



athenaeum

MUSIC & ARTS LIBRARY

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➤ A PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS ➤

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

ATHENAEUM STARTS THE NEW YEAR RUNNING

JAZZ AT THE ATHENAEUM

WINTER SEASON FEATURES A WEALTH OF STYLES AND TALENT



Linda May Han Oh opens the series.

Jazz returns to the Athenaeum for our annual series of winter concerts in the Joan & Irwin Jacobs Music Room. The series opens **Sunday, January 21**, with the return of one of the most remarkable bassists on today's jazz scene, **Linda May Han Oh**, leading her quintet featuring vocalist **Sara Serpa**, alto saxophonist **Greg Ward**, acclaimed pianist and Oh's husband, **Fabian Almazan**, and drummer **Mark Whitfield, Jr.** Other musicians she has played with include Steve Wilson, Vijay Iyer, Kenny Barron, and Terri Lyne Carrington. She is currently Pat Metheny's bassist. Oh is the recipient of the 2023 Herb Alpert Award in the Arts.

The series continues **Sunday, January 28**, with the San Diego debut of jazz guitarist **Gilad Hekselman**, with **David Robaire** on bass and **JK Kim** on drums. Hekselman has shared the stage with some of the greatest artists in jazz, including John Scofield, Danilo Perez, Anat Cohen, and Esperanza Spalding. In 2005, he won the Gibson Montreux International Guitar Competition, and in 2018 Pat Metheny invited him to perform for his NEA Jazz Master Award ceremony at the Kennedy Center. Of his 2019 week's run at NYC's legendary Village Vanguard, the *New York Times* wrote, "The feeling in a small club quickly grows intense when Gilad Hekselman steps up to improvise."

Next up, on **Sunday, February 4**, acclaimed pianist **James Francies** makes his San Diego debut as leader with **Mike Moreno** on guitar and **Damion Reid** on drums. Since his debut album, *Flight*, on Blue Note Records entranced listeners in 2018, Francies's collaborations across stylistic realms, including those with Common, Eric Harland, Marcus Miller, DJ Dahi, and Lauryn Hill, have enhanced his development and refined his sound. WBGO wrote, "James Francies is an unusually precocious talent: a pianist and composer who has already become a regular fixture alongside artists like Pat Metheny and Chris Potter."

The series concludes **Wednesday, February 28**, with a local debut by pianist **Benjamin Lackner**, with fellow ECM artist **Oded Tzur** on sax, **Darek Oleszkiewicz** on bass, and **Mark Ferber** on drums. Born in Berlin to an American father and a German mother, Lackner moved to California at age 13. He received a BFA at CalArts under the direction of Charlie Haden and David Roitstein, and from 1997 to 1998, studied privately with his mentor, pianist Brad Mehldau. He has performed at numerous jazz festivals including North Sea, Montreux, and Monterey.



The series ends with ECM Berlin artist Benjamin Lackner.

Series tickets are \$152 for Athenaeum members, \$172 for nonmembers. Individual concerts are \$40 for Athenaeum members, \$45 nonmembers. For tickets and more details call us at 858-454-5872 or go online to ljathenaeum.org/jazz.

EXHIBITIONS

ARTIST RETURNS TO LA JOLLA WITH A BOTANICALLY DRIVEN EXHIBITION



Peter Cochrane in one of his environments.

La Jolla native and La Jolla High School grad, **Peter Cochrane** returns to his hometown for an exhibition, *The Magician Longs to See*, in the Joseph Clayes III and Rotunda Galleries at the Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, January 20–April 13. An opening reception will be held Friday, January 19, 6:30–8:30 p.m. A free, public gallery walk-through is on January 20 at 1 p.m.

Cochrane uses horticulture, art history, science fiction, and autobiography as a lens to create stories of resilience and metamorphosis. Working with a 8 x 10" film camera, digital imaging, and experimental darkroom techniques, he builds elaborate narrative set pieces that explore fundamental existential questions.

Cochrane's work has appeared in *Headmaster*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Vast Magazine*, *Hyperallergic*, *Brink*, *Artslant*, the MoCP lecture series, the de Young Museum, the Vermont Center for Photography, the Tokyo International Photo Awards, and others. He has held several solo exhibitions nationally, and his work is held in public and private collections including the Museum of Contemporary Photography. Cochrane has a BA from San Francisco State University and an MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University.

For details, contact us at 858-454-5872 or go online to ljathenaeum.org/upcoming-exhibitions.



ATHENAEUM
MUSIC & ARTS LIBRARY
Library Association of La Jolla

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A Letter from Our Executive Director



Christie Mitchell

Dear Athenaeum Members,

What a year 2023 has been! As I look back on all that we have listened to, seen, learned, and explored, I am heartened by your commitment to our organization.

Thank you for being here, being present, and bringing your thinking, curiosity, and enthusiasm to the Athenaeum. We are so lucky to have you.

I want to let you know that we are raising our membership prices in 2024 to keep up with increasing costs across the board. We have not raised prices in decades and find it necessary to do so now. We are still committed to accessible pricing, and hope you will join us in 2024 and beyond for more outstanding music and arts programming. We have also launched a student membership—please spread the word to the next generation of music and arts lovers!

