

2008 Berkshire Conference Twin Cities Cultural Highlights June 12-15, 2008

With such a jam-packed program, you won't want to leave campus during the conference...but if you have some extra time after the Berks ends, here are some local cultural highlights selected by the Local Arrangements Committee.

But first, a sad note from Amazon Bookstore Cooperative (<http://www.amazonfembks.com/>):

“For almost 38 years, **Amazon Bookstore** has been part of a proud tradition of independent bookselling in the Twin Cities and feminist bookselling across the country. Started by two women on the front porch of a living collective in 1970, Amazon grew to be a vibrant feminist and GLBT oriented bookstore, hosting author events such as Annie Leibovitz, Gloria Steinem, Rebecca Walker, Ani DiFranco; providing a home for book groups, workshops, and classes; and providing a space for local artists, musicians, and writers....Unfortunately, with the changing economy of bookselling, we, like many independents, have struggled to keep up with the proliferation of chains and online mega-retailers (you know the ones). We have had many wonderful years and know we have made a difference, but we cannot go on at this point, and our attempt to sell the store has not come to fruition. We have decided to close our doors at the end of June. We hope that you will come to the store in the next few weeks to say goodbye, tell us your Amazon Bookstore stories, and take advantage of our going out of business sales.”

Amazon Bookstore, 4755 Chicago Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55407; 612-821-9630
Open til June 30: Tue-Fri Noon-8 PM, Sat 10 AM-6 PM, Sun noon-5 PM.

MUSEUMS

Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA)

2400 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404

612.870.3131 www.artsmia.org

A major museum, particularly strong in Architecture, Design, Decorative Arts, Craft, Sculpture, Asian, African and Native American Art. Open Thu 10am–9pm, Fri/Sat 10am–5pm, Sun 11am–5pm. Admission free. Special exhibitions are up on *Peter Henry Emerson and American Naturalistic Photography*, *Pablo Picasso: Livres d'Artistes*, and *Alec Soth: Sleeping by the Mississippi*.

(See attached list of works at the MIA of likely interest to historians of women.)

Walker Art Center

1750 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

612.375.7600 info@walkerart.org -- www.walkerart.org

A major museum of modern and contemporary art. Open Thu/Fri 11am–9pm Sat/Sun 11am–5pm. Admission \$10. Very strong permanent collection, plus special exhibitions of work by Trisha Brown, by Richard Prince, and on *New Suburban Landscapes*. Plus Artist-Designed Mini Golf (\$8) in the lovely Sculpture Garden (free!).

The Museum of Russian Art (TMORA)
5500 Stevens Ave South, Minneapolis, MN, 55419
612.821.9045 www.tmora.org

Only museum in North America entirely dedicated to the preservation and presentation of Russian art and artifacts from the 19th and 20th centuries. Open Thu 10am–8pm, Fri 10am–5pm, Sat 10am–4pm. Admission \$5.00.

Minnesota History Center
345 Kellogg Blvd W., St. Paul MN 55102
651.259.3000; 800.657.3773 www.mnhs.org

Minnesota Historical Society's beautiful new HQ that includes a large library and archives as well as an impressive museum. Open Thu, Fri, Sat 10am–5pm, Sun noon–5pm. Admission \$10.

James J. Hill House
240 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55102
651.297.2555 hillhouse@mnhs.org

Historic home of local Gilded Age robber baron, James J. Hill, operated by the Minnesota Historical Society. Currently showing an exhibition of a large collection of art from the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Limited hours; call ahead.

Mill City Museum
704 South Second Street, Minneapolis MN 55401 (next door to the Guthrie Theater)
612.341.7555 mcm@mnhs.org

Built within the scenic ruins of a 19th-century riverfront mill in downtown Minneapolis (the "Mill City"), this museum chronicles the regional milling industry when it produced more flour than anywhere else in the world. Come see the history of Betty Crocker, the Pillsbury Doughboy...and the real women and men who worked in the mills. Open Thu 10am–9pm, Fri/Sat 10am–5pm, Sun noon–5pm. Admission \$10.

Hennepin History Museum
2303 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404
612.870.1329 www.hennepinhistory.org

A social history museum set in an historic mansion. Current exhibitions from the permanent collection include *The Century of the Child* and *The Lure of Shoes: Cultural Connections 1840-2007*. Open Thu 1pm–8pm, Fri/Sat/Sun 1pm–5 pm. Admission \$5; NB not handicapped accessible.

