Dear MFA Family,

While current circumstances prevent us from gathering in person, Curators Circles members will, as always, have access to a wide range of programs. These programs offer unparalleled discovery of the Museum’s collections, delve into recent acquisitions and research, and invite in outside voices that lend their diverse perspectives. Each opportunity is designed to bring you closer to the MFA’s exceptional curatorial and conservation teams, while celebrating your support of their work.

We invite you to review the listing of this year’s events across all Curators Circles. Please mark your calendars and—if you haven’t already—consider exploring an area of our collection by joining a Curators Circle or renewing your support of one or more!

We are also pleased to announce our first new Curators Circle since the program launched in 2018: Black Arts and Artists. Support from membership in this group helps fund curatorial internships for college students of color.

Contributions from all other Curators Circles memberships provide vital operating funds for the respective departments and curators. Your support is needed now more than ever as we work to build a healthy, viable, and sustainable MFA for the future.

Thank you for your interest in Curators Circles and the important work of our curators and conservators.

Matthew Teitelbaum
Ann and Graham Gund Director

Co-Chairs of the Curators Circles Working Group

Emi Winterer
Edward Saywell
Trustee
Chair, Prints and Drawings

*Please note that benefits are subject to limitations due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, and dates, times, and events are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, check mfa.org/curatorscircles, or check in with your group.

To join Curators Circles, an active membership in one of the following categories is required:

**MFA Member at the Sustainer Level or Leader Level**
$850 and above

**Museum Council Member**
$600 and above; ages 21 to 45

**Patron Program Member**
$3,000 and above

Contributions from every Curators Circles membership provide vital operating funds for the respective departments, curators, and/or programs. The annual contribution to join a Curators Circle is $1,500, which entitles two people to five unique curator-led events. Under the current circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Curators Circles events for the 2020–21 season are virtual. We look forward resuming in-person events at the Museum as soon as it is safe to gather again.*

To join mfa.org/curatorscircles or contact curatorscircles@mfa.org

Visit mfa.org/curatorscircles or contact curatorscircles@mfa.org

Join us for an exciting third year of Curators Circles!
Art of Africa and Oceania
Learn about the latest research in African and Oceanic art, attend behind-the-scenes tours of exhibitions and gallery rotations, and examine art in storage at the MFA and other local museum collections. Meet fellow enthusiasts of African and Oceanic art and culture, from active art collectors to former Peace Corps volunteers. See art ranging from historical to contemporary and discuss the evolving representation of African and Oceanic art today.

Friday, January 8, 2021, Evening
Virtual Tour of “Sahel: Art and Empires on the Shores of the Sahara” at the Metropolitan Museum of Art
Join Alix LaSama, the Metropolitan Museum’s Cel and Michael E. Pultizer Curator in Charge, for a tour of the exhibition “Sahel: Art and Empires on the Shores of the Sahara.” Called “A wonder to behold” by the New York Times, it is the first exhibition to explore the empires of Ghana (300–1200), Mali (1230–1600), Songhay (1464–1591), and Segu (1640–1881). If you didn’t see it in New York, come see it virtually!

Monday, November 16, 2020, Evening
John Monroe: African Art and French Modernism
Join us for a journey into artists’ workshops and patrons’ homes in West Africa and Paris at the turn of the 20th century. John Warner Monroe, professor at Iowa State University, guides us through the surprising exchange of cultural and imperial power underlying the relationship between French Modernism and the European occupation of Africa, the subject of his new book. In conversation with Monroe, hear MFA curators Kathryn Gunsch, head of the Arts of Africa and Oceania and Teel Curator of African and Oceanic Art; and Katie Hansen, curator, Paintings, Art of Europe, discuss the complex influences of West African art on Picasso, Matisse, and others. Co-organized with Curators Circles: African Art.


Wednesday, May 26, 2021, Evening
Virtual Tour to Te Papa Tongarewa
Join us for a virtual trip to Te Papa Tongarewa, the Museum of New Zealand! Curator Nina Tonga will present highlights from Te Papa’s Pacific collection. Having served as the Curator of Pacific Art and now as Curator of Contemporary Art, Ms. Tonga will conclude by sharing her insights into contemporary art of New Zealand.

Wednesday, October 14, 2020, Afternoon
Artist Talk with Joyce Scott
Join us for a presentation by Baltimore-based artist Joyce J. Scott, one of the few Black artists whose jewelry can be found in museum collections. The MFA is proud to have the largest collection of her jewelry in its holdings. Like her beadwork jewelry, her installations, performance, textile work, and sculpture transform a range of materials into moving works that take on charged subjects of race, sex, and violence. Co-organized with Curators Circles: Threads.