The new year gets off to an exciting start in January with our annual soundON festival of new music, including the world premiere of an original composition by Mark Menzies commissioned by the Athenaeum, and the opening of Peter Cochrane’s exhibition with a body of work created especially for our La Jolla galleries. I can’t list all of our eclectic offerings here, but invite you to browse the calendar and visit us often.

I hope to see you soon,
Christie

New Membership Levels/Prices

- Student: \$40**
contribution fully tax deductible
- Individual: \$50**
contribution fully tax deductible
- Family: \$75**
contribution fully tax deductible
- Contributing: \$125**
\$110 of \$125 contribution tax deductible
- Supporting: \$300**
\$285 of \$300 contribution tax deductible
- Donor: \$500**
\$485 of \$500 contribution tax deductible
- Patron: \$1,500**
\$1,285 of \$1,500 contribution tax deductible
- Benefactor: \$2,500**
\$2,285 of \$2,500 contribution tax deductible
- Founder: \$5,000**
\$4,405 of \$5,000 contribution tax deductible
- Athenian: \$10,000**
\$9,405 of \$10,000 contribution tax deductible
- Über Athenian: \$15,000**
\$14,325 of \$15,000 contribution tax deductible

MEET THE STAFF!

A LIBRARIAN FOR ALL SEASONS: KATHI BOWER PETERSON, POWER BEHIND THE COLLECTIONS

In response to interest expressed by some longtime members to know more about the Athenaeum staff, we will have a series of articles to let you get to know us better. In this issue, Library Assistant and Webmaster Angela Lynch writes about Librarian Kathi Bower Peterson.

By Angela Lynch



Kathi stands next to the book drop she worked to acquire, just one sign of her desire to serve our members. Please see page 8 for a recent change to benefit you!

You may see the library office on your left as you meander through the Athenaeum, just before you enter the Jacobs Music Room. There you will meet Kathi Bower Peterson, the librarian of the Athenaeum for the past 26 years. Kathi, who is originally from Illinois, moved to San Diego with a desire for change and seeking a better climate. October 15, 1997, marked the start of her tenure at the Athenaeum. The distinctive emphasis on music and art, which are two of her favorite subjects, is what she credits for keeping her at the Athenaeum for such a long time. These topics have been a part of her life all along.

At 6 years old, Kathi started to play the piano. At 13, she discovered the oboe. The “beautiful sound” of the oboe remained her primary love, even though she would expand her musical range in high school to include the organ and saxophone. She played the oboe while majoring in music performance at Indiana University but eventually earned a bachelor's degree in music history. She explains the shift by saying, “I enjoyed performing (and still do) but I was more interested in studying music in a broader context, and its role in history and culture, so musicology was a good fit.” Still, she didn't stop performing. Today, you can catch Kathi playing oboe in the Tifereth Israel Community Orchestra (TICO) and the Philharmonic Wind Quintet in San Diego. She also occasionally plays piano and sings for other ensembles.

Kathi obtained a master’s degree in musicology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign after completing her undergraduate studies. She also obtained a Master of Library and Information Science from San Jose State University. Her initial motivation for pursuing a career in librarianship was her love of reading, but after learning more about the field, she realized there was much more to it than that! She explains, “It suits my interest in research and information and combines well with my musicology degree.”

In her role as Librarian at the Athenaeum, Kathi oversaw the multiyear undertaking of developing an online catalog of the complete collection while continuing to add resources pertaining to contemporary and historic music and art. She has emphasized children's literature and launched the Athenaeum's popular graphic novel section last year.

She loves graphic literature's signature “interplay of art and words to convey information.” Kathi has fostered that interaction since relocating to San Diego by going to San Diego Comic-Con every year. Attending the Comic Arts Conference, an academic conference conducted concurrently with Comic-Con, is her favorite aspect of the annual event. While Kathi has never dressed up for Comic-Con, she is certain to be on the lookout for Wonder Woman memorabilia, of which she has been an avid collector since Lynda Carter first wore the superheroine's tiara.



One of the first Athenaeum staff to welcome a baby, Kathi and husband, John Peterson, introduce baby Zachary, now 18!

Growing up on her family's farm, Kathi produced her own graphic serial in addition to her early musical endeavors. She writes, “When I was very young, I was obsessed with horses and writing, so with the help of a typewriter and carbon paper, I created [a horse] magazine. I think I did four different issues, in a very limited edition that was distributed to my family members. I created the art for it also, which mostly consisted of tracing other people's art, because I have never been good at drawing!”

Kathi has always lived a life filled with art and music, and she uses her charm and intelligence to further the cause at the Athenaeum. Next time you're wandering through the Athenaeum, drop by the library office and talk to Kathi about Wonder Woman's feminist message, the newest Michael Chabon novel, her love of dark chocolate (her favorite varies, but right now she's partial to San Francisco's 9th & Larkin bean-to-bar chocolatiers), and of course, art and music.

