

## Fall 2018 Centuries of Art @ your Library

Mondays, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

FREE

Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre  
515 Scotland Street

October 8, 2018

Donald Schrader, PhD



### Art of the First Cities: Worship and Warfare in the art of the ancient Sumerians

History begins with the cities of ancient Sumer, in southern Iraq; it is here that writing was first invented. But this first writing was used almost exclusively to record financial transactions; and so the visual arts, developed into a disciplined system to promote the power of the rulers of early Mesopotamia, give us access to the beliefs and values would not be put down in writing for many years to come. These rulers needed to record their military victories and their devotion to their gods, of whom they were mortally afraid. Here we see the first narrative images, of battles and of religious ritual; and we find images

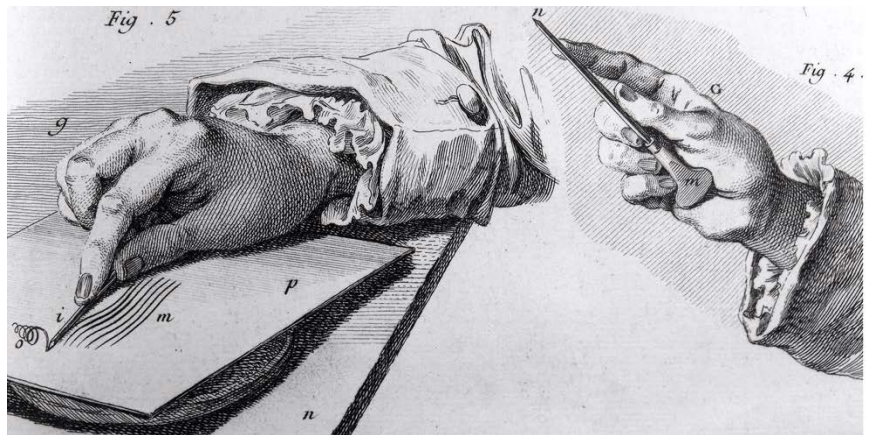
of the priestly kings and their ruling elite, desperate to continuously assure the deity of their unflinching service; and of the megalomania of these rulers, filling their burials with remarkable wealth and human sacrifice. This lecture will explore the ways in which visual arts of the first civilization give us insights into religion and politics that are almost totally absent from the written record.

October 15, 2018

Rosemary Smith, PhD

### A Collector's Guide to Prints

This lecture provides a brief history of the development of several widely used printmaking techniques and a detailed explanation of each process. A more thorough understanding of just how complex and difficult printmaking is allows the audience to appreciate more fully this often-underestimated form of art.



October 22, 2018

[John Plashal](#)



## [A Beautifully Broken Virginia](#)

Come experience a unique photographic journey through the beautifully decaying rural places within our state with which so many Virginians have become fascinated.

Photographer John Plashal has commemorated these abandoned gems by capturing their beauty and delivering them to you in a presentation full of powerful imagery and emotional stories. Experience the “unseen” side of Virginia with all of the houses,

churches, schools, asylums, diners and secret societies that have been “frozen in time” and now documented and photographed in Mr. Plashal’s coffee table book titled “A Beautifully Broken Virginia”. This talk is sure to satisfy your curiosities and captivate your imagination with exploration tips and photography advice.

November 5, 2018

[Nick Curotto](#)



## [First Impressions: A Brief History of Early Illustrated Texts](#)

During the mid-15th century, the invention of printing and movable type changed the distribution of the visual medium. In this talk, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts librarian Nick Curotto covers the processes and technology of early printing and assembling of texts with a focus on the incorporation of print illustrations. The techniques of relief and intaglio printing will be discussed highlighting the artists, artisans, and printers who were imperative in the progression of technologies during the hand-press period of the 15th – 18th centuries.