Wednesday, December 16, 2020, Afternoon
The Translation Project
Join us to discuss the Translation Project, our initiative to bring texts in different languages into the Art of the Americas galleries. We have collaborated with multilingual staff from across the MFA to author new labels for iconic works in Spanish, Chinese, Haitian Creole, and Portuguese as well as in Wabanaki to acknowledge the Native land of this region. Hear from the curators leading this cutting-edge project.

Wednesday–Thursday, March 3–4, 2021, Noon
London Calling!
Join us for a virtual trip to one of the world’s great art cities. Over Zoom, connect with a guide from London’s Victoria and Albert Museum, who will lead you on a tour of its collections. The V&A is home to the world’s largest collection of English and Scottish ceramics. Co-organized with Curators Circles: Black Arts and Artists and Threads.

Thursday, May 13, 2021, Afternoon
Artist Talk with Bisa Butler
Celebrate the great strides made to diversify the MFA’s collection with an artist talk by Bisa Butler, whose powerful quilt To God and Truth is a signature work in the upcoming exhibition “Fabric of a Nation: American Quilt Stories” and its accompanying publication. Reimagined in vibrantly colored cloth from historic photographs, Butler’s life-size portraits of Black Americans invite dialogue between the past and present. Co-organized with Curators Circles: African Art and Artists and Threads.
**Art of South Asia and the Middle East**

In an age of global trade and mass migration, the arts and cultures of South Asia and the Middle East are of international relevance. To understand the contemporary forms these cultures take, we must also engage with the pre-modern. Delve into the visual traditions of South Asia and the Middle East, exploring the ways they articulate identity, faith, authority, and cultural difference. Programs are enriched by guest experts, music, and vibrant conversation.

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**Thursday, October 15, 2020, Afternoon**

Ross through Asia

The impact of Denman Waldo Ross on the MFA’s Asian art collections cannot be overstated. The publication of a new biography of Ross at the beginning of 2020 offers an invitation to delve into his travels across Asia, his profound impact on the MFA, and his most alluring acquisitions. Join Art of Asia curators and Maureen Melton, Susan Morse Hilles Director of Libraries and Archives and Museum historian, for this exploration of an incredible life in art.

Co-organized with Curators Circles: Qingke Society.

**Sunday, December 6, 2020, Afternoon**

Four Takes on Ottoman Calligraphy

In the Ottoman Empire, expertly trained calligraphers worked alongside other artists to create colorful panels (qit’a) combining text, images, and intricate geometric patterns. This program explores the relationship between calligraphy and illustration, and how these formats of Indian miniature painting into dazzling modular, bidimensional, and spatial formats. Four top scholars with differing backgrounds and perspectives offer mini-talks on different facets of Ottoman Calligraphy. Co-organized with Curators Circles: The Contemporaries.

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**Thursday, January 14, 2021, Evening**

Collecting, Curating, Collaborating: PEM and MFA in Conversation

The MFA and the Peabody Essex Museum have important, but very different, collections of South Asian art. Laura Weinstein, Ananda Coomaraswamy Curator of South Asian and Islamic Art at the MFA, and Siddhartha Shah, director of Education and Civic Engagement, curator of South Asian Art at PEM, get together for an informal conversation about their collections, how they approach them, and the directions each hopes to take South Asian art at their institutions.

Co-organized with the Patron Program and Curators Circles: The Contemporaries.

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**Thursday, March 4, 2021, Evening**

Virtual Studio Visit: Ambreen Butt

Ambreen Butt is a past recipient of the Maud Morgan Prize from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and an accomplished artist who transforms the materials, techniques, and formats of Indian miniature painting into dazzling room-sized installations. Join members of the Art of South Asia and the Middle East Curators Circle, Museum Council Fellows, and Museum Council Patrons as Butt takes us through her studio and talks to us about her practice, works in progress, and her plans for the future.

Co-organized with the Curators Circles: Art of the Americas.

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**Wednesday, April 7, 2021, Evening**

Journeys to the Eastern Mediterranean

Join renowned musician, composer, and multi-instrumentalist Jason Moran as he takes us on an audiovisual journey focusing on the art of jazz in the MFA’s collection. Participate in a discussion with the artist facilitated by associate curator of Modern and Contemporary Art Akili Tommasino.

Co-organized with Curators Circles: Art of the Americas.

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**Tuesday, November 10, 2020, Evening**

Behind the Scenes: Black Panther Newspaper Project

This spring, in collaboration with the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the MFA will be launching a new virtual exhibition focused on The Black Panther newspaper, which was illustrated by revolutionary artist Emory Douglas. Join the MFA’s Ronald C. and Anita L. Wornick Curator of Contemporary Decorative Art, Michelle Millar Fisher, in conversation with some of her MoMA colleagues for a behind-the-scenes look at this unprecedented digital collaboration between our two institutions.

Co-organized with Curators Circles: The Contemporaries.

