Join or Renew Today!

An exclusive benefit of elevated membership, Curators Circles provide a special opportunity to take a deeper dive into the Museum’s collections. Membership offers collection-focused programming and relationship building with curators and like-minded supporters in behind-the-scenes settings. Contributions from Curators Circles memberships 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 four unique curator-led events and one combined event for all Curators Circles members.

As a benefit of elevated membership, current members of the following programs are invited to join:

- All Members of the Patron Program
- Museum Council Fellows and Patrons
- Advocate Members

For descriptions of all events and the most-up-to-date information, check mfa.org/curatorscircles.

Dates, times, and events are subject to change. Events in the 2021–22 season will be held both virtually and in person.

The optional travel opportunity is not currently being offered during the 2021–22 season, but we look forward to sharing plans for future trips in the months ahead.

Questions? 617-369-3548 | curatorscircles@mfa.org | mfa.org/curatorscircles
“Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?”: A Reflection on Linda Nochlin’s Seminal Essay

Wednesday, October 13, 2021, Evening

VIRTUAL

In 1971, renowned art historian Linda Nochlin posed this provocative question, examining the institutional obstacles that prevented women from entering the Western art historical canon. Fifty years later, join writer, art critic, and editor of the forthcoming book Making It Modern: A Linda Nochlin Reader Aruna D’Souza; Katharine Lane Weems Senior Curator of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture Nonie Gadsden; and Kristin and Roger Servison Curator of American Paintings Layla Bermeo, as they explore the essay’s complex conclusions and legacy through the lens of the MFA’s own collecting history, institutional goals, and exhibitions, such as “Women Take the Floor.”

Following this virtual panel discussion, Curators Circles members are invited to participate in a lively Q&A with our panelists.

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. See art ranging from historical to contemporary and discuss the evolving representation of African and Oceanic art today with fellow enthusiasts of African and Oceanic art and culture.

How to Collect African and Oceanic Art
Thursday, October 14, 2021, Evening
VIRTUAL
Speakers: Adenike Cosgrove, founder of ÌMÒ DÁRA; Steven Alpert, founder of Art of the Ancestors; and Kathryn Wysocki Gunsch, Teel Curator for African and Oceanic Art
Co-organized with the Museum Council

Understanding Wood Sculpture
Friday, March 25, 2022, Evening
IN PERSON
Speakers: Christine Storti, head of Furniture and Frame Conservation; and Mei-An Tsu, associate objects conservator

Behind the Scenes: Oceanic Art at the Peabody Museum
Thursday, May 19, 2022, Evening
IN PERSON: PEABODY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY AT HARVARD
Speaker: Ingrid Ahlgren, curator of Oceanic Collections, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology

Found in the Vault: Indonesian Textiles
Wednesday, November 17, 2021, Evening
VIRTUAL
Speakers: Jennifer Swope, David and Roberta Logie Associate Curator, Textile and Fashion Arts; and Kathryn Wysocki Gunsch, Teel Curator for African and Oceanic Art, and guest speaker

Connect with the richness and diversity of art and culture from across North, Central, and South America. Programs offer unexpected insights into one of the nation's finest and most comprehensive collections of art of the Western Hemisphere, ancient to modern. Join us for unique events with our curators, leading experts, and artists, including exclusive behind-the-scenes tours of exhibitions and armchair travel opportunities.

**Harvest Celebration: Garden for Boston**
**Saturday, September 25, 2021, Afternoon**
**IN PERSON**
Speakers: Ekua Holmes and Elizabeth James-Perry, artists

*Co-organized with Curators Circles: The Contemporaries*

**Armchair Travel: Houston**
**Wednesday, January 26, and Thursday, January 27, 2022, Afternoon**
**VIRTUAL**
Speakers: To be announced

**Fabric of a Nation: American Quilt Stories**
**Wednesday, November 3, 2021, Afternoon**
**VIRTUAL**
Speaker: Jennifer Swope, David and Roberta Logie Associate Curator, Textile and Fashion Arts

**Art and Jazz: A Celebration of American Modernism**
**Friday, June 3, 2022, Evening**
**IN PERSON**
Speakers: MFA Art of the Americas curators and visiting musicians

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 of these cultures, we must also engage with the premodern. Explore the ways the visual traditions of South Asia and the Middle East articulate identity, faith, authority, and cultural difference through enriching programs with renowned guest experts, music, and vibrant conversation.