JAN

3 Wed
CHILDREN'S STORYTIME AT THE ATHENAEUM
Children ages 1–9, at 3 and 3:30 p.m., free

5 Fri
SOUNDON FESTIVAL
Athenaeum Art Center, 7:30 p.m. Festival passes: \$85/70/30. Individual concert: \$30/25/12

6 Sat
SOUNDON FESTIVAL
Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, 7:30 p.m.; \$30/25/12

7 Sun
SOUNDON FESTIVAL
Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, 3 p.m.; \$30/25/12

8 Mon
MINI-CONCERTS AT THE ATHENAEUM
The Goliards, 12 p.m., free

10 Wed
CHILDREN'S STORYTIME AT THE ATHENAEUM
Children ages 1–9, at 3 and 3:30 p.m., free

12 Fri
PEEC PROGRAM FOR TEENS
Anne Labovitz (exhibiting artist), La Jolla Studio, 4–6 p.m., free

13 Sat
ARTIST WALK-THROUGH
Anne Labovitz, 11a.m.–12 p.m., free

15 Mon
Athenaeum Offices Closed In Honor Of Martin Luther King Day

MINI-CONCERTS AT THE ATHENAEUM
Mikan Zlatkovich, 12 p.m., free

17 Wed
CHILDREN'S STORYTIME AT THE ATHENAEUM
Children ages 1–9, at 3 and 3:30 p.m., free

19 Fri
PEEC PROGRAM FOR TEENS
Marty Davis (character design), AAC Logan Heights, 4–6 p.m., free

EXHIBITION RECEPTION
Peter Cochrane: The Magician Longs to See, Joseph Clayes III and Rotunda galleries. Selections from the Athenaeum's Erika & Fred Torri Artists' Books Collection, Elliott North Reading Room; 6:30–8:30 p.m. On view through April 13, free

20 Sat
NEW MEMBER TOUR
Meet at the front desk, 11 a.m., free

ARTIST WALK-THROUGH
Peter Cochrane, 1 p.m., free

21 Sun
LECTURE AND BOOK SIGNING
Ken Goldman, AAC Logan Heights, 2–4 p.m., free

JAZZ AT THE ATHENAEUM
Linda May Han Oh Quintet, 7:30 p.m. Series: \$152/172. Individual concert: \$40/45

22 Mon
MINI-CONCERTS AT THE ATHENAEUM
Quartet Nouveau, 12 p.m., free

24 Wed
CHILDREN'S STORYTIME AT THE ATHENAEUM
Children ages 1–9, at 3 and 3:30 p.m., free

25 Thu
CHAMBER CONCERTS*
Maxwell Quartet, 7:30 p.m.; 6:45 p.m. lecture \$50/55/15

26 Fri
PEEC PROGRAM FOR TEENS
Marty Davis (character design), La Jolla Studio, 4–6 p.m., free

28 Sun
JAZZ AT THE ATHENAEUM
Gilad Hekselman Trio, 7:30 p.m.; \$40/45

29 Mon
MINI-CONCERTS AT THE ATHENAEUM
Rebecca Jade, 12 p.m., free

31 Wed
CHILDREN'S STORYTIME AT THE ATHENAEUM
Children ages 1–9, at 3 and 3:30 p.m., free

FEB

2 Fri
PEEC PROGRAM FOR TEENS
Prudence Horne (painting), AAC Logan Heights, 4–6 p.m., free

4 Sun
JAZZ AT THE ATHENAEUM
James Francies Trio, 7:30 p.m., \$40/45

5 Mon
MINI-CONCERTS AT THE ATHENAEUM
Coral MacFarland-Thuet, 12 p.m., free

7 Wed
CHILDREN'S STORYTIME AT THE ATHENAEUM
Children ages 1–9, at 3 and 3:30 p.m., free

8 Thu
ATHENAEUM JAZZ AT SCRIPPS RESEARCH
Brad Mehdau, 7:30 p.m.; \$55/60

9 Fri
PEEC PROGRAM FOR TEENS
Prudence Horne (painting), La Jolla Studio, 4–6 p.m., free

12 Mon
MINI-CONCERTS AT THE ATHENAEUM
TBD, 12 p.m., free

14 Wed
CHILDREN'S STORYTIME AT THE ATHENAEUM
Children ages 1–9, at 3 and 3:30 p.m., free

15 Thu
ART HISTORY LECTURE
Linda Blair, *Dreams and Enchantment: The Fairy Tale World of Burgundian Art*, 7:30 p.m. Series: \$42/ \$57. Individual lecture: \$16/\$21

17 Sat
NEW MEMBER TOUR
Meet at the front desk, 11 a.m., free

19 Mon
MINI-CONCERTS AT THE ATHENAEUM
Danny Green, Peter Sprague, and Mack Leighton, 12 p.m., free

21 Wed
CHILDREN'S STORYTIME AT THE ATHENAEUM
Children ages 1–9, at 3 and 3:30 p.m., free

ARTIST TALK
Michael Mercil, 6 pm., reception; 6:30 p.m., lecture; \$15/20/5

22 Thu
ART HISTORY LECTURE
Linda Blair, *Dreams and Enchantment: The Fairy Tale World of Burgundian Art*, 7:30 p.m.; \$16/\$21

