

ARTalks: exploring the creative process

Fall–Spring 2020–2021

This ARTalks series is co-sponsored by Ridgefield Library, Ridgefield Guild of Artists, and *The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum.

Fall programs will take place via Zoom. Check www.ridgefieldlibrary.org for location of 2021 programs closer to event date.



Portraits and Healing with Artist Rudy Shepherd

Thursday, October 1 @ 7:00 PM

Join artist Rudy Shepherd in a virtual talk about the nature of evil and healing in his paintings, drawings, and sculptures. Shepherd will talk about complex grey areas which exist between innocence and guilt as well as victims and criminals through his *Portrait* series, which spans over a decade and includes hundreds of watercolor portraits of people such as George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and others. He will also discuss how his sculptures provide a healing counterpoint for forces of negative energy. Shepherd received an MFA in Sculpture from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and has exhibited his artwork nationally. Currently, he is an associate professor of art at Penn State University. *This program is also co-sponsored by The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum.



Honoring Women's Rights Pioneers with a Monument in Central Park, NYC with Sculptor Meredith Bergmann, Pam Elam, and Coline Jenkins

Sunday, October 18 @ 2:00 PM

Pam Elam, President, and Coline Jenkins, Vice President of Monumental Women, an all-volunteer not-for-profit, came together seven years ago to tackle the idea of breaking the “bronze ceiling” in Central Park with a bold new monument to women's rights activists Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, which was created by Ridgefield sculptor, Meredith Bergmann. This is the only monument of historical women in Central Park. Elam and Jenkins will be joined on a Zoom panel discussion with their winning artist Bergmann to discuss how they all worked toward unveiling this monument on August 26, 2020, the 100th anniversary of ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution giving women the right to vote. *This program is also co-sponsored by The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum and is also part of the *Votes for Women: Ridgefield Celebrates the 19th Amendment* series.



The Dynamic NYC Art Market: An Insider's View with Paul Efstathiou

Sunday, November 22 @ 2:00 PM

In this ARTalk, Paul Efstathiou, Director of Contemporary Art for Hollis Taggart Gallery in the Chelsea neighborhood in New York City, will discuss how artists, curators, dealers, galleries, and collectors fit into a dynamic art market and what their various roles are with one another. Efstathiou will also talk about how he identifies emerging artists with his well-trained and prescient eye, which has made him a successful dealer and curator of contemporary art. To date, he has worked closely with 30 emerging and contemporary artists and has been part of the contemporary art world for over eighteen years.



African American Artists: Self-Determination and Resistance from the Roaring 20's to 2020 with Stephanie Sparling Williams, Ph.D.

Sunday, February 7 @ 2:00 PM

This lecture explores the themes of self-determination and resistance in art made by African Americans over the last century. From the Harlem Renaissance (New Negro Movement) to the Civil Rights Movement and Black Power period, from Hip Hop to Black Lives Matter—artists across time and medium have used visual art as a means to express dignity and humanity and to inspire radical change. This ARTalk features Stephanie Sparling Williams, Ph.D. who is a black feminist theorist and an Associate Curator at the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum. Her scholarly work is invested in American, African American, and African/Diasporic art and culture. Her book *Speaking Out of Turn: Lorraine O'Grady and the Art of Language* is forthcoming from the University of California Press (2021). *This program is also co-sponsored by The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum.



Paintings of the Dutch Golden Age: A Virtual Tour with Michael Norris, Ph.D.

Sunday, March 14 @ 2:00 PM

Focusing on the Metropolitan Museum of Art's collection of Dutch Golden Age paintings by Frans Hals, Jan Vermeer, Rembrandt van Rijn, and others, this ARTalk will begin with a concise history of the Dutch—how they broke away from Spain, set up their own republic, and came to be a wealthy world power during the 17th century. Norris will talk about how Dutch art during this heyday was plentiful, of high quality, and rather realistic focusing mostly on portraits, scenes of everyday life, called genre paintings, and landscapes rather than history paintings, known for showing religion, mythology, and history in grandiose terms. Norris received his Ph.D. in art history at the University of California at Santa Barbara, spent twenty years at the Met Cloisters and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and has lectured on trips all over the world.



Philip Johnson and the Glass House: A Lifetime in Art with Hilary Lewis

Sunday, April 25 @ 2:00 PM

Philip Johnson professionally engaged in art and architecture for nearly 75 years, beginning with his first position as the initial director of architecture and design at New York's Museum of Modern Art and leading to his prominent role in architecture worldwide. From 1949 until his death in 2005, his home in New Canaan CT, the Glass House, was both his private domain and his personal canvas for experimentation in architecture. His devotion to art as a lifelong collector left the Glass House with a substantial number of works by 20th century American artists, including seminal pieces by Jasper Johns, Rauschenberg, Andy Warhol, and many others. This lecture will address Johnson's unique approach to architecture as an art form. Lewis is Chief Curator and Creative Director at the Glass House. She is also co-author of two books on the architect, *Philip Johnson: The Architect in His Own Words* and *The Architecture of Philip Johnson*.