**Delving into Contemporary with Asia Art Archive**

**Thursday, September 9, 2021, Evening**

VIRTUAL

Speaker: Jane DeBevoise, founder and president of Asia Art Archive

Co-organized with Curators Circles: Gingko Society

**Four Takes on Tara**

**Tuesday, November 9, 2021, Evening**

VIRTUAL

Speakers: MFA staff, guest scholar, and artist

Co-organized with Curators Circles: Conservation and Collections

**Photographic Firsts: Museum of Art and Photography, Bangalore**

**Saturday, January 8, 2022, Morning**

VIRTUAL

Speaker: Abhishek Poddar, founder and trustee, Museum of Art and Photography, Bangalore

Co-organized with Curators Circles: Photography

**Storage Secrets: Islamic Ceramics**

**Friday, April 8, 2022, Evening**

IN PERSON

Speaker: Walter Denny, professor, History of Art and Architecture, UMass, Amherst

---

Tara (detail), Tibetan, 16th century. Distemper on cotton. Denman Waldo Ross Collection.
Engage with visual art by artists of the African diaspora and become familiar with emerging and established artists of African descent. Programs offer exclusive access to the MFA’s collection, recent acquisitions, and current exhibitions, as well as intimate conversations with artists and curators from across the Museum. Membership contributions provide vital funding to support curatorial internships for college students of color.

**Am I What You’re Looking For?**
Thursday, September 23, 2021, Evening
VIRTUAL
Speaker: Endia Beal, artist

**Black Power in Print**
Monday, November 15, 2021, Evening
VIRTUAL
Speakers: MFA and MoMA curators
Co-organized with Curators Circles: The Contemporaries

**New Light on Collecting and Displaying Contemporary Art**
Monday, May 9, 2022, Evening
IN PERSON
Speakers: MFA curators and contemporary artists
Co-organized with Curators Circles: The Contemporaries and the Museum Council

**Annual Acquisitions Review**
Thursday, June 2, 2022, Evening
IN PERSON
Speakers: MFA curators

Conservation and Collections

Celebrate the work of Conservation and Collections Management in caring for and preserving the Museum’s collections for future generations. Join us for intimate programs that offer close looking at original works from the MFA; that delve into current research and insights into our approaches and decision-making; and that present stimulating dialogue between conservators and colleagues from across the Museum.

A Model of Dutch Life
Wednesday, October 20, 2021, Evening
VIRTUAL
Speaker: Rob Napier, master craftsman

Four Takes on Tara
Tuesday, November 9, 2021, Evening
VIRTUAL
Speakers: MFA staff, guest scholar, and artist
Co-organized with Curators Circles: Art of South Asia and the Middle East

Turner’s Modern Watercolors
Wednesday, April 6, 2022, Evening
VIRTUAL
Speakers: MFA paper conservators and MFA curators
Co-organized with Curators Circles: Prints and Drawings and Swan Society

Out of the Blue: Japanese Woodblock Colorants
Thursday, May 5, 2022, Evening
IN PERSON
Speaker: Khadine Caines, printmaker

Katsushika Hokusai, Express Delivery Boats Rowing through Waves (Oshikuri hatō tsuizen no zu) (detail), from an untitled series of landscapes in Western style. Japanese, Edo period, about 1800–05. Woodblock print (nishiki-e); ink and color on paper. William S. and John T. Spaulding Collection.
Explore the diverse, exciting world of the art of today through behind-the-scenes access to our contemporary collections and exhibitions, and intimate conversations with the artists and scholars who are shaping our Museum and the world of contemporary art. Programs address relevant and pressing issues of our time, creating a shared space for enthusiasts and collectors and lively dialogue among curators and friends.