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**Thursday, May 13, 2021, Afternoon**

Artist Talk with Bisa Butler

Celebrate the recently published Cy Twombly: Making Past Present, which accompanies the upcoming exhibition at the MFA and the Getty. Curator Christine Kendall, George D. and Margo Behrakis Chair, Art of Ancient Greece and Rome, and colleague Kate Nesin offer a sampling of works by Twombly that illustrate the influence of Italy and the Mediterranean on his art. Following, hear Pete Thoising, Beal Family Chair of Contemporary Art, in conversation with artist Julie Mehretu. Co-organized with the Patron Program and Curator Circles: The Contemporaries and Laurel Society.

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**Wednesday, April 28, 2021, Evening**

Inaugural Acquisitions Review

Each addition to the MFA’s collection not only gives us a new story to tell but expands on work in our existing collections. Learn about exciting recent acquisitions of work by artists of the African diaspora. Join curators across the Museum as they discuss their acquisitions’ significance and impact.

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**Thursday, May 27, 2021, Evening**

Bisa Butler, To God and Truth: Black Panther

The American quilt is not just a work of art but a reflection of the African American experience. Join Bisa Butler, whose powerful quilt To God and Truth is a signature work in the upcoming exhibition “Fabric of a Nation: American Quilt Stories” and its accompanying publication. Reimagined in vibrantly colored cloth from historic photographs, Butler’s life-size portrait of Black Americans invite dialogue between the past and present.

Co-organized with Curators Circles: Art of the Americas and Threads.
Conservation and Collections

Celebrate the work of Conservation and Collections Management in caring for the world’s shared cultural patrimony.

Join us for close looking at original works from the MFA, sharing current research and insights into our approaches and decision-making, and stimulating dialogue between museum professionals and participants. Programs focus on objects outside of the gallery setting, looking at works in storage and in the conservation labs.

Thursday, September 17, 2020, Evening

Behind the Scenes and Beneath the Surface

Join us for a virtual exploration of the upcoming Dutch and Flemish galleries and the Rose-Marie and Eijk van Otterloo Paintings Conservation Studio. Enjoy a preview of the galleries followed by an update on the Conservation Center’s new paintings conservation studio and a behind-the-scenes look at the examination and treatment of Dutch paintings. Topping off our celebration, Susan Weatherbie, art collector and a founder of the MFA’s Center for Netherlandish Art, will give a personal view of the benchmark illustrating the growth of the Weatherbie Collection.

Co-organized with Curators Circles: Swan Society.

Tuesday, October 27, 2020, Afternoon

Moving the False Door of Khufuankh

Since May, even when the Museum was closed, renovation of the Ancient Greece and Rome and Ancient Egypt galleries has moved ahead at full speed. Join us for a live virtual visit to the galleries under construction, and an overview of the relocation across three galleries of the false door of Khufuankh, a 16,000-pound limestone block, beautifully carved and painted for the tomb of a master musician in Giza more than 4,500 years ago.

Co-organized with Curators Circles: Lotus Society.

Tuesday, December 15, 2020, Afternoon

All That Glitters Is Not Gold: Gliding Conservation

Traditional gliding conservation bears little resemblance to the materials and methods used today. In 1965, artist Charles Prendergast restored and re-glided the frame for a 15th-century altarpiece. Frame conservator Gregory Porter now searches for evidence of earlier gliding to inform a treatment that preserves the integrity of Prendergast’s work. We also explore a new conservation technique, developed this year by Andrew W. Mellon Fellow for Advanced Training Yuqi Chock, to address loss on a carved lion from 1923, which has retained its rare original gilding.

Tuesday, May 11, 2021, Evening

Spotlight on Light: From Artistic Medium to Conservation Tool

Appreciating light’s complexity is central to the work of Museum conservators. Curators Circles: Conservation and Collections members join Patron Sponsors for an exploration of light: what it is, what it can reveal, and how conservators use it to better understand and preserve the world of art. Light is considered from the point of view of the artist, the conservator, and the scientist.

Co-organized with the Patron Program:.

Summer 2021 (Date to Be Announced)

Collector, Conservator, Curator: Perspectives on the Storied Lives of Quilts

Join us for a visit with quilt collector Gerald Roy of Pilgrim/Roy, followed by a discussion with Jennifer Swope, assistant curator, Textile and Fashion Arts, and textile conservator Meredith Montague about their roles in the collaborative work of creating publications and exhibitions. Together, all three recount the challenges and triumphs of acquiring, preparing, and interpreting quilts for two quilts exhibitions at the MFA. Co-organized with Curators Circles: Threads.

Tuesday, November 17, 2020, Evening

“Writing the Future: Basquiat and the Hip-Hop Generation”: Virtual Celebration

Join the curators and artists behind “Writing the Future: Basquiat and the Hip-Hop Generation” for an exclusive virtual tour of the exhibition. Following the hour-long event, join a Q&A and a curator from the exhibition. Curators Liz Munsell, Lorraine and Alan Bressler Curator of Contemporary Art, and Greg Tate, writer, musician, and author of Flyboys in the Buttermilk and Flyboys 2: The Grey Titan Reader.