23 Fri
PEEC PROGRAM FOR TEENS
Jean Krumbein (life drawing), La Jolla Studio, 4–6 p.m., free

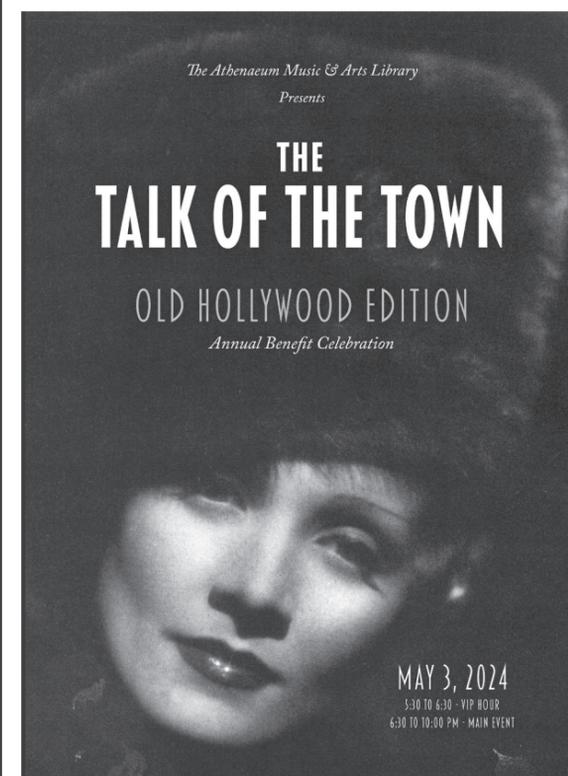
26 Mon
MINI-CONCERTS AT THE ATHENAEUM
Naomi Alter, harp, 12 p.m., free

28 Wed
CHILDREN'S STORYTIME AT THE ATHENAEUM
Children ages 1–9, at 3 and 3:30 p.m., free

JAZZ AT THE ATHENAEUM
Benjamin Lackner Quartet, 7:30 p.m.; \$40/45

29 Thu
ART HISTORY LECTURE
Linda Blair, *Dreams and Enchantment: The Fairy Tale World of Burgundian Art*, 7:30 p.m.; \$16/\$21

*Please join Alex Greenbaum (Co-Director of Chamber Music) for pre-concert lectures and conversations at 6:45 p.m., preceding the final three chamber concerts of the season (January 25, March 18 and April 30). On March 18 he'll be joined by composer Texu Kim, whose piece *Ritus Sanitatem* will have its San Diego premiere performed by the Verona Quartet at the Athenaeum.



ART HISTORY LECTURES
POPULAR ATHENAEUM LECTURER RETURNS
FOR SERIES IN FEBRUARY



The Limbourg Brothers, *Coronation of the Virgin*, ca. 1455-60, tempera and gold leaf on parchment, Metropolitan Museum of Art, <http://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/460342>

This winter art historian **Linda Blair** returns by popular demand to the Athenaeum, where she will present *Dreams and Enchantment: The Art of Burgundy*. Her lecture schedule is as follows:

Thursday, February 15: A great efflorescence in European painting—the Renaissance—took place in 15th century Florence. The thumb on the scales of history favors the Renaissance because it is so central to our cultural identity. However! At the very same time a similar burst of artistic genius took place north of the Alps, in the Duchy of Burgundy, one of the most refined and romantic of all European courts. The immensely talented Burgundian artists produced an art as brilliant and worthy of wonder as their Italian brethren, an art with architecturally rich, light-suffused spaces, sumptuous textiles, and dazzling jewels.

Thursday, February 22: This evening's lecture opens with exquisite paintings from what is considered "the most valuable book in the world," the Limbourg Brothers' *Tres Riches Heures of the Duc du Berry*. We then turn to one of the finest, most inventive of artists, Jan van Eyck, notable not only as one of Europe's greatest painters, but also as the "inventor" of oil paints over the traditional tempera method, thus revolutionizing art.

Thursday, February 29: Van Eyck's art must be viewed on two antithetical levels. While it is optically rich and highly materialistic, it is also profoundly spiritual, injected as it is with religious symbols. If van Eyck revolutionized painterly language by making oil paints possible, he also transformed portraiture. Not least, many images of van Eyck's lovely hometown, Bruges—that sweet medieval time capsule—will populate the series. Finally, at the end, a coda: the mystery of the 1930s theft of one of his greatest works.

The lectures begin at 7:30 p.m. Series tickets are \$42 for Athenaeum members and \$57 for nonmembers. Individual lectures are \$16 for members and \$21 for nonmembers. For tickets and more details call us at 858-454-5872 or go online to ljathenaeum.org/art-lectures.

SAN DIEGO NEW MUSIC

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SOUNDON FESTIVAL STARTS US ON A BRILLIANT PATH IN 2024

San Diego New Music is proud to once again join with the Athenaeum Music & Arts Library to present the 16th annual edition of the **soundON Festival**, featuring SDNM's ensemble-in-residence, NOISE, now in its 23rd year. This year the themes of myths and storytelling weave through our diverse programming of exploratory contemporary and modern music.

Our featured composer, San Diego resident **Adam Greene**, composes thoughtful and sophisticated music often inspired by Greco-Roman mythology. Adam has been a wonderful friend to NOISE and to SDNM, and four of his compositions have been presented on previous editions of soundON. This year, we highlight his recent sonically adventurous works with electric guitar and electronic effects processing.

We are also delighted to welcome back violinist **Mark Menzies**, after many years of being unable to attend due to the pandemic. Fittingly, we present the world premiere of his composition *Mut(t)*, the third in a series of ambitious new works for NOISE that have been commissioned by the Athenaeum Music & Arts Library for premiere performance at the soundON Festival, generously underwritten by Garna Muller (joining works by Matthew Burtner and Franklin Cox).