Harvest Celebration: Garden for Boston
Saturday, September 25, 2021, Afternoon
IN PERSON
Speakers: Ekua Holmes and Elizabeth James-Perry, artists
Co-organized with Curators Circles: Art of the Americas

Black Power in Print
Monday, November 15, 2021, Evening
VIRTUAL
Speakers: MFA and MoMA curators
Co-organized with Curators Circles: Black Arts and Artists

The Banner Project: Lauren Halsey
Tuesday, October 26, 2021, Evening
VIRTUAL
Speakers: Lauren Halsey, artist; and Michelle Millar Fisher, Ronald C. and Anita L. Wornick Curator of Contemporary Decorative Arts

New Light on Collecting and Displaying Contemporary Art
Monday, May 9, 2022, Evening
IN PERSON
Speakers: MFA curators and contemporary artists
Co-organized with Curators Circles: Black Arts and Artists and the Museum Council

*“Garden for Boston” July 2021. Image courtesy Tony Rinaldo.*
Join this dynamic group to actively pursue fashion’s impact on the local and global stage and explore the intellectual, cultural, and artistic aspects of fashionable dress and adornment. Members enjoy exclusive, lively programs with celebrated designers, jewelers, writers, collectors, academics, and artists connected with the fashion world.

Remembering Elsa Peretti
Tuesday, October 19, 2021, Evening
VIRTUAL
Speakers: Stefano Palumbo, director, Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation; Ralph Rucci, friend and fashion designer; and Frank Arcaro, former vice president, Elsa Peretti at Tiffany & Co.

Collecting Futures
Thursday, December 2, 2021, Evening
VIRTUAL
Speaker: Kimberly Jenkins, founder and principal researcher, The Fashion and Race Database

Sustainable Design
Tuesday–Thursday, February 1–3, 2022, Daily at Noon
VIRTUAL
Speakers: Fashion and textile industry leaders working on the cutting edge of sustainable design.
Co-organized with Curators Circles: Threads

Fashion Favorites—Curator’s Choice
Friday, June 10, 2022, Evening
IN PERSON
Speaker: theo tyson, the MFA’s new Penny Vinik Curator of Fashion Arts

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, and explore the department’s acquisitions, exhibitions, and important projects.

Delving into Contemporary with Asia Art Archive

Thursday, September 9, 2021, Evening

VIRTUAL

Speaker: Jane DeBevoise, founder and president of Asia Art Archive

Co-organized with Curators Circles:
Art of South Asia and the Middle East

Rocks in Chinese Art: A Private Preview

Friday, February 25, 2022, Evening

IN PERSON

Speakers: MFA Art of Asia curators

The Real Deal: Yamanaka & Company

Friday, April 22, 2022, Evening

IN PERSON

Speakers: MFA Art of Asia curators

Lunch in London

November 2021, Afternoon

VIRTUAL

Speakers: Staff from The Oriental Ceramic Society

Delve into 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 affect us still. Programs offer behind-the-scenes viewings of the MFA’s world-class collection, exclusive conversations with renowned scholars on their latest research and discoveries, and virtual trips to special collections. Participate in our curatorial areas of passion and enjoy stimulating exchanges with others who share a love for the ancient Mediterranean.

**Good Hair Day: Stories from Roman Portraiture**
Friday, November 5, 2021, Evening
VIRTUAL
Speakers: Eve D’Ambra, professor of Art on the Agnes Rindge Claflin Chair, Vassar College; and Janet Stephens, professional hairstylist

**Animating the New Galleries**
Tuesday, December 7, 2021, Noon
VIRTUAL
Speakers: Phoebe Segal, Mary Bryce Comstock Curator of Greek and Roman Art; Laure Marest, Cornelius and Emily Vermeule Assistant Curator of Greek and Roman Art; and George Scharoun, manager of Exhibitions and Gallery Media

**Making Sense of the Temple of Athena at Assos**
Sunday, February 27, 2022, Morning
IN PERSON
Speaker: Bonna Wescoat, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Art History, Emory University