Wednesday December 2, 2020, Evening

Time and Place: Julie Mehretu and Cy Twombly

Celebrate the recently published Cy Twombly: Making Past Present, which accompanies the upcoming exhibition at the MFA and the Getty. Curator Christine Kondoleon, George D. and Marianna Widener Professor of Art, in conversation with artist Julie Mehretu. Co-organized with the Patron Program and Curators Circles: Black Arts and Artists and Laurel Society.

Wednesday, March 24, 2021, Evening

The Contemporaries

Explore the diverse, exciting world of the art of today through exclusive events. Gain access to the artists and thinkers who are shaping our Museum and the world of contemporary art at large. Programs address some of the most relevant and pressing issues of our time, creating a shared space for behind-the-scenes opportunities, intimate conversations with artists and scholars, and lively dialogue among curators and friends.


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Meet Los Angeles–based artist Lauren Halsey, who will produce the second edition of the Banner Project, a series of annual commissions at the MFA, engaging artists to create large-scale banners to hang from the glass ceiling of the Linde Family Wing for Contemporary Art. Known for site-specific projects that incorporate people, structures, and images of her community, Halsey rethinkers possibilities for art, architecture, and community engagement. In conversation with associate curator of Modern and Contemporary Art Aki Tommasino, Halsey discusses her engagement with the MFA, the status of her project, and her studio, Summerverything, which doubles as a community center and food distribution point.

Spring 2021 (Date to be Announced)

Sneak Peek: Recent Acquisitions in Conversation

Join us for an expansive conversation giving behind-the-scenes insight into the upcoming cross-departmental exhibition for which curators across the Museum considered how objects in their collections might speak to recent contemporary acquisitions, making connections across time and cultures and highlighting less familiar narratives. DGA’s curators lead a discussion on the exhibition process and working collaboratively across departments, and contemporary artists featured in the exhibition share their insights and experience.


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Fashion Council

Join this dynamic group to actively pursue fashion’s impact on the local and global stage. Established by the David and Roberta Logie Department of Textile and Fashion Arts at MFA, the Fashion Council explores the intellectual, cultural, and artistic aspects of fashionable dress and adornment. Participants enjoy exclusive, lively programs throughout the year that feature prominent designers, jewelers, writers, collectors, academics, and artists connected with the fashion world.

Monday, October 5, 2020, Morning
Welcome Tea
Join us for a virtual tea party to kick off the season! The presentation opens with an introduction to the MFA’s fashion collection by Emily Stoehrer, Rita J. Kaplan and Susan B. Kaplan Curator of Jewelry, and curatorial research associate Allison Taylor. Together we take a closer look at choice acquisitions funded by the Fashion Council and illustrated in the forthcoming book Fashion: Treasures of the Museum of Fine Arts.

Tuesday, October 13, 2020, Evening
Cocktails with Claudette
Get dressed up, pour yourself a classic cocktail, and join Emily Stoehrer, Rita J. Kaplan, and Susan B. Kaplan Curator of Jewelry, and Jaci Rohr, Jewelry and Costume Archivist, Paramount Studios, on a star-studded journey from Hollywood to Paris in the 1930s. This program celebrates the MFA’s monumental show “Big in Japan” by Jean Paul Gaultier and his final Spring collection in a runway presentation where a number of ensembles were graced by sculptural textile ornaments by jewelry designer Mariko Kusumoto. Join us for an exclusive (virtual) visit to Kusumoto’s Lexington, Massachusetts, studio as the artist shares details of her process and the story behind the partnership with Gaultier that resulted in the MFA’s recently acquired couture ensemble “Big in Japan.”

Wednesday, December 9, 2020, Evening
The Chiffon Trenches with André Leon Talley
The celebrated fashion journalist discusses his most recent book and reflects on his life in fashion. Born in North Carolina, Talley studied at Brown University before making his way to New York City. His illustrious career included working alongside Andy Warhol at Interview magazine before joining Anna Wintour at Vogue. ALT’s storied life brought him into close contact with fashion designers, artists, and celebrities, and his expertise and larger-than-life personality have made him a sought-after fashion writer, critic, and commentator.

Friday, February 12, 2021, Noon
“Big in Japan” by Jean Paul Gaultier and Mariko Kusumoto
In January 2019 couturier Jean Paul Gaultier showed his final Spring collection in a runway presentation where a number of ensembles were graced by sculptural textile ornaments by jewelry designer Mariko Kusumoto. Join us for an exclusive (virtual) visit to Kusumoto’s Lexington, Massachusetts, studio as the artist shares details of her process and the story behind the partnership with Gaultier that resulted in the MFA’s recently acquired couture ensemble “Big in Japan.”

