

ARTalks

exploring the creative process

FALL-SPRING • 2023-2024

ARTalks take place in person on Sundays at 2 PM unless otherwise noted on the Ridgefield Library's online registration page.

Co-sponsored by Ridgefield Library and Ridgefield Guild of Artists.

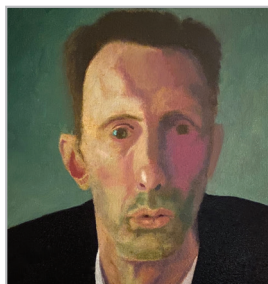


Content, Concepts & Quilts: Quilting as a Graphic Designer and Trunk Show with Sheri Cifaldi-Morrill of Whole Circle Studio

Sunday, November 12 @ 2 PM | Main Program Room

Award-winning quilter and educator Sheri Cifaldi-Morrill is a practicing graphic designer who begins her quilts with a specific concept in mind. According to Cifaldi-Morrill, further research then shapes the design. She strives to create meaningful quilts that are inspired by her creative journey. By sharing examples of her beautiful quilts during the trunk show portion of this presentation, Cifaldi-Morrill seeks to empower others to enjoy the quilt-making process. Her quilts have been featured in art centers and galleries around the country and have also gained international recognition. Her self-published quilt patterns can be found online and at quilt shops worldwide.

[Please register.](#)



What to Look for When You Look at Art with Artist and Lecturer Gene Wisniewski

Sunday, December 10 @ 4 PM | Online Program

In this Zoom presentation learn the basic principles of how to approach, analyze and appreciate great works of art the way an artist would, in a highly informative and conversational tone. Included in this ARTalk are discussions about viewing artworks as both physical objects and as expressions of the artist's idea. Wisniewski will also look at artworks in the context of their time and cover core elements of composition. Wisniewski studied fine art and art history at the New York Academy of Art, The National Academy of Design, The New School and L'Ecole Albert Defois in Vihiers, France and has exhibited in galleries nationwide. He is the author of *The Art of Looking at Art*, Roman & Littlefield, 2020. [Please register.](#)



Exploring the Art, Architecture and Gardens of the Hill-Stead Museum with Executive Director and CEO, Dr. Anna Swinbourne

Sunday, January 21 @ 2 pm | Main Program Room (snow date - Sunday, January 28)

The Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, CT is home to some of the best Impressionist art in the world — with masterpieces by Monet, Manet, Degas and Cassatt exhibited within a 1901 Colonial Revival-style house designed by groundbreaking female architect Theodate Pope Riddle (1867-1946). Executive Director Dr. Swinbourne's talk will highlight the museum's extraordinary fine and decorative arts on view and its gorgeous natural oasis of gardens, meadows, trails and pastures. Previously Dr. Swinbourne was a painting and sculpture curator at The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and also Assistant Vice President in the Impressionist and Modern Art Department of Sotheby's, New York. A tour of the Hill-Stead Museum may be organized. Check back for more details at ridgefieldlibrary.org. [Please register.](#)



How Art History has Shaped my Career as an Artist and Teacher with Randy Williams Professor of Art emeritus, Manhattanville College

Sunday, February 11 @ 2 PM | Main Program Room (snow date - Sunday, February 25)

This lecture will focus on groundbreaking exhibitions at vital art institutions in New York City that shaped Williams's career as a longstanding professor of art at Manhattanville College and museum educator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Williams will examine the controversial "Harlem on My Mind" exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1969 which eventually pushed mainstream art institutions to feature black art exhibitions. He will also look at the "Whitney Counterweight" exhibition in 1977 where independent artists reacted to the exclusive Whitney Biennial. Finally, Williams will discuss the incentive for establishing the Studio Museum in Harlem and the Black-owned Art Gallery Just Above Midtown. [Please register.](#)



Puppetry: Sharing Art to Ensure Lasting Connections with Puppeteer Adelka Polak

Sunday, March 10 @ 2 PM | Main Program Room

Artistic Director and Founder of Sova Dance & Puppet Theater Adelka Polak will share the joys of her lifelong career in puppetry which now focuses on the environment and natural cycles. Her company was the first to perform at Gateway National Park at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in NYC and also performed in 2023 at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts in Virginia, Battery Park and the Ballard Museum of Puppetry. Polak has also worked with Jim Henson's Creature Shop puppets at the New Victory Theater and LaMama in NYC. Polak believes this deep, yet playful art form which is aimed at reaching diverse audiences, including a range of ages, ethnicities and neurodiverse modalities is very effective at communicating what cannot be described in words alone. Polak is first generation Slovak American. [Please register.](#)



Contemporary Art at The Brant Foundation with Sabrina Marsalisi, Director of Education

Sunday, April 28 @ 2 PM | Main Program Room

Founded by avid art collector, philanthropist and entrepreneur Peter M. Brant in 2009, The Brant Foundation Art Study Center promotes an appreciation and understanding of contemporary art and design by making artworks and objects accessible to a wide range of audiences through multiple programs, exhibitions, tours and events. The foundation also makes contemporary art available for scholarly study, examination and loans. Marsalisi, Director of Education, will provide an overview of the history, mission and vision for this foundation and give an update of current exhibitions. She oversees all educational programs and visits from kindergarten through college levels for both of the foundation's locations in Greenwich, CT and NYC. Marsalisi has been with the Brant Foundation since 2016 and holds a graduate degree in Modern and Contemporary Art & Theory from SUNY Purchase. A tour of the Brant Foundation may be organized. Check back for more details at ridgefieldlibrary.org. [Please register.](#)

Please register for all programs at
ridgefieldlibrary.org or call 203-438-2282.

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