Part I: Friday, January 5, 7:30 p.m.
Athenaeum Art Center, Logan Heights

Part II: Saturday, January 6, 7:30 p.m.
Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, La Jolla

Part III: Sunday, January 7, 3:00 p.m.
Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, La Jolla

NOISE: Christopher Adler, piano; Lisa Cella, flute; Franklin Cox, cello; Colin McAllister, guitar and conductor; Mark Menzies, violin;

Morris Palter, percussion; Robert Zelickman, clarinet and conductor

GUEST ARTISTS: Matt Kline, conductor; Ryan Nestor, percussion; Eric Starr, trombone; Ariana Warren, clarinet

Between La Jolla and Sumner/Banks Peninsula in New Zealand, where I have a home, there are geological similarities to how these places came to appear as they do today. Mut(t) contemplates this relationship in four sections: though ostensibly about environmental transformations over enormous swathes of time, the music also delves into how we might perceive "large" amounts of time in our own lifetimes—by excavating memories and the trajectory of experiences, for example.

Forgive the seriousness: the composition has its lighter moments. For instance, it quotes a song by Björk; frogs play a role in the piece; the players speak ... and perform theatrical movements when the music demands it—and these are absolutely not arbitrary; there is even a passacaglia as the second "movement."

Mut(t) is written for NOISE with guest trombonist Eric Starr, and has been generously commissioned by San Diego New Music and the Athenaeum for performance at this year's (2024) soundOn Festival. With much gratitude!

Mark Menzies

SDNM thanks Ann Craig and Garna Muller for generously hosting members of NOISE at their homes. Thank you also to the University of San Diego for providing rehearsal space and audio equipment.

Festival Passes for three concerts are \$70 for Athenaeum members, \$85 for nonmembers, and \$30 for students. Individual concerts are \$25 for Athenaeum members, \$30 for nonmembers, and \$12 for students. For tickets and more details call us at 858-454-5872 or go online to ljathenaeum.org/sound-on.

ATHENAEUM HISTORY

THE ATHENAEUM'S HUMBLE BEGINNINGS IN A ONE-ROOM COTTAGE



Daisy Olivia "D'Olivia" Dickinson (1901-1988), *Painting of The Reading Room*

In 1894, 130 years ago, six academically minded women came together to form the La Jolla Reading Club. They met at the La Jolla Park Hotel (located at the corner of Girard and Prospect; the building burned to the ground in 1896). One year later, Florence Sawyer Bransby, a frequent visitor to La Jolla, purchased the lot at the corner of Wall Street and Girard Avenue and built The Reading Room, La Jolla's first library. (It can now be found on The Bishop's School campus.)

This one-room building housed furniture, \$1,000 worth of books, and a piano and was the meeting place for the Reading Club. In 1899, Miss Bransby gifted the building and its contents to the La Jolla community. The Reading Club incorporated to become a membership library, the Library Association of La Jolla, and Miss Ellen Browning Scripps was elected as its first president.

We invite you to view a visual display of the Athenaeum's early history, located in the corner of the Music Reference Section of the library, which includes a painting of the Reading Room by D'Olivia Dickinson, the Athenaeum's Articles of Incorporation, and a portrait of Miss Ellen Browning Scripps.

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

WONDERFUL SELECTION OF WINTER TERM CLASSES FILLING UP



Friday Writers meet in the beautiful Elliott North Reading Room.

Warm New Year greetings from the School of the Arts! Our Winter Term classes are filling as registrations continue to come in. You can view the class schedule online at ljathenaeum.org/art-classes. Here are some updates on events and classes:

Join us **January 21, 2–4 p.m.**, at the Athenaeum Art Center in Logan Heights, to celebrate the publication of **Ken Goldman's** 17th book, *Essential Human Anatomy for Artists*. Ken is a legendary artist and instructor, having taught at the Athenaeum School of the Arts since 1986. We hope to see you January 21; just RSVP to ljathenaeum.org/goldman.

For Winter Term, we expand the popular writing classes begun by **Anna DiMartino**. Returning are the **School of the Arts Book Club**, which meets **Tuesdays, 4–6 p.m.**, January 9, February 6, and March 5 in the La Jolla Studio, and **Friday Writers**, on **Fridays, 12–2 p.m.**, January 12–March 15, in the **Max & Melissa Elliott North Reading Room** in La Jolla.

DiMartino's new class, *Creative Journaling*, will meet **Fridays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.**, January 12, February 2, and March 15, in the **Elliott North Reading Room**.

We welcome back School Director Emeritus **Cornelia Feye** who will lead a Zoom writing class, *Writing the Hero or Heroine's Journey*. The class will be held **Tuesdays, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.**, January 16–February 6.

If you would like to give an art class for a gift, please email **Maura Walters** at mwalters@ljathenaeum.org.

ATHENAEUM ART CENTER

OUR ART CENTER BENEFITS FROM RECENT GENEROUS GRANT

We are excited to share that we've been selected as one of the Prebys Foundation's latest grant recipients. In an effort to support Visual and Performing Arts, Youth Success, Healthcare, and Medical Research, they've awarded over \$30 million to organizations across San Diego County! We are looking forward to expanding our capacity at the Athenaeum Art Center due to this generous \$150,000 in grant funding.