Spring 2021 (Dates to Be Announced)
Armchair Travel: London
The late Alexander McQueen once described British fashion as “confident and fearless...generating a constant flow of new ideas whilst drawing in British heritage.” From the comfort of our homes and offices, “armchair travel” together with us to London this spring to explore the city’s energetic fashion scene. In a series of virtual events, visit museums, retailers, and designers’ studios to enjoy a taste of London from afar. Details to be announced.

Thursday, October 15, 2020, Afternoon
Ross through Asia
The impact of Demna Waldo Ross on the MFA’s Art collection cannot be overstated. The publication of a new biography of Ross at the beginning of 2020 offers an invitation to delve into his travels across Asia, his profound impact on the MFA, and his most alluring acquisitions. Join Art of Asian curators and Maureen Melton, Susan Morse Hilles Director of Libraries and Archives and Museum Historian, for an exploration of an incredible life in art. Co-organized with Curators Circles: Art of South Asia and the Middle East.

Tuesday, December 8, 2020, Evening
Rediscovering Maruyama-Shijō School Paintings
Over the last thirty years, we have worked to publish a complete catalogue raisonné of our Japanese art collection. In anticipation of the publication of the catalogue’s final volume, Anne Havinga, Estrellita and Yousuf Karsh Chair of Photography, and Anne Nishimura Morse, William and Helen Pounds Senior Curator of Japanese Art, will discuss their development as a designer, her fusion of Asian and non-Asian aesthetics, her perspectives on contemporary Chinese art, and her latest artistic explorations.

Gingko Society

Enjoy behind-the-scenes access to the most important collection of East Asian art under one roof. Examine firsthand the visual arts of China, Japan, and Korea from prehistoric times to the present, including paintings, sculpture, prints, decorative arts, and new media. With our curators, leading experts, and artists, hear about the latest research and insights into East Asian art as well as into the department’s acquisitions, exhibitions, and many interesting projects.

Wednesday, January 19, 2021, Evening
A Conversation with Designer Han Feng
Hold on to your hat—and your scarf and the most unusual outfit in your closet! Internationally celebrated fashion designer, cultural tastemaker, and New York- and Shanghai-based artist Han Feng speaks with us from her uniquely designed NYC studio. In conversation with Nancy Berliner, Wu Tung Senior Curator of Chinese Art, she discusses her development as a designer, her fusion of Asian and non-Asian aesthetics, her perspectives on contemporary Chinese art, and her latest artistic explorations.

Wednesday, May 12, 2021, Evening
Modern Tradition: Chinese Paintings Conservation in Boston
What is a traditional Chinese painting structure? Why is the mounting of a painting so important? Join us to learn more about the MFA’s history of preserving Chinese paintings from Jacki Elgar, Pamela and Peter Voss Head of Asian Conservation. Hear from two specialists—Jing Gao, Cornelius Van Der Star Conservator of Chinese Paintings, and Hsin-Chen Tsai, associate conservator for Chinese Paintings—about their training, current projects, and how scientific analysis in conjunction with traditional mounting procedures can highlight artistic practice and artistry. They also discuss the future of the conservation profession.

Laurel Society
Learn about the art and archaeology of ancient Greece and Rome including cross-cultural influences from antiquity that contributed to the development of modern civilization in ways that impact us today. Programs include behind-the-scenes viewings of the MFA's world-class collection, invited speakers sharing their latest research and discoveries, and virtual trips to special collections. Learn more about our curatorial passion and enjoy stimulating exchanges with others who share a love for the ancient Mediterranean.

Wednesday, January 27, 2021, Noon
Virtual Tour of the Villa Aurora with Princess Rita Ludovisi
Join us for a very unusual lunchtime gathering celebrating the publication of Spotlight: June with a special interview with Princess Rita Boncompagni Ludovisi in Rome and her academic collaborator Corey Brennan of Rutgers University. Learn about where Jury spent several hundred years before her long journey to Boston. View a video about the history of the Boncompagni Ludovisi family and the famed Villa Ludovisi estate and a 3D walk-through of the historic property that includes many important wall paintings, including the only fresco by Caravaggio.

Wednesday, March 31, 2021, Evening
Why Did Bronze Age Civilizations Collapse?
Between 1200–1150 BCE, civilizations around the Mediterranean experienced invasions, natural disasters, famine, and plagues—which eventually led to their collapse. Without an overarching global account provided by ancient sources, scholars have long debated explanations for the severe disruptions documented in archaeological sites. Join us to hear recognized specialist Eric Cline offer theories regarding this timely debate and learn about the MFA’s Bronze Age collection.

