

Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center & the Williamsburg Regional Library present  
Centuries of Art @ your Library  
Fall 2017 Lecture series

Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre  
515 Scotland St, Williamsburg, VA 23185  
All lectures begin at 7:30 p.m.

October 2<sup>nd</sup>

An American Silence: Walker Evans and Edward Hopper

The photographer Walker Evans and painter Edward Hopper were part of the generation of American artists who tore themselves away from European ideals at the start of the 20th century. Join Jeffrey Allison as he explores these artists who celebrated America without filter focusing on common people in common lives and places. Within those scenes lie a powerful silence in which directness creates a visual anxiety as we wonder what has just happened and what will happen next.

Program Categories: American Art Through 1950

Faculty Members: Jeffrey Allison

October 23<sup>rd</sup>

Scouting the Postmodern Film Frontier

Our current era of art and society, which is now commonly referred to as the “Postmodern,” has been foreshadowed in avant-garde films and videos since the 1920s. This talk will explain and define Postmodernism and show short filmic examples to illustrate, such as works by Man Ray, Joseph Cornell, and Andy Warhol.

Program Categories: Film and Late 20th- and 21st-Century Art

Faculty Members: Trent Nicholas

November 6<sup>th</sup>

Fresco Painting in the Renaissance

Decorating walls with paintings made on fresh plaster is a grimy, laborious practice, which in the Middle Ages was thought to be the most mechanical and craftsman-like task of the painter. Beginning in the 14th century, however, higher artistic standards began to reveal just how splendid a chamber transformed by fresco painting could be. By the end of the 15th century, the fresco painter was hailed as the most ambitious and able artist of all. In this lecture we learn the techniques — good and bad — that mural painters used. See how truly great painters, such as Botticelli and Ghirlandaio in the 15th century and Michelangelo and Raphael in the 16th century, triumphed as fresco artists above all others.

Program Categories: European Art: Byzantine through 1950

Faculty Members: Donald Schrader, PhD

November 13<sup>th</sup>

Japanese Aesthetics

Jun'ichirō Tanizaki's seminal text, *In Praise of Shadows* (1933), discusses Eastern, specifically Japanese, ideals of beauty. Contrary to the Western framework of thinking, Japanese aesthetics favors the in-between, typically discarded or overlooked places of beauty: the grey shadows, the tea ceremony, and even a toilet seat. By looking at examples of Japanese fine and decorative arts, we will discuss Tanizaki's major ideas concerning Eastern Aesthetics and then apply his understanding to the works in the VMFA permanent collection.

Program Categories: East Asian

Faculty Members: Amanda Dalla Villa Adams