A student makes use of Open Print Studio time.

The Art Center was busy in December with the opening of **Evan Apodaca's Secret City** (photos on page 7) and **A Kitchmas Pageant**, along with continuing **Open Print Studio** dates. The **Open Print Studio** continues in the New Year on **Thursday, January 4** and **Friday, January 19**, **Friday, February 2**, and **Thursday, February 22**.

Kiln firing services are planned to begin early in the New Year. Please stay tuned for scheduling and specifics.

RECENT CONTRIBUTORS

(AS OF OCTOBER 13–DECEMBER 14, 2023)

We would like to thank the many individuals and organizations who have contributed generously to the Athenaeum during the period above:

Prebys Foundation

City of San Diego

Bob & Catherine Palmer

Gift in Memory of Carol Gartner

Vail Memorial Fund, Meredith L. Brown, Trustee

Ingrid Hibben

The Seth Sprague Educational & Charitable

Foundation

Judith Bachner & Eric Lasley

Margaret Jackson

Sharon Labovitz

Betsy Mitchell

Garna G. Muller

Patti & Jack Schwellenbach

Ann Rea Craig

Stacy Jacobs

Kristie Nova & Matthew Meunier

Karen Sage & Chuck Laughlin

Max Elliott

Dylan Shipsey

Bob & Ginny Black

Jordan & Masha Block

Elizabeth & James Mittermiller

Jack & Laura Peluso

Gerald Sperrazzo

Dale & Mark Steele

Barbara P. Freeman

Gordon Brodfuehrer

Silvia Berchtold

Carmen Cuenca

Kathleen Davis

Ida Deichaite

Kathleen Denno

Anne & Benjamin Fishburne

Denise Galindo

Lawrence Gartner

Gift in Memory of Carol Gartner

Kiska & Alexander Higgs

Gary Jacobson

Gail Myers & Louis Lupin

Arlene & Louis Navias

Ursula Pfeffer

Mary Sophos & William Pitts, Jr.

Claudia Prescott

M. Lea & Betsy Rudee

Marilies Schoepflin

Christopher & Dr. Carole Scott

Elizabeth Taft

Janet Wallace

Olivia and Marty Winkler

Jacoi & Zeke Woolley

Daniel T. & Jennifer Atkinson

Judith Bachner & Eric Lasley

Gift in Memory of Carol Gartner

Linda & John Ball

Jeff Broido

Gail & John Ermer

Richard Golden

Carrie & Jim Greenstein

Ann Hesselink & Dr. Paul Naour

Richard Lappo

Richard Lin

Sara Matta

Alison Neeley

Andrew & Tracy Ann Nelson

Cele Renaudin

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John H. & Margie Warner, Jr.

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Daniel & June Allen

Weston Anson

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Karen & Bob Bowden

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Anna & Bernardo De Angelis

Alice & Doug Diamond

Jo Dowling

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Nicole & Arvid Larsen

Diane Laub

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Kamaal Martin

Agatha & Robert Martindale

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MURALS OF LA JOLLA

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Janet Rostovsky (Gift of Ann Lipschitz)

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Individual Donations

Perry Vasquez in memory of Ralph

Ortiz Vasquez

Newsletter: Editor: Carol Buckley | **Contributors:** Daniel Atkinson, Taylor Chapin, Kathi Bower Peterson, Courtney Koenigsfeld, Lynda Forsha, Angela Lynch, Christie Mitchell, Chris Padilla, Jocelyn Saucedo Larson, Shari Sparks, Ian Strand, Marie Vickers, Maura Walters | **Photo Credits:** Lynn Breger, Courtney Koenigsfeld, Chris Padilla, Roy Porello

Around the Athenaeum

RECEPTION FOR ANNE LABOVITZ: THE BLUE HOUR, NOVEMBER 17, 2023



Jocelyn Saucedo Larson, Anne Labovitz, and Christie Mitchell cherish fruits of an installation well done.



A wide circle of artist friends and family share the special event with artist Anne Labovitz, right.



Visitors enjoy the interactive *Blue Hour* wall.



Attendees appreciate the warmth and colors of the light installations.

MEMBERS' HOLIDAY PARTY, DECEMBER 2, 2023



François and Diana Goedhuys look at François's yearly Village of La Jola cookie installation. They also enjoy the party they helped make special with their delicious Girard Gourmet treats.



Sammy Pistritto brings his yearly cheer with his carol playing as partygoers sing along.



Board president Lou Lupin with Gail Myers and Christie with Daniel Dubois enjoy the wonderful holiday atmosphere.



British brothers, Jacob and Zach Tong await guests.



Daniel Kronemyer and guest share a moment with Angel and Fred Kleinbub.

In response to many a request for this Members' Holiday Party beverage, Christie provides the following:

Milk Punch

Mitchell Family Holiday Tradition, adapted from the Junior League of Houston cookbook

- 1 gallon Lucerne vanilla frozen dairy dessert (not ice cream)
- 1 gallon low fat milk
- 2 fifths rum
- 1 fifth bourbon
- 1 cup white creme de cacao

Let frozen dairy dessert thaw until mushy. Mix thawed dessert, milk, bourbon, rum, and creme de cacao thoroughly. Place in tupperware container(s) and put in freezer for at least 2 days. Allow to thaw for 2 hours before serving. Makes approximately 50 cups of punch.



