

Art Talks / 2010 Forums

January 25, 1:00 pm 2009 Virginia Watercolor Society Show *Group Presentation*

This inspiring presentation of the VWS Annual Juried Show is an RAL tradition. Included in the 101 paintings accepted into the 2009 exhibition were seven RAL members- Margaret Alderson, Jacquie Colligan, Anne Hayes, Kathleen Noffsinger, Rose Nygaard (awarded 3rd prize!), Joan Robinson, and Sue Crave Rosen. These artists have been invited to give a short talk on their accepted paintings and commentary of the entire exhibition will be made by RAL artist and VWS signature member Mary Jo Beswick.

February 22, 1:00pm Chihuly Over Venice *Video Presentation*

World acclaimed glass artist Dale Chihuly goes on a quest to the glass blowing centers of the world to create a magnificent and unique chandelier installation to hang over the canals and alleys of Venice, Italy. This ambitious project, made from thousands of individual parts, represents the work of hundreds of glassblowers and the unique vision of one. This beautiful video captures not only the elaborate craft of glass blowing but also the stunning scenery of Ireland, Mexico, and Venice.

March 22, 1:00pm Mother, Model, Mistress, Master: Suzanne Valadon *Speaker: Jeffrey W. Allison, Paul Mellon Statewide Educator VMFA*

* Suzanne Valadon was an artist's model whose beauty attracted the artistic as well as erotic attentions of Toulouse-Lautrec, Renoir and Puvis de Chavannes. Although Valadon never officially studied art, she refined her skills by observing the artists who employed her. Edgar Degas became a major force in her life who introduced her work to dealers and galleries and taught her his favorite methods. This lecture, traces Valadon's life through clues in her own artwork and in the images of her found in the works of the artists captured by her flame.

April 26, 1:00pm Abode of Illusion: The Life and Art of Chang Dai-chien *Video Presentation*

Despite the fact that few Westerners can name a single Chinese painter, China continues to nurture the world's oldest continuous painting tradition. This video explores the life and work of Chang Dai-chien, the first Chinese artist to achieve international recognition that bridged the gap between China's past and present, as well as between East and West. His work illustrates essential differences between Western and Chinese approaches to art. It also suggests how originality and tradition, abstraction and representation, are valued and interpreted by both East and West.

May 24, 1:00 pm Why is that Art? *Speaker: Emily Smith, Curatorial Fellow, Modern and Contemporary Art, VMFA*

* Looking at modern art can often be challenging. It always raises questions, even amongst the most knowledgeable viewers - What is an abstract painting "of"? How do you determine if something is "good"? A close look at the history of modern art, dating from roughly 1870 through 1950, demonstrates that the changes that occurred, chiefly that art became more abstract, were not arbitrary but rather developed along deliberate paths. Using works from VMFA's collection, we will see and hear the story of important moments in modern art

September 27, 1:00 pm At Home with Vuillard *Speaker: Dr. Jennifer Foley, Paul Mellon Statewide Educator, VMFA*

* Works by the French painter Edouard Vuillard grace the collections of many of the world's most important museums, from the Metropolitan Museum of Fine Arts to the Louvre, and from the National Gallery to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Unlike many of his contemporaries, his skills and his paintings were well received and great-

ly admired during his lifetime. This talk investigates these quiet works, as well as the parts of Vuillard's oeuvre that may be less familiar-and even surprising!

October 25, 1:00 pm Moche Ceramics: Portraits of the Natural World

*Speaker: Dr. Paula Winn, Adjunct
Professor of Art History, VCU*

* Of all the civilizations that produced sophisticated ceramics in ancient South America, only the Moche created exquisite and accurate portraits of individual members of their society. In addition, they used three-dimensional ceramic vessels to record the world around them, including depictions of the flora and fauna indigenous to the surrounding regions. This lecture explores the sculptural ceramics produced by the Moche who occupied the north coast of Peru from c. 100-800 CE.

November 22, 1:00 pm Chagall "To Russia, Asses and Others" *Video Presentation*

Marc Chagall was critiqued for a lack of technique, for naïveté, yet this film reveals the depth of his aesthetic and talent. Traveling from Russia to France to America and then back again, his work was continually reflective of his Jewish life and upbringing. Through archival film footage and readings of his words, the viewer comes to understand Chagall when he said, "The artist transcribes only what we possess, not what we see."

* *These programs are preceded by a casual catered lunch with the speaker. The cost is \$7 per person. If you wish to attend the lunch, please call the RAL Studio Gallery 804-436-9309 to reserve a place. This program has been organized by the VMFA Office of Statewide Partnerships and is supported by the Paul Mellon Endowment.*