmas celebration during last year's Candlelight Tour

In keeping with our longstanding holiday tradition, Bush-Holley House will feature costumed interpreters, period holiday decorations and "candle" lighting throughout. On this one magical night a year, you'll learn about Christmas past and enjoy live music, refreshments and crafts in the Vanderbilt Education Center. An event for the entire family that will surely put everyone in the holiday spirit!

*Tours begin at Storehouse Gallery
Sunday, December 15, 2013,
5:00–7:00 pm
\$10 for members; \$15 for nonmembers
Reservations not required.*

Antiquarius 2013 Calendar of Events

November 15: Antiquarius Patron Party

December 6: Antiquarius Preview Party

**December 7 & 8:
Greenwich Winter Antiques Show**

December 7: Designer Forum

- **Mary McDonald** (10:30 am)
- **Designer Panel Discussion** Featuring Amanda Nisbet, Matthew Patrick Smyth and Ashley Whittaker, moderated by D.J. Carey, Editor, *CTC&G* (2:30 pm)

December 10 & 11: Holiday Boutique

December 11: Holiday House Tour

*For tickets and more info, visit
www.greenwichhistory.org*

Save the Dates:

- **November 5**
The Big Show, Lecture by William Agee
- **November 10**
Second Sunday Family Program:
Modernist Painting Workshop with Deborah Bonnell
- **November 15**
Antiquarius Patron Party
- **November 20**
Heads Book Talk with Russ Reynolds
- **December 6**
Antiquarius Preview Party
- **December 7 & 8**
Greenwich Winter Antiques Show
- **December 7**
Designer Forum
 - Mary McDonald (10:30 am)
 - Designer Panel (2:30 pm)
- **December 8**
Holiday Marionette Show:
Bully! For the Three Wee Pigs
- **December 10 & 11**
Antiquarius Holiday Boutique
- **December 11**
Antiquarius Holiday House Tour
- **December 15**
Candlelight Tour

news

Corporate Sponsors Participate in Greenwich Realtors Course at Historical Society

On September 10, 2013, the Greenwich Historical Society sponsored a continuing education program for the Greenwich Association of Realtors, entitled “The History of Homes in Greenwich.” Eighty local realtors were in attendance to learn about our town’s architectural heritage, zoning development and historic neighborhoods. Special thanks go to corporate sponsors NEBCO Insurance Services and Fireman’s Fund Insurance, who were kind enough to round out the program with a presentation on the importance of proper insurance for historic homes, antiques and art collections—subjects near and dear to our hearts!



Left to right: Jeff Elliot and Maryann Smith of NEBCO Insurance Services, Catherine Sutton of Fireman’s Fund Insurance, Executive Director Debra Mecky and speaker Richard Standing of Fireman’s Fund Insurance.



New Historical Society Feature to Appear in the *Greenwich Time*

Archivist Christopher Shields has partnered with the *Greenwich Time* to create a feature entitled “Time Traveler,” which focuses on interesting information and images taken from our wonderful Archives. Keep your eye out for more of these pieces in the coming months. You’re sure to learn something new.

Shields’ first “Time Traveler” article featured a circa 1917 photo of motorists paused in front of the Hackett Building at 315 Greenwich Avenue. Although the John J. Hackett Excelsior Market has long since passed into the history of Greenwich businesses, the building (near the corner of Havemeyer Place) still exists, and many of its features are quite recognizable today. Take a closer look on your next drive down the Avenue, or check out the address using the street view of your favorite mapping website. Just don’t try to park your car like these folks!