Volunteer Camille Appling and Membership Assistant Summer Padilla-Elliott prepare to give Girard Gourmet cookies to guests.



Penney Ratliff and Anna DiMartino bring a festive air to the Saturday party.

RECEPTION FOR EVAN APODACA: THE SECRET CITY, DECEMBER 9, 2023, ATHENAEUM ART CENTER



Evan Apodaca poses with the description of his controversial work and photos of those who voiced antiwar sentiments "spoken" by toppled busts of political or military figures.



Attendees watch one of Apodaca's video with animated talking heads.

A KITSCHMAS PAGEANT RECEPTION, DECEMBER 1, 2023



Local artists Ryan & Brian, onstage, take the attendees on a humorous fantasy of the holidays called *A Kitschmas Pageant*, in a new venture at the AAC.

MEMBERSHIP LIBRARIES GROUP ANNUAL MEETING



Executive Director Christie Mitchell, third from right poses with other attendees of the Membership Libraries Group annual meeting this fall.

MURALS CORNER

NEW MURAL ANNOUNCES WHAT WE ALL KNOW IS TRUE



Michael Mercil, *ART IS GOOD FOR YOU*, 2023, at 7777 Girard Avenue. Photo credit: Philipp Scholz Rittermann. Wall Sponsors, Sharon and David Wax

THE MURAL

Michael Mercil's mural, *ART IS GOOD FOR YOU*, entreats the embrace of the arts, both in its creation and consumption. Painted directly on-site, this lively imperative reminds the viewer of the importance of art as a crucial and ubiquitous aspect of daily life. Taking inspiration from the playful messaging found inside the box cover of Atomic Fireball candies, which reads "Candy is good for you. Eat some every day," Mercil recontextualizes this cheeky reference, bringing the same level of panache and good humor into a public art setting.

Comprising a complementary color palette, orange capital letters outlined in red boldly pop out as the text runs horizontally across a placid blue background. Using text as a creative tool, Mercil inspires the viewer to appreciate the holistic benefits of a daily infusion of art as an integral aspect of our collective humanity. He expertly weaves his artful message into the surrounding environment, bringing a compelling and colorful belief in the benefits of art into the realm of everyday relatability.

THE TALK

Please join us for an artist talk by Columbus, Ohio-based interdisciplinary artist Michael Mercil. Exploring realms of "the near, the low, the common," Mercil's work recontextualizes culturally significant reference material through dynamic multimedia compositions. His practice incorporates an expansive use of many mediums, including drawing, painting, needlepoint, sculpture, landscape architecture, film, performance, teaching, and farming. Mercil will share a special presentation of his career, process, recent projects, and 2023 mural for Murals of La Jolla, *ART IS GOOD FOR YOU*, on Wednesday, February 21. The reception at 6 p.m. will be followed by a lecture at 6:30 p.m.

Mercil was born in Crookston, Minnesota, in 1954. He received a BFA from the Minneapolis College of Art & Design in 1978 and an MFA from the University of Chicago in 1988. He is currently a professor emeritus of the Department of Art at The Ohio State University (OSU).

Mercil's work has been featured in many prominent institutions, including Columbus College of Art and Design and Columbus Museum of Art; Socrates Sculpture Park, New York City; North Dakota Museum of Art in Grand Forks; Arnoff Center for the Arts, Cincinnati; The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia; and DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, Massachusetts. Other notable projects include *The Living Culture Initiative*, in collaboration with Ann Hamilton at OSU; *The Beanfield* (2006), *The Virtual Pasture* (2008–2011), and *Site set-aside* (2017–present) at Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus; and the Art Market™, an ongoing, Columbus-based studio project.

He has received many awards and much recognition, including a Battelle Engineering, Technology and Human Affairs Endowment Award (2016, 2009); Greater Columbus Arts Council Media Artist Fellowship (2012); Wexner Center for the Arts Film/Video Artist Residency (2011–2012); Harpo Foundation Visual Artist Award (2010); Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship (2009, 2005); ASLA Design Honor Award (2009, 2003); and Environmental Design Research Association Place Design Award (2002).

Artist talk tickets are \$15 for Athenaeum members, \$20 for nonmembers, and \$5 for students. For tickets and more details call us at 858-454-5872 or go online to ljathenaeum.org/mercil.



