

# ARTalks: exploring the creative process

Fall–Spring 2021–2022

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

These ARTalks may also be virtual. Please check the Library's event calendar at [www.ridgefieldlibrary.org](http://www.ridgefieldlibrary.org).



## Belle da Costa Greene: The Woman Who Made the Morgan Library with Dr. Daria Rose Foner

Sunday, October 17 @ 2 PM | Main Program Room

Belle da Costa Greene (1879-1950) was one of the greatest librarian-scholars of the twentieth-century. Initially hired as J. Pierpont Morgan's private librarian, Greene became the Morgan Library's inaugural director when it opened as a public research institution in 1924. This talk introduces Greene and traces her life story from its origins in an upper middle-class African-American community in Washington D.C. to her ascension to the pinnacle of her profession and explores how the racial barriers of Jim Crow America led Greene, her mother, and her siblings to "pass" as white. Dr. Daria Rose Foner is the Research Associate to the Director at the Morgan Library & Museum in New York and Co-Director of the Belle Greene – Bernard Berenson Letters Project.



## To Seize the Light: The History of Photography with Thomas Brenner

Part 1: From Invention to Pictorialism, 19<sup>th</sup> Century and Earlier – Sunday, November 14 @ 2 PM | Main Program Room

Part 2: The 20<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup> Century – Sunday, December 5 @ 2 PM | Main Program Room

The term photography, derived from the Greek, means "Drawing with Light." Since the invention of the camera, every photograph has served as a newly minted record of the world. As prominent photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson observed, a photograph can "fix eternity in an instant." This visual survey with Thomas Brenner, Professor of Art and Design, Housatonic Community College, will explore the evolution of photography from the camera obscura of the classical world to the digital technology of today. Iconic photographs and fragile, intimate reflections will be presented through images captured by inventors and artists past and present, who have enabled and crafted the history of photography.



## Film Screening – *A Choice of Weapons: Inspired by Gordon Parks* (99 minutes) & Talkback with Richard Klein

Sunday, February 6 @ 2 PM, Celebrating Black History Month | Main Program Room

There will be a screening of *A Choice of Weapons: Inspired by Gordon Parks*, which chronicles the many ways renowned photographer Gordon Parks (1912-2006) documented his narrative as a Black American in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and beyond. *A Choice of Weapons* explores the power of images in advancing racial, economic, and social equality as seen through the lens of Parks, one of America's most trailblazing artists, and the generation of young photographers, filmmakers, and activists he inspired. As a photojournalist, Parks became the first African American staff photographer for *Life* magazine in 1948. From the 1940s through the 2000s, Parks, a photographer, film director, composer, and author, was a documentarian of civil rights and social justice. Richard Klein, Exhibitions Director, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum will lead the Talkback. Panelists to be confirmed. \*This program is also co-sponsored by The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum.



## 52 Artists: Revisiting a Feminist Milestone with Amy Smith-Stewart and Alexandra Schwartz

\*Thursday, March 31 @ 7 pm – Celebrating Women's History Month | Main Program Room

*52 Artists: Revisiting a Feminist Milestone* celebrates the fifty-first anniversary of the historic exhibition *Twenty-Six Contemporary Women Artists*, curated by acclaimed art critic Lucy R. Lippard and presented at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in 1971. *52 Artists* will showcase work by the artists included in the original 1971 exhibition, alongside a new roster of twenty-six female identifying or nonbinary emerging artists, tracking the evolution of feminist art practices over the past five decades. Aldrich Senior Curator Amy Smith-Stewart and independent curator Alexandra Schwartz will talk about the current stage of their curatorial process as they work on this exhibition which will be on view at The Aldrich from June 4, 2022 - January 8, 2023. A 200-page softcover book will accompany the exhibition with essays by Lippard, Smith-Stewart, and Schwartz. \*Please note: This ARTalk takes place on a Thursday evening. \*This program is also co-sponsored by The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum.



## Alexander Isley: Working with Words

Sunday, April 24 @ 2 PM | Main Program Room & Live Streaming

Award-winning graphic designer Alexander Isley will show work from artists who have influenced him over the years, covering a wide spectrum from Herbert Bayer to *Mad* magazine. His distinctive, editorially-driven design combines text and imagery in compelling ways, and his passion for typography, identity, and environmental design conveys a strong sense of aesthetics and personality. Isley uses typography in inventive ways to create magazines, exhibits, store interiors, packaging, signage, posters, restaurants, album covers, websites, truck fleets, billboards, and books. His clients include The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, *Spy* magazine, Giorgio Armani, Nickelodeon, Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture, Museum of the Moving Image, Ina Garten, David Byrne, *Highlights for Children*, The Smithsonian Institution, and the Ridgefield Library.

PLEASE REGISTER FOR ALL PROGRAMS AT [WWW.RIDGEFIELDLIBRARY.ORG](http://WWW.RIDGEFIELDLIBRARY.ORG) OR CALL 203-438-2282.

Masks are required for all individuals aged 2 and over entering the Library who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Masks are required for all individuals aged 2 and over entering and using the Lodewick Children's Library regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status. Masks are optional for individuals entering the Library who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Masks must conform to current CDC recommendations.