PERFORMANCES: THEATER AND MUSIC

Guthrie Theater
818 South 2nd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55415 (next door to the Mill City Museum)
Box Office: 612.377.2224

The Twin Cities preeminent theater, in its new riverfront location (next to the Mill City Museum) has three shows on: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on the Wurtele Thrust Stage, Thomas Kilroy's *The Secret Fall of Constance Wilde* on the McGuire Proscenium Stage, and Naomi Iizuka's *After a Hundred Years* in the Dowling Studio

Hennepin Stages

824 Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55403-1803

(612) 373-5600 www.hennepintheatredistrict.org

This mainstream theater has performances of *The Robber Bridegroom*.

Fitzgerald Theater

10 E Exchange Street, St. Paul, MN 55101

651-290-1200 fitzgerald@mpr.org

Home to Minnesota Public Radio's *Prairie Home Companion*. Tickets are sold out for the June 15, 2008 show, but rush tickets are still available.

Southern Theater

1420 Washington Ave, S., Minneapolis, MN 55454

(Seven Corners area by campus & near the Holiday Inn)

612-340-1725 www.southerntheater.org

Intimate theater presenting and producing innovative original performances in many media; a favorite venue of many of the Twin Cities' modern and ethnic dance companies. June 12-15, Ananya Dance Theatre, a company of women artists of color, is performing "DAAK: Call to Action." (The Berks has reserved a block of tickets at a special price on Saturday evening; details in the printed conference program p. 17.)

Patrick's Cabaret

3010 Minnehaha Ave South, Minneapolis, MN 55406

612-724-6273 www.patrickscabaret.org

20% Theater Company (a company of female, transgender, and queer theater artists) will present "Standards of Care" by award-winning FTM transgender playwright, Tobias K. Davis, Fri/Sat/Sun, June 13-15.

Theatre in the Round

245 Cedar Avenue, Minneapolis MN 55454

(Seven Corners area, by campus and near the Holiday Inn)

612-333-3010 <http://www.theatreintheround.org/>

Fri Sat Sun performances of Pulitzer prize winning play *Harvey*

Minnesota Orchestra

Orchestra Hall

1111 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55403 (downtown)

(612) 371-5656 or (800) 292-4141 www.minnesotaorchestra.org

Thu/Fri/Sat performances of a Russian Spectacular with pieces by Stravinsky, Tchaikovsky, and Rimsky-Korsakov.

Bryant-Lake Bowl

810 W Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN 55408

(612) 825-3737 www.bryantlakebowl.com

A unique Twin Cities institution: a combination bowling alley/restaurant/bar/theater offering food, alcohol, live theater and music performances. A live band from Saskatchewan and St Paul, an original play by Swandive Theatre, stand-up comedy, and a variety show all on the schedule June 12-15.

Kitty Cat Club

315 14th Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414 (Dinkytown, adjacent to East Bank campus)

612.331.9800 www.kittycatclub.net

Lesbian club with live music.

Pi Restaurant and Bar

2532 25th Ave South, Minneapolis, MN

(612) 877-4640 www.pibarandrestaurant.com

New and friendly establishment billing itself as a “social club for queer women and their friends.”

First Avenue

701 First Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55403-1327

612-332-1775 info@first-avenue.com -- www.first-avenue.com

Music club made famous by Prince; three stages offer a variety of shows and events on all weekend.

Fine Line Music Cafe

318 First Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55401

612-338-8100 www.finelinemusic.com

This hip music club has two shows: Thursday, Ours w. God or Julie and Plain Jane Automobile; Saturday, Nylon Magazine Music Tour feat. She Wants Revenge

Minnesota Opera

www.mnopera.org

Sorry, opera fans: their next production opens June 28.

Highlights of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts Collection of potential interest to historians of women

2400 3rd Ave S., Minneapolis, MN 55404; (612) 870-3131; www.artsmia.org

FIRST FLOOR

Clementine Hunter (1886-1988; American artist from Louisiana)

Picking Cotton

1950s, Oil on board, 20 x 24 in. (50.8 x 61.0 cm)

The Wash

1950s, Oil on board, 18 x 24 in. (45.7 x 61.0 cm)

SECOND FLOOR – just two of many Native American pieces on display

Lakota Dress

c.1880-1900; Leather, cotton, copper disks, bells, glass beads, 51 in. (129.5 cm)

By the late 19th century most Plains Indian people had adopted Euro-American styles of clothing in daily use, but they often wore traditional garments for special occasions. Heavily beaded dresses like this one not only showed a woman's skill in needlework but also marked her cultural identity. The small U-shaped motif on the lower edge of the beading alludes symbolically to turtles, which were associated with women's creative powers.