Michael Mercil. Photo credit: Jessica Naples

NEW ACQUISITIONS

Art Books

Artists working from life
Common ground: ceramics in southern California, 1945-1975, Gift of Gordon Brodfuehrer
Edvard Munch: the modern life of the soul
Egon Schiele: masterpieces from the Leopold Museum
Federation: Australian art and society 1901-2001, Gift of Gordon Brodfuehrer
Julia Morgan: the road to San Simeon: visionary architect of the California Renaissance, Gift of Gordon Brodfuehrer
Lee Waisler, abstract; Lee Waisler, portraits
Renoir father and son: painting and cinema
William Wegman paintings
Pierre Bonnard: the late still lifes and interiors, Dita Amory, Gift of Gordon Brodfuehrer
Women artists in the reign of Catherine the Great, Rosalind P. Blakesley
Quiet beauty: the Japanese gardens of North America, Kendall H. Brown, Gift of Gordon Brodfuehrer
Winslow Homer and the camera: photography and the art of painting, Dana E. Byrd
The artist's way: a spiritual path to higher creativity (25th anniversary edition), Julia Cameron
Ed Ruscha / now then: a retrospective, Christophe Cherix
Frans Hals, Bart Cornelis
Mark Rothko: the exhibitions at Pace, Arne Glimcher, Gift of Gordon Brodfuehrer
Pink flamingos & the yellow pages: the surprising stories behind the colors of our world, Bob Hambly
The sacred architecture of Irving J. Gill, Mark Hargreaves, Gift of Dr. Mark Hargreaves
The way we wore: styles of the 1930s and '40s and our world since then, Marsha Hunt
Hiroshige/Eisen: sixty-nine stations of the Kisokaido, Sebastian Izzard, Gift of Gordon Brodfuehrer
Shalechet: heads and sacrifices, Menashe Kadishman
Rembrandt's Polish rider, Maira Kalman
The last Leonardo: the secret lives of the world's most expensive painting, Ben Lewis
Fired with passion: contemporary Japanese ceramics, Samuel J. Lurie, Gift of Gordon Brodfuehrer
Japanese woodblock prints: artists, publishers and masterworks, 1680-1900, Andreas Marks, Gift of Gordon Brodfuehrer
Pat Steir, Thomas McEvilley, Gift of Gordon Brodfuehrer
101 forgotten films, Brian Mills
Becoming Michelangelo: apprenticing to the master and discovering the artist through his drawings, Alan Pascuzzi
Hot, cold, heavy, light: 100 art writings, 1988-2018, Peter Schjeldahl, Gift of Gordon Brodfuehrer
Peter Doig, Adrian Searle
Typewriter art: a modern anthology, Barrie Tullett
Ingres, Georges Vigne
Lui Shou-kwan: a modern artist in Hong Kong, Josh Yiu, Gift of Gordon Brodfuehrer
William Morris: animal, artifact, James Yood

Artist's Book

When eye land, Star Feliz

Graphic Novel

A. Rodin, Eddy Simon

Music Books

O say can you hear: a cultural biography of "The Star-Spangled Banner", Mark Clague
Handel in London: a genius and his craft, Jane Glover
Conversations, Steve Reich
Planet Beethoven: classical music at the turn of the millennium, Mina Yang

Special Collection

The metropolis of tomorrow, Hugh Ferriss

Young People

Meet the lithographer, Gaby Bazin
Lift-the-flap questions and answers about art, Katie Daynes
Before they were artists: famous illustrators as kids, Elizabeth Haidle
On the tip of a wave: how Ai Weiwei's art is changing the tide, Joanna Ho
Hokusai: he saw the world in a wave, Susie Hodge
Symphony for a broken orchestra: how Philadelphia collected sounds to save music, Amy Ignatow
Faith Ringgold: narrating the world in pattern and color, Sharna Jackson
Treemonisha: from the opera by Scott Joplin, Angela Shelf Medearis
Before I grew up, John Miller
When Stravinsky met Nijinsky: two artists, their ballet, and one extraordinary riot, Lauren Stringer
A boy named Isamu: a story of Isamu Noguchi, James Yang
When Rubin plays, Gracey Zhang

Compact Discs

Quiet city, Alison Balsom
A swingin' Christmas, Tony Bennett
Dedications, vol. 3, Cracow Duo
Songs from my father: the music of Terry Gibbs, Gerry Gibbs, Gift of Marie Vickers in honor of F. Norman Vickers, MD
Stories from Atlantis, Marie Haddad
Baryton trios: treasures from the Esterháza Palace, Joseph Haydn
Baryton trios: treasures from the Esterháza Palace, 2, Joseph Haydn
Phoenix rising, David Kikoski
Soundscapes, Bob Mintzer, Gift of Marie Vickers in honor of F. Norman Vickers, MD
An Italian sojourn, Trio Settecento

DVDs

Stormy Monday, Mike Figgis
Whaam! Blam!: Roy Lichtenstein and the art of appropriation, James L. Hussey
Nanny, Nikyatu Jusu
Golda, Guy Nattiv
The thief collector, Allison Otto
A thousand and one, A.V. Rockwell
Past lives, Celine Song
Revoir Paris, Alice Winocour

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† In memoriam

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Financial support for most Athenaeum programs is provided in part by the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture and the County of San Diego.

KATHI'S LIBRARY CORNER

NEW LIBRARY POLICIES FOR 2024!

We would like to announce that, as of this writing, the Athenaeum will no longer be collecting late fees for overdue items. Fines have never been a major source of revenue and have not proven to be an effective incentive to return items.

Collecting late fees also can be seen as an unfriendly overture to the members we value so highly. Most of our members are responsible adults and do their best to bring back items they check out, and we want everyone to feel welcome, no matter their borrowing status! Members will still be financially responsible for lost or damaged items, however, and will receive a billing notice if this situation should arise.

Along with the change in overdue charges, the library has implemented automatic renewals for borrowed items. Members will still receive reminder notices about due dates, but if they choose to keep something past its original due date, it will automatically be renewed up to two times. An email will be sent verifying the renewal. We hope both of these changes make life a little easier for our members!

SOCIAL MEDIA

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