Thursday, October 1, 2020, Evening
Virtual tour of “Mesopotamia: Civilization Begins” at the Getty Museum
Join us for an exclusive virtual tour of “Mesopotamia: Civilization Begins” at the Getty Museum with an exhibition curator Sara C. Kale. The exhibition opened only days before the Getty Villa shut down due to COVID-19 and might remain closed until the new year. The exhibition explores the spectacular artistic accomplishments of the ancient Sumerians, Babylonians, and Assyrians over three millennia, from the first cities in about 3200 BCE to the conquest of Babylon by Alexander the Great in 331 BCE. Co-organized with Curators Circles: Laurel Society.

Lotus Society
The Lotus Society invites you to stay current with discoveries and events related to ancient Egyptian, Nubian, and Near Eastern art and archaeology. Meet others with similar interests and enjoy exceptional access to the MFA’s collection of ancient Egyptian and Nubian art, acknowledged as among the finest in the world. Engage with curatorial staff and other experts and enjoy behind-the-scenes experiences.

Thursday, December 1, 2020, Evening
Between Giza and Boston: The Unique Mastaba of Akhmerenret
Join guest speaker Inês Torres, doctoral candidate in Egyptology at Harvard University, and former MFA Terrace Research associate, for an up-to-date research conducted on the mastaba of Akhmerenret, which was excavated in 1912 by the Harvard University-Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expedition. The unparalleled architecture and decoration of this tomb raises important questions about the ancient Egyptian elite of the Old Kingdom.

Saturday, January 21, 2020, Noon
Divide and Reunite: Flinders Petrie’s Finds in Boston and Copenhagen
When Flinders Petrie worked in Egypt a century ago, unique finds had to stay in Egypt, while the rest was widely distributed for study. The Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek in Copenhagen and the MFA both received finds from important sites in Memphis, Meidum, and Hawara. Tine Bagh, curator of Egyptian Art at the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, provides a closer look at this excavated material and discusses her discovery of objects in both museums that join exactly.

Wednesday, May 26, 2021, Noon
Museum with exhibition curator Sara C. Kale. The exhibition opened only days before the Getty Villa shut down due to COVID-19 and might remain closed until the new year. The exhibition explores the spectacular artistic accomplishments of the ancient Sumerians, Babylonians, and Assyrians over three millennia, from the first cities in about 3200 BCE to the conquest of Babylon by Alexander the Great in 331 BCE. Co-organized with Curators Circles: Lotus Society.

Tuesday, October 27, 2020, Afternoon
Moving the False Door of Khufuankh
Since May, even when the Museum was closed, renovation of the Ancient Greece and Rome and Ancient Egypt galleries has moved ahead at full speed. Join us for a live virtual visit to the galleries under construction, and an overview of the relocation across three galleries of the false door of Khufuankh, a 16,000-pound limestone block, beautifully carved and painted for the tomb of a master musician in Giza more than 4,500 years ago. Co-organized with Curators Circles: Lotus Society.

Unknown artist, Juno, Roman, head: Trajanic or Hadrianic period, late 1st century CE, body: early Imperial period, late 1st century BCE or early 1st century CE, Marble. Museum purchase with funds donated by George D. and Margo Behrakis.
Musical Instruments

The Museum is home to more than 1,200 instruments, including rare examples from Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas. An integral part of the MFA’s collection for 100 years, instruments have played an essential role in the Museum’s exhibitions, publications, and musical programming. Join noted authorities and talented musicians to learn about instruments across history and from around the world through live performances, talks, and close-up viewing.

Photography

One of the earliest museums in the country to collect photography, the MFA continues to expand its collection in exciting ways. Enjoy lively events, intimate conversations, and a unique opportunity to engage with photography at the MFA and beyond. Experience original works of art while meeting fellow enthusiasts who share your passion for photography. Deepen your connections with the MFA’s photography collection, our curators, contemporary photographers, and outside curators and scholars in the field.

Friday, November 20, 2020, Evening
To Play or Not to Play?
A Neapolitan harpsichord of the Renaissance, a grand piano of 18th-century Augsburg, an early electric piano of 20th-century Chicago. Are MFA keyboard instruments historical documents to be studied? Or are they living (and sounding) musical instruments? Department coordinator Bobby Giglio hosts a panel discussion, featuring John Watson, conservator and author of a groundbreaking catalogue of MFA keyboard instruments; Sylvia Berry, internationally respected historical keyboardist; and Dale Munschy, conservator and restorer of historical keyboards.

Sunday, December 13, 2020, Evening
Director’s Holiday Party;
“Del Gesù” Violin: A Visiting Masterpiece
Chairman’s Circle, President’s Circle, and Director’s Circle Patrons and members of Curators Circles: Musical Instruments join Ann and Graham Gund Director Matthew Teitelbaum and others to celebrate the holiday season with a special musical performance featuring a Cremonese violin by Giuseppe Guarneri “del Gesù.” Assistant principal violist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Julianne Lee, demonstrates this amazing instrument, which formerly belonged to Paola Diana (“Spagnoletti”), concertmaster of Paganini’s 1831 London orchestra.

