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This program was made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. Also funded in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and by funds from The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

JANUARY 13 - MAY 19, 2011  
7:30 pm - 9 pm

Ten exciting conversations spanning current topics  
in the arts, humanities, and the social sciences

at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey

## THURSDAY EVENING SALON SERIES

Announcing the fourth season of the

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# THURSDAY EVENING SALON SERIES

ANNOUNCING THE 4TH SEASON: JANUARY - MAY, 2011

# THURSDAY EVENING SALON SERIES

Sip a glass of wine or a soft drink and relax in an intimate living room setting while discussing current topics in the arts, humanities, and the social sciences. Your hosts will include artists, art historians, curators, philosophers, architects, writers, educators, stage designers, and more. Eclectic in content and social in nature, the Salon Series provides an opportunity for everyone—regardless of educational or professional background—to gather and learn more about the world of art and artists and how it impacts other disciplines.

The fourth season of the Thursday Evening Salon Series runs from January through May 2011. Programs are held in the Art Center's Main Gallery from 7:30 pm - 9 pm. Salon Series is free to the public, but seating is limited and reservations are required. To place your reservation, please call 908.273.9121.

## JANUARY

### 13 BIG & SMALL: ISSUES OF SCALE AND ART

*Presented by Dan Bischoff, Art Reviewer, Star-Ledger*

From earthworks you can see from space to tiny paintings arranged in groups on a wall, art is created in enormous variations of scale in response to the political, social, cultural, financial and religious upheavals of life. Art and cultural critic Dan Bischoff explores historical and contemporary influences impacting the variation in scale in today's artwork.

### 27 THE METAPHYSICAL & THE MUNDANE: ART & COMMERCE IN AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHY

*Presented by Paul Sternberger, Professor of Art History, Rutgers University*

Photographers, such as Alfred Stieglitz, established an elite aesthetic sphere for photography, a realm strategically distinguished from that of the commercial photographer. As the twentieth century progressed, photographers like Edward Steichen began to adapt art photography styles to the world of commerce. Join us as we explore this dialog between the artistic and commercial which resonates in contemporary photography.

## FEBRUARY

### 10 WHY DOES THE MUSIC SOUND YELLOW? ADVENTURES IN SYNAESTHESIA

*Presented by Kevin Kiddoo, Adjunct Professor of Art History, College of St. Elizabeth*

Synaesthesia is the experiencing of feelings in one sense while a different sensory area is being stimulated, such as associating sounds with different colors. This sensory phenomenon has profoundly impacted modern art. Kevin Kiddoo will explore this extraordinary commingling of the senses from the paintings of Hockney to the experimental films of Fischinger to the music of Schoenberg.

### 24 COLLECTING THE NEW

*Presented by Beth Venn, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art & Senior Curator of American Art, Newark Museum*

Beth Venn will consider both the joys and challenges confronting museums today as they acquire art in a wide range of new media. From light and sound pieces to video and internet art, contemporary artists' use of new and often ephemeral materials have caused museums to re-think the way they care for and preserve their collections.

## MARCH

### 3 WHAT IS AESTHETIC EXPERIENCE?

*Presented by Tiger Roholt, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Montclair State University*

What's the difference between an aesthetic experience and an ordinary experience? What do you do – actively – to generate an aesthetic experience? Come explore philosophers' views on these issues. Tiger Roholt will highlight dimensions of your own aesthetic experiences that you hadn't previously noticed, perhaps enriching your future visual understanding and appreciation.

### 17 WOMEN MUSES, WOMEN DIRECTORS

*Presented by Laura Winters, Professor of English, College of St. Elizabeth*

This engaging interactive presentation will explore the representation of women characters in films by male directors in contrast to those in films directed by women. We will look at the impact these depictions have on us as viewers. Special attention will be given to Liv Ullman as Bergman's muse and Ullman's subsequent career as a director.

## APRIL

### 7 FROM THE FRINGE TO THE FACULTY: CONTEMPORARY FICTION IN AMERICAN CULTURE

*Presented by Nathan Oates, Director & Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, Seton Hall University*

In the past twenty five years the mythology of the artist as a wild, insane seer has given way to the writer as tenured professor tamed by the academy. Dr. Nathan Oates will consider what these divergent perceptions of the writer mean to literary fiction in American culture and what limitations, or opportunities, they pose for the contemporary artist.

### 21 DESIGN FOR A NEW ERA

*Presented by Jennifer Scanlan, Associate Curator, Museum of Arts and Design*

Young designers today are rethinking what it means to design. Some are incorporating sustainable materials and handcrafting techniques while others are creating objects that are as much thought-provoking as they are functional. A presentation exploring new design trends will include a discussion with Jennifer Scanlan, curator of the exhibition *Re:Design* currently on view at the Art Center.

## MAY

### 5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPERATIVES IN ARCHITECTURE

*Presented by Thomas Phifer, Architect & Founder of the New York City based architecture firm Thomas Phifer and Partners*

Acclaimed NYC architect Thomas Phifer will discuss recent projects that illustrate how elements of sustainability support design excellence and technical innovation to promote lightness and transparency. These projects, including museums, office buildings, courthouses and private residences, incorporate a high level of controlled natural light into the building interiors, increasing the perceptual well-being of inhabitants.

### 19 A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE ART CENTER

*Presented by Mark Hoebee, Artistic Director, Paper Mill Playhouse*

Take a peak behind the curtain of Paper Mill Playhouse's production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Join Artistic Director Mark Hoebee and set designers as they present the design for the set. Their conversation will explore how color, theme and plot, paired with the director's and designer's concept, all influence the final product.