Vessel

Maria Martinez and Julian Martinez

20th century, Ceramic, 6 1/4 x 8 x 8 in. (15.88 x 20.32 x 20.32 cm)

Maria Martinez, of the San Ildefonso Pueblo in New Mexico, is one of the most renowned Pueblo potters. She and her husband Julian invented the black-on-black firing technique, which creates contrasting matte and shiny dark surfaces. It is used to great effect on this vessel, highlighting the dramatic effect of the painted design. This design is called Avanyu, and represents a water serpent, an image that Julian adapted from ancient sources and used frequently. Water is precious in the desert and imagery associated with it carries power.

THIRD FLOOR

SPECIAL EXHIBIT: *Metamorphosis: Maria Sibylla Merian's Insects of Suriname*

Galleries 315 and 316 through Sunday, June 15, 2008.

In 1699, **Maria Sibylla Merian** (Swiss, 1647-1717) sailed to Suriname to draw and study the insects of the rain forest. She was particularly fascinated by the transformation of caterpillars into butterflies and moths, and her images reveal their successive stages of development from egg to caterpillar, pupa, and mature adult. The book that resulted from her two-year study, *Metamorphosis insectorum Surinamensium (Transformation of Suriname Insects)*, included ninety studies of insects, most drawn life-size. A pioneer in a long line of female botanical artists, Merian was the first to depict insects in relation to their host plants. This exhibition features twenty of Merian's images of Suriname, selected from the MIA's permanent collection.

Portrait of Countess Maria Theresia Bucquoi, née Parr

Marie Louise Elisabeth Vigée-Le Brun (French, 1755-1842)

1793, Oil on canvas, 53 1/2 x 39 in. (135.9 x 99.1 cm)

At the age of 24, Vigée-Le Brun executed her first portrait of Queen Marie-Antoinette, and over the course of her career, remained the principal portraitist of the French aristocracy. In 1789, Vigée-Le Brun went into exile for 12 years. This portrait of Countess Bucquoi was commissioned during a visit to Vienna in 1793. It ranks as one of the most successful examples of the artist's use of romantic landscape as a background.

The Artist's Daughter, Julie, with her Nanny

Berthe Morisot (French, 1841-1895)

c.1884, Oil on canvas

Georgia O'Keeffe (American, 1887-1986)

Pedernal - From the Ranch #1

1956, Oil on canvas, 30 x 40 in. (76.2 x 101.6 cm)

O'Keeffe was particularly fond of Pedernal Peak, a prominent mesa near her home at Ghost Ranch, New Mexico. "It is my private mountain," she once said, "God told me if I painted it enough, I could have it." In an unusual juxtaposition, she has framed the mountain within the opening of an abstracted bone, a common motif in her later work.

City Night

1926, Oil on canvas, 48 x 30 in. (121.92 x 76.2 cm)

Billboard

Grace Hartigan (American, b. 1922)

1957, Oil on canvas; 78 1/2 x 87 in. (199.4 x 221.0 cm)

A second generation Abstract Expressionist, Hartigan alternates between abstraction and figuration. The abstraction gives her work a powerful emotional and visual experience while the naturalistic subject matter serves as her inspiration. Hartigan describes her subjects as real, but not realistic. Hartigan repeatedly drew from American advertising in her work because of its common imagery, two-dimensional structure, and bold stylistic simplifications. Of this melange of commercial and mechanical imagery she remarked, "I have found my subject, it concerns that which is vulgar and vital in American life, and possibilities of its transcendence into the beautiful."

Self-Portrait as a Lute Player

Artemisia Gentileschi (Italian, 1593–1652/53)

ca. 1615–17, Oil on canvas; 30 1/2 x 28 1/4 in. (77.5 x 71.8 cm)

The Frankfurt Kitchen, a Modernist Period Room

Grete Schütte-Lihotzky (Austrian, 1897-2000)

The Frankfurt Kitchen (1926-30) was the most successful and influential kitchen of the Weimar interlude and still stands as the epitome of "scientific" organization for the domestic workspace. Following the 1918 Armistice, an ambitious citywide effort to provide low-income housing for some two million soldiers as well as thousands of war widows was initiated in Frankfurt, Germany, by city architect Ernst May. He brought into his office a young Viennese architect, Grete Schütte-Lihotzky (1897-2000). With an overriding motivation to save time and money, the principles of rational organization, labor-saving design, standardized building units, and mechanized construction were applied not only to the design of settlements themselves, but also to Schütte-Lihotzky's design of the Frankfurt Kitchen, versions of which were installed in 10,000 of the integrated housing units. Schütte-Lihotzky was one of the first female architects in Austria and was active in the anti-Nazi resistance. Born in Vienna, she was probably the first female student of the school now known as the University of Applied Arts, Vienna, studying under architect/designer Josef Hoffmann and Oskar Kokoschka.