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SBMA Announces Fall Art Matters Lecture Series

Series Moves to Thursday Afternoons to Better Accommodate Students and Life-Long Learners
with Free Admission for Students

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art's (SBMA) long-standing, adult education lecture series Art Matters is taking a new direction by moving from a morning timeslot to Thursdays at 4:30 pm—better serving the educational needs and schedules of students and working adults. The upcoming fall series runs November 1 through December 6. Ticketing for the series has been simplified to individual lecture ticket sales (\$10 for SBMA Members/\$15 Non-Members) with free admission to all students with valid ID.

Art Matters (formerly Art Talks) was established more than a dozen years ago (initially offered in collaboration with Santa Barbara City College as "A History of Art and Ideas") as a way to offer quality educational opportunities for adults in the history of art. SBMA Deputy Director and Chief Curator Eik Kahng has overseen the program since 2016. Dr. Kahng, who is an art historian as well as curator, with degrees in the history of art from Princeton (AB) and the University of California, Berkeley (MA/PhD), was well equipped through her broad network of colleagues, both in academia and the museum field, to lure well-qualified speakers to the series. Guest lecturers of the last two years have included award-winning academics such as Peter Parshall (Professor emeritus at Reed College and former Curator of Old Master Prints at the National Gallery of Art), prestigious curatorial scholars from area museums, such as perennial favorite, Ken Lapatin, Curator of Greek and Roman Art at the J. Paul Getty Museum, veterans of the museum field like Charlie Stuckey, and rising young scholars, such as Joyce Tsai (Moholy-Nagy scholar and now curator at the University of Iowa) and John Blakinger (György Kepes scholar and now Terra Foundation Fellow at the University of Oxford).

This November, the series begins in Ancient Rome with distinguished UC Berkeley professor, Christopher Hallett, followed by a visit to Ancient China and Egypt with UCSB Professor of History, Anthony Barbieri-Low. Minneapolis Institute of Art curator, Jan-Lodewijk Grootaers continues the discussion of Egyptian art and also presents the concluding lecture on African Art, his original area of expertise. Since SBMA is one of the few regional museums to have a world-class collection of antiquities as well as strong holdings in African art, it seems only natural that it should offer the opportunity to enjoy a lecture series in areas of art-history that are all too often neglected in university-level and museum programming.

Kahng is assisted in her oversight of Art Matters by Departmental Curatorial Assistant Michelle West. West has an MA in art history from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and was previously the Director of the Acadia Summer Art Program, founded by Marion "Kippy" Stroud, which hosted hundreds of renowned artists, curators, directors, and scholars annually. Working together with their colleagues at UCSB, Ventura College, SBCC, and Westmont College, Kahng and West hope to attract area students to Art Matters, where they can take advantage of the rare opportunity to have direct, personal access to renowned senior scholars, curators, and conservators, thereby enriching the curricula for the study of the humanities in general for regional universities and community colleges.

Carole Paul, Director of the Museum Studies at UCSB commented: "The Art Matters lecture series is a great supplement to our program in Art History at UCSB. In her brief time managing the series, Eik Kahng has attracted top-notch academics and curators to

speak at the SBMA, offering our students, both undergrad and graduate, an excellent opportunity to learn from and meet prominent professionals in the field. We are especially appreciative that the lectures are free to students.”

Larry Feinberg, SBMA Robert and Mercedes Eichholz Director and CEO, notes, “The shift of interest away from the humanities in higher education is an unfortunate reality. SBMA is proud to continue its strong tradition of continuing adult education. We hope that Art Matters will provide area audiences with a good resource for the study of the history of art, from antiquity to the present.”

View past lectures in the Museum’s video library at <https://www.sbma.net/events/videolibrary/artmatters>.

To see the full program for fall Art Matters lectures upcoming, visit www.sbma.net/learn/adultprograms/artmatters.

Purchase tickets at the Museum Visitor Services desk in person, by phone 805.884.6423, or online at sbma.net/tickets

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is one of the finest museums on the West coast and is celebrated for the superb quality of its permanent collection. Its mission is to integrate art into the lives of people through internationally recognized exhibitions and special programs, as well as the thoughtful presentation of its permanent collection.

Santa Barbara Museum of Art, 1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA.
Open Tuesday – Sunday 11 am to 5 pm, Free Thursday Evenings 5 – 8 pm
805.963.4364 www.sbma.net