Tuesday, January 12, 2021, Evening
Sight and Sound: Musical Instruments and the Visual Arts
In a letter to his brother, Vincent van Gogh once wrote, “Some artists have a nervous hand at drawing, which gives their technique something of the sound peculiar to a violin.” Artists and musicians have long been fascinated by the relationship between their crafts. Join us for a multisensory tour and explore the rich symbiosis between sight and sound in European culture through close looking and listening.

Thursday, April 29, 2021, Evening
Virtual Trip: Experience the National Music Museum
Be transported to one of the most important collections of musical instruments in the world. Vermillion, South Dakota, is home to the National Music Museum, where a multiyear building and renovation project has led to a reimagined institution. MMiM curators give us a behind-the-scenes tour of completed renovation projects, from the new Center for Preservation and Research to the newly inaugurated recital hall, with performances included!

Monday, May 10, 2021, Evening
Collectors, Donors, and Histories behind the Musical Instrument Collection
Join Musical Instruments department coordinator Bobby Giglio and Susan Morse Hilles Director of Libraries and Archives and Museum historian Maureen Melton, for a deep dive into the history of musical instruments at the MFA.

Wednesday, October 7, 2020, Evening
Life Magazine and the Power of Photography
Hear from Kristen Greish, Estrella and Yousuf Karsh Senior Curator of Photographs; Katherine Bussard, Peter C. Bunnett Curator of Photographs at the Princeton University Art Museum; and Alissa Schaprio, PhD candidate in art history at Northwestern University for a presentation of some of their most notable archival discoveries featured in the book Life Magazine and the Power of Photography.

Monday, November 30, 2020, Evening
Driving White Black: Amanli Willett and Jonathan Calm
Join us as we meet with artists Amanli Willett, assistant professor, Photography, at MassArt; and Jonathan Calm, assistant professor, Photography, Stanford; both of whom have recently produced photographic series inspired by The Negro Motorist Green Book (1936–1966), an annual guide to the network of Black businesses across the US that catered to Black travelers during the Great Migration, WWII, and the Civil Rights movement. Willett and Calm show their work and discuss the many different ways that the Green Book, with its focus on family road trips, car ownership, and newfound freedom of movement, resonates in light of the racism and violence that precipitated today’s Black Lives Matter movement.

Wednesday, March 10, 2021, Evening
A Conversation with Tomoko Sawada
Tomoko Sawada, one of Japan’s best known female photographers, explores personal identity and social expectations in her highly inventive self-portraits. The conversation is led by AnneHavinga, Estrella and Yousuf Karsh Chair of Photography, and Anne Nishimura Morse, William and Helen Family Senior Curator of Japanese Art.

Monday, May 17, 2021, Evening
A Conversation with Susan Meiselas
Hear from Susan Meiselas about her groundbreaking career as a freelance photographer since 1976. Meiselas’s photographs bear witness to history through her documentation of often untold stories of war and human rights, cultural identities, and domestic violence. She discusses her approach to photography, including her deep engagement with her subjects, questioning documentary practice, and the relationship between photographer, subject, and the photograph itself.

Enthusiasts, artists, and collectors are invited to pursue their passion for works on paper in a dynamic, engaged setting. With only a fraction of the MFA’s internationally renowned collection on display at any given time, members enjoy private tours of print studios, and meet with contemporary artists. Join us as we explore new narratives in printmaking and drawing, while gleaning insights from expert curatorial staff and fellow connoisseurs.

**Monday, November 9, 2020, Evening**
**Mapping the Future: Our Dutch and Flemish Collection**
The MFA’s collection of Dutch art, one of the world’s most important, includes exceptional works on paper. Join by colleagues from the Art of Europe department, take a deep dive around our recent acquisition of a monumental, rare print by Jan Saenredam; get a sneak-preview of the forthcoming renovation of drawing all on pots from Mycenaean to modern, and discover intersections, both abstract and concrete, between what we cherish, love, and, in some instances, still seek. Co-organized with the Museum Council.

**Monday, December 14, 2020, Evening**
**Armchair Travel: Houston**
Travel with us to Houston and experience the fellow connoisseurs. and drawing, while gleaning insights as we explore new narratives in printmaking and drawing, while gleaning insights from expert curatorial staff and fellow connoisseurs.

**Monday, February 8, 2021, Evening**
**Why Collect?**
Together with Museum Council Fellows and Patrons, members of Curators Circles: Prints and Drawings are invited to join in a lively and varied conversation about the universal impulse to collect. From the department’s own changing and upcoming priorities to the sharing of especially meaningful works from your own collections, this interactive session brings us together around what we cherish, love, and, in some instances, still seek. Co-organized with the Museum Council.