**An Art History Whodunit: The Monopoli Altarpiece**
Saturday, April 23, 2022, Afternoon
IN PERSON
Speaker: Maria Vassilaki, professor emerita, Byzantine Art History, University of Thessaly, Greece

*Head of a woman* (detail), Roman Imperial Period, 100–125 CE. Marble. Gift of Samuel and Edward Merrin and Museum purchase with funds by exchange from the Benjamin and Lucy Rowland Collection and a Gift of Barbara Deering Danielson, and the William Francis Warden Fund.
Lotus Society

Enjoy exceptional access to the MFA's collection of ancient Egyptian, Nubian, and Near Eastern art and archaeology, acknowledged as among the finest in the world. Curators and outside experts provide behind-the-scenes experiences, and engage in intimate discussions on their research and discoveries. Meet and participate in dynamic conversations with fellow enthusiasts and scholars.

Golden Mummies, Painted Faces: From Hawara to Manchester
Wednesday, September 29, 2021, Noon
VIRTUAL
Speaker: Campbell Price, curator, Egypt and Sudan, Manchester Museum

100th Anniversary of the Discovery of King Tutankhamen’s Tomb
Friday, December 3, 2021, Evening
VIRTUAL
Speaker: Nozomu Kawai, director, North Saqqara project

Private Tour of “Masterpieces of Egyptian Sculpture from the Pyramid Age” and “Faces of Ancient Egypt”
Friday, March 18, 2022, Evening
IN PERSON
Speaker: Lawrence M. Berman, Norma Jean Calderwood Senior Curator of Ancient Egyptian, Nubian, and Near Eastern Art

Jewels of the Nile: Ancient Egyptian Treasures from the Worcester Art Museum Collection
Saturday, June 25, 2022, All Day
IN PERSON: WORCESTER ART MUSEUM
Speaker: Peter Lacovara, director, The Ancient Egyptian Archaeology and Heritage Fund

Statue of Lady Sennuwy in “Faces of Ancient Egypt” and “Masterpieces of Egyptian Sculpture from the Pyramid Age”
The MFA 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 from across history and around the world through exclusive live performances, conversations, and close viewing of our instruments.

Visit with Balla Kouyaté
Wednesday, October 6, 2021, Evening
VIRTUAL
Speaker: Balla Kouyaté, balafon player and oral historian of Mandé culture

Musical Instrument Museum, Phoenix
Monday, December 13, 2021, Noon
VIRTUAL
Speaker: Daniel C. Piper, curator, Latin America and the Middle East, Musical Instrument Museum, Phoenix

Art and Music in the 17th-Century Low Countries
Friday, February 11, 2022, Evening
IN PERSON
Speakers: To be announced
Co-organized with Curators Circles: Swan Society

Lutherie in 19th-Century New England
Friday, May 20, 2022, Evening
IN PERSON
Speakers: John Chuang, collector; Shirley Hunt, cellist; and Bobby Giglio, Pappalardo Assistant Curator of Musical Instruments

Photography

One of the earliest museums in the country to collect photography, the MFA continues to expand its collection in exciting and important ways. Through lively behind-the-scenes programs and intimate conversations, deepen your connections with the MFA’s photography collection, our curators, contemporary photographers, and outside curators and scholars. Experience close viewing of original works of art while meeting fellow enthusiasts and collectors who share your passion for photography.

**Conversation with Sze Tsung Nicolás Leong**
Tuesday, October 5, 2021, Evening

**VIRTUAL**
Speaker: Sze Tsung Nicolás Leong, photographer

**Photographic Firsts: Museum of Art and Photography, Bangalore**
Saturday, January 8, 2022, Morning

**VIRTUAL**
Speaker: Abhishek Poddar, founder and trustee, Museum of Art and Photography, Bangalore

**Co-organized with Curators Circles:**
Art of South Asia and the Middle East

**Dora Maar**
Wednesday, March 2, 2022, Evening

**VIRTUAL**
Speaker: Amanda Maddox, associate curator, Photography, J. Paul Getty Museum

**Collection Visit: Rick and Lucille Spagnuolo**
Tuesday, June 7, 2022, Evening

**IN PERSON: HOME OF RICK AND LUCILLE SPAGNUOLO**
Speakers: MFA Photography curators and Rick and Lucille Spagnuolo, collectors

Pursue your 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 close looking at works on paper, private virtual tours of print studios, and conversations with artists and outside curators. Join us as we explore new narratives in printmaking and drawing, while gleaning insights from expert curatorial staff and fellow connoisseurs.

