



FOCUS

FALL 2019

serving the KIA, our members and the community since 1955

Wednesday

OCTOBER 16

KIA Galleries open until 6:45 pm
Lecture & Member Celebration 7:00 pm
KIA Auditorium

CELEBRATE THE 2019-20 SEASON

What does it take to recover a stolen \$36 million Rembrandt?

Join us for the answer...



ROBERT WITTMAN, founder of the FBI's National Art Crime Team, bestselling author, and spellbinding speaker will launch the Kalamazoo Art League's 65th annual lecture series this year. *Priceless: True Tales from the FBI's Real Indiana Jones* will feature stories of notorious art heists and some of Wittman's incredibly daring undercover rescues.

For 20 years Wittman served as the FBI's lead investigative art crime expert, responsible for recovering more than \$300 million in stolen art and cultural property. He represented the United States throughout the world conducting investigations and instructing international police and museums in recovery and use of high asset value security techniques.

Wittman has been equally successful in his retirement from the FBI. His first book *Priceless: How I Went Undercover to Rescue the World's Stolen Treasures* was on the *New York Times* bestselling list and made him a popular speaker on national TV (The Colbert Report), NPR, donor societies and major museums. His second book, *The Devil's Diary: Alfred Rosenberg and the Stolen Secrets of the Third Reich* is a worldwide best-seller published in 26 languages in 30 countries. It's no wonder The *Wall Street Journal* describes Wittman as "a living legend," and the *London Times* labeled him "the most famous art detective in the world." Mr. Wittman is now president of Robert Wittman, Inc. His firm specializes in consulting in art matters which include expert witness testimony, investigation and collection management.

Following the lecture, the speaker and audience are invited to a Gala Celebration to enjoy light refreshments, wines and non-alcoholic beverages, and live music by the "Grace Notes 3." Books will be available for purchase and autograph!

Art League members free; KIA members \$10, general public \$12, and students with ID \$3. Art League Members' Gala Celebration honors the individuals whose dues make the annual lecture series possible. During the Reception, guests' lecture admission fees may be applied to new memberships.

2019-2020 LECTURES

October 16

Robert Wittman

Author, Retired FBI

*Priceless: True Tales from the
FBI's Real Indiana Jones*

Lecture: 7:00 pm

November 13

Nancy J. Rodwan

Artist

Purged: The Art of Metamorphosis

Lecture: 10:00 am

December 11

Frank Verpoorten

Curator

*Isabelle de Borchgrave:
Fashioning Art from Paper*

Lecture: 10:00 am

February 12

Rehema Barber

Chief Curator, KIA

It's All About Love

Lecture: 10:00 am

March 11

Ellen Hanspach-Bernal

DIA Conservator

A Fresh Look:

Bruegel's Wedding Dance

Lecture: 6:30 pm

April 8

Robert Breugmann, PhD

Historian

Art Deco Chicago:

Mainstream of 20th Century Design

Lecture: 6:30 pm

EVENTS

December 4

Holiday depARTure

Chicago Art Institute

December 11

Holiday Lunch—Park Club

March TBD

Spring depARTure

Flint Institute of Arts

May 20

Annual Meeting and Brunch

10:00 am

June 19

Art League Uncorked!

A Message From Our President

Karen Matson

Dear Art League Supporters,

While summer's not officially over, I want to welcome you back to another exciting season of Art League! And to offer my heartfelt thanks to our Past President, Diane Eberts for her amazing work and dedication. Those will be big shoes to fill! But I'm



confident we'll continue to provide you with an interesting and engaging season of speakers and special events. We launch the season with a remarkable tale of crime, stolen art treasures, and an investigation by the FBI. You won't want to miss it!

Membership dues remain the same as previous years and are the financial foundation on which we build each lecture season. Whenever you send in dues you are saying "yes" to another year of bringing vital and engaging speakers to Kalamazoo.

Enjoy what's left of summer, and stay healthy and safe. I look forward to meeting you at one or all of our upcoming events!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen', written over a horizontal line.

THANK YOU GALA SPONSORS!

Scott Hewitt

Thomas Turner Jewelry

Key Art Group

Montmorency Financial Group

Nancy Troff & Michael Harrell

IT'S ALWAYS A GREAT TIME TO JOIN ART LEAGUE!

Art League Member Benefits

- Free admission to all Art League lectures
- Member discount rate on all Art League depARTures
- Subscription to Focus, the Art League quarterly newsletter
- Plus additional event invitations

Wednesday

NOVEMBER 13, 2019

10:00 am

KIA Auditorium

NANCY J. RODWAN, Artist

Purged: The Art of Metamorphosis

“This project—dismantling the purged items, transforming them into art, photographing the before and after pieces and writing the book—took me three years and I still have...purged objects to transform.” – N. Rodwan

In books such as the Home Decluttering Diet to blogs promoting The Six Week Decluttering Challenge we are led to believe we've got a big problem! But where one person sees trouble, another sees opportunity. Inspired by junk, Nancy J. Rodwan repurposes it in the name of art. Her request for unwanted items has provided this curious artist with materials for diverse projects ranging from videos to sculpture, painting, collage and puppetry. She truly connects with objects and their donors and says, “Metamorphosis fascinates me.”

Rodwan's book, *Purged: The Art of Metamorphosis*, is a companion to the exhibit of the same name. In the book she documents a multi-year project: turning friends' and acquaintances' old kitchen utensils, obsolete electronics, worn clothing, books, toys and car parts into meaningful art. Before-and-after photos of the cast-off possessions are accompanied by her meditations on Americans' relationships with their “stuff.”

There's a story behind every object and an inspiration for every art work. And in this case, part of the story has to be its continuity with Marcel Duchamp, who broke down boundaries between works of art and everyday objects early in the 20th century.



Holiday depARTure

DECEMBER 4, 2019

Visit the Chicago Art Institute's spectacular Neapolitan Creche, one of the finest examples of such a work outside of Naples. The creche features over 200 figures all staged in a spectacular Baroque cabinet. We will lunch at the Terzo Piano Restaurant in the new Contemporary Wing and afterwards, tour the Andy Warhol Exhibit. On our way home, we will stop for a brief visit to the German Christmas Market (enough time for a stroll and Gluhwein)! Inspired by the Christkindlmarket in Nuremberg, Germany, which began in 1545, the Christkindlmarket Chicago brings a cherished German and European tradition with international flair and local charm.

Registration deadline is November 1, 2019. Form available at KalamazooArtLeague.org and the KIA.



Kalamazoo Art League
314 S. Park Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Art League Board of Directors

We would like to introduce the 2019–20 Board of Directors and Committee Members for the Kalamazoo Art League and welcome you to another exciting year! Representing a wealth of experience and enthusiasm for anything related to the arts, the Board has been working diligently this spring and summer to bring you another year of exciting speakers, events and opportunities.

Karen Matson President
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LeAnn Deitrick Secretary
Kym Mulhern Treasurer
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Veronica Harik
Nancy Kern
Sue Lyons
Becky Marvin
Becki Moffett-Moore
Sally Pritko
Stephanie Robinson
Julie Taborn
Doreen Thomas
Pat Turner

Don't miss Robert Wittman's
fascinating lecture on
October 16!