**Monday, April 5, 2021, Evening**
**Armchair Travel: Los Angeles**
Join us for an armchair visit to the superb collections of the Getty in Los Angeles, an institution that collects works on paper in different ways and in different parts of its campus. We begin our visit with Emily Beeny, the J. Paul Getty Museum’s associate curator of Drawings, before she hands off to Naoko Takahatake, curator of Prints and Drawings at the Getty Research Institute, one of the world’s greatest scholarly centers for visual culture. Emily and Naoko introduce the history and shape of their respective collections and we’ll learn about how the Museum and Getty collect in different, yet complementary, ways and the reasons why they do, as well as hear about the questions they ask about the scope of their own collections.

**Monday, June 14, 2021, Evening**
**Conversation with Ekua Holmes**
Collage—a creative form of expression rooted in fracture and re-creation—has been highlighted as the medium of our time, and is central to the work of contemporary Boston artist Ekua Holmes. Join us for a conversation with Holmes on her artistic process held in conjunction with forthcoming exhibitions on Holmes’s works on paper and on our quilt collection. Discover interactions, both abstract and concrete, between Holmes’s works and those featured in “Fabric of a Nation: American Quilt Stories,” and learn how she is influencing children’s illustration and literature today.

**Thursday, September 17, 2020, Evening**
**Behind the Scenes and Beneath the Surface**
Join us for a virtual exploration of the upcoming exhibition at the conservation center’s new paintings conservation studio and a behind-the-scenes look at the examination and treatment of Dutch paintings. Tapping off our celebration, Susan Westerheer, art collector and a founder of the MFA’s Center for Dutch History, will give a personal view of the benchmarks illustrating the growth of the Westerheer Collection. Co-organized with Curators Circles: Conservation and Collections.

**Monday, November 16, 2020, Evening**
**Monet and Boston: Making a Lasting Impression**
Join for a private tour of “Monet and Boston: Lasting Impression” with exhibition curator Katie Hanson. Learn from the curator about the discoveries, challenges, and happy accidents involved in hanging the MFA’s complete Monet collection alongside special loans. Katie guides us through her landmark show, tracing the evolution of the artist, the exhibition, and the curatorial process.

**Tuesday, January 12, 2021, Evening**
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**Thursday, March 18, 2021, Evening**
**Virtual Travel: The Roman Ghetto**
Join for a virtual exploration of the upcoming exhibition at the conservation center’s new paintings conservation studio and a behind-the-scenes look at the examination and treatment of Dutch paintings. Tapping off our celebration, Susan Westerheer, art collector and a founder of the MFA’s Center for Dutch History, will give a personal view of the benchmarks illustrating the growth of the Westerheer Collection. Co-organized with Curators Circles: Conservation and Collections.

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Threads
Textiles have been part of the MFA’s collection since its founding in 1870. Over the years, the collection has grown into one of the most diverse and important in the world and includes examples from many cultures, ancient to modern. This Curators Circle provides the opportunity for members to interact with curators, visiting experts, and collectors to learn more about the multifaceted world of the textile arts.

Wednesday, October 14, 2020, Afternoon
Artist Talk with Joyce Scott
Join us for a presentation by Baltimore-based artist Joyce J. Scott, one of the few Black artists whose jewelry can be found in museum collections. The MFA is proud to have the largest collection of her jewelry in its holdings. Like her beadwork jewelry, her installations, performance, textile work, and sculpture transform a range of materials into moving works that take on charged subjects of race, sex, and violence.

Co-organized with Curators Circles: Art of the Americas.

Wednesday, November 18, 2020, Afternoon
High-Style European Textiles in Fashion
Join curator Jennifer Swope and curatorial research associate Allison Taylor for a close-up look at highlights of the MFA’s collection of 18th-century dress silks. Made from materials of the highest intrinsic value, these woven textiles represent the most advanced technology and sophisticated designs of their time. The cut and design of dresses made from these masterworks of weaving projected the wearer’s proximity to power.

Thursday, May 13, 2021, Afternoon
Artist Talk with Bisa Butler
Celebrate the great strides made to diversify the MFA’s collection with an artist talk by Bisa Butler, whose powerful quilt To God and Truth is a signature work in the upcoming exhibition “Fabric of a Nation: American Quilt Stories” and its accompanying publication. Reimagined in vibrantly colored cloth from historic photographs, Butler’s life-size portraits of Black Americans invite dialogue between the past and present.

Co-organized with Curators Circles: Art of the Americas and Black Arts and Artists.

Related Exhibitions 2020–21
Writing the Future: Basquiat and the Hip-Hop Generation
Monet and Boston: Lasting Impression
Paper Stories, Layered Dreams: The Art of Ekua Holmes
Fabric of a Nation: American Quilt Stories
The Banner Project: Lauren Halsey

Co-organized with Curators Circles: Conservation and Collections.


Visit mfa.org/curatorcircles or contact curatorcircles@mfa.org

Multifaceted World of the Textile Arts