The Huntington, San Marino
Monday, September 27, 2021, Evening
VIRTUAL
Speakers: Melinda McCurdy, curator, British Art; and Dan Lewis, Dibner Senior Curator, History of Science and Technology, The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens

Turner’s Modern Watercolors
Wednesday, April 6, 2022, Evening
VIRTUAL
Speakers: MFA paper conservators and MFA curators
Co-organized with Curators Circles: Conservation and Collections and Swan Society

Black Women of Print
Monday, November 8, 2021, Evening
VIRTUAL
Speakers: Tanekeya Word, founder; and Stephanie Santana, founding member of Black Women of Print
Co-organized with the Patron Program

Wingate Studio
Monday, May 16, 2022, Evening
VIRTUAL
Speakers: Peter Pettengill, founder, Wingate Studio; James Pettengill, master printer; and Josephine Halvorson, artist

Following each virtual event, Prints and Drawings members will be offered opportunities to explore the works discussed during special open hours of the Morse Study Room for Prints, Drawings, and Photographs.

Artist Josephine Halvorson working on the etching plate for her print Fire, 2019. Courtesy of Wingate Studio.
Enjoy insider access to one of the great collections of European paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts from the medieval period through the mid-20th century. Members seek a deeper connection with our European masterpieces, exhibitions, and art experts through unparalleled opportunities to examine works of art from storage and in the galleries, learn about current research and insights into curatorial decision-making, and engage in stimulating dialogue with museum professionals.

**Pathfinders: Millet and Rodin**
*Tuesday, August 31, 2021, Evening*

**VIRTUAL**
Speakers: Julia Welch, assistant curator, Paintings, Art of Europe; and Marietta Cambareri, senior curator, European Sculpture and Jetskalina H. Phillips Curator of Judaica

**Favorite English Country Houses**
*Monday, November 1, 2021, Evening*

**VIRTUAL**
Speakers: Curt DiCamillo, curator, Special Collections, New England Historic Genealogical Society; and Courtney Harris, assistant curator, Decorative Arts and Sculpture, Art of Europe

**Art and Music in the 17th-Century Low Countries**
*Friday, February 11, 2022, Evening*

**IN PERSON**
Speakers: To be announced

Co-organized with Curators Circles: Musical Instruments

**Turner’s Modern Watercolors**
*Wednesday, April 6, 2022, Evening*

**VIRTUAL**
Speakers: MFA paper conservators and MFA curators

Co-organized with Curators Circles: Conservation and Collections, and Prints and Drawings

Textiles have been an integral 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. Through examination of objects and intimate discussions with curators, visiting experts, and collectors, explore the multifaceted world of the textile arts.

**Sneak Peek: Fabric of a Nation: American Quilt Stories**

*Monday, October 4, 2021, Evening*

**VIRTUAL**

Speaker: Jennifer Swope, David and Roberta Logie Associate Curator, Textile and Fashion Arts

**Sustainable Design**

*Tuesday–Thursday, February 1–3, 2022, Daily at Noon*

**VIRTUAL**

Speakers: Fashion and textile industry leaders working on the cutting edge of sustainable design.

*Co-organized with Curators Circles: Fashion Council*

**Studio Visit**

*Wednesday, December 15, 2021, Evening*

**VIRTUAL**

Speaker: Gio Swaby, artist

**Studio Visit**

*Wednesday, April 20, 2022, Morning*

**VIRTUAL**

Speaker: Renuka Reddy, founder of RedTree Textile Studio, Bangalore

Join or renew today
Visit mfa.org/curatorscircles