

Winter 2017

serving the KIA, our members and the community since 1955

KALAMAZOO ART LEAGUE FOCUS

Kalamazoo Art League Presents

# Romaine Brooks in London & Paris with Joe Lucchesi



**F**or many Romaine Brooks is an unknown artist. Her self-portrait shows an isolated figure. Little wonder—born into a family of great wealth, she was raised in a NY slum by a laundress while her mother traveled throughout Europe. Finally allowed to join her mother in Europe when she was twelve years old, she was enrolled in a “prison-like” convent school. How is it, then, that “Brooks emerged as a hero of her own making and a woman of action engaged in an aesthetic combat in an elite social and cultural world”?

We'll have a chance to find out when *the* recognized expert on Romaine Brooks – according to the Chief Curator of the Smithsonian American Arts Museum (SAAM) – arrives in Kalamazoo for our first lecture of 2017. Art League's March speaker, Joe Lucchesi, Ph.D., was the consulting curator and author of exhibition text for the SAAM's recent exhibit, 'The Art of Romaine Brooks.'

An American expatriate, Romaine Brooks (1874–1970) “crafted an androgynous appearance that challenged conventional ideas of how women should look and behave.” Her ideas extend to many of the portraits she painted in the 1920s. The paintings are striking, and her later drawings are equally interesting. Brooks's drawings flirt with the surreal and may remind one of those of artist, novelist, and filmmaker Jean Cocteau.

Prof. Lucchesi, Associate Professor of Art History at St. Mary's College of Maryland is Coordinator of the St. Mary's Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program. He has been described as a speaker who is “smart, easy going, and really engaging for public audiences.” Lucchesi's talk, 'Romaine Brooks in London & Paris: A Legacy of LGBTQ Portraiture' will introduce us to striking paintings and drawings, a fascinating artist currently being rediscovered, and an answer to the question, “Why are there so few great women artists?”

**Wednesday, March 8, 2017**

**10:00 am in the KIA Auditorium**

Art League Members FREE  
KIA Members \$10  
General Public \$12  
Students w/ID \$3

Art League accepts cash,  
check, or credit cards

2016–2017  
Calendar of Art  
League Lectures  
& Events

**October 12**  
Opening Program  
& Membership Celebration  
Robert Duncan,  
World Art Collector  
Lecture / 6:30 pm

**November 9**  
Steve Frykholm, Graphic  
Artist, Art of the Poster  
Lecture / 10:00 am

**December 14**  
Brian Leigh Dunnigan,  
Curator, Art of Maps  
Lecture / 10:00 am

**March 8**  
Joe Lucchesi, PhD  
Romaine Brooks Influences  
Lecture / 10:00 am

**April 12**  
Joseph Becherer, PhD  
Building Meijer Gardens:  
America's Garden of Art  
Lecture / 6:30 pm

**May 10**  
Sean O'Neill, Illustrator,  
Graphic Storytelling  
Lecture / 6:30 pm

## depARTures

See information  
on page 2 about  
an upcoming  
adventure

**Please  
Join Us  
& Bring  
Friends!**





# FOCUS

Winter 2017

2016-17  
Board of  
Directors

Marissa Harrington,  
*President*

Diane Eberts,  
*Vice President*

Karen Matson,  
*Secretary*

Janae Aasen  
*Treasurer*

George Baltmanis,  
*ex officio*

Laura Cathcart

Jennifer DiGiuseppe

Becky Marvin

Becki Moffett-Moore

John Schmitt

Pat Turner

Darlene Warren

The Art League's Membership Year is July 1–June 30. All current KIA members are welcomed and encouraged to join Art League. Please contact Becki Moffett-Moore for information.



## A Message From The President

I want to personally thank you for your continued support and engagement in 2016. We would not be able to continue growing and evolving as an organization without you.

I am looking forward to reaching out to the community more this year, and nurturing our current member base which includes YOU!

Thank you, so much, for your diligent and enthusiastic contribution to Art League. Let's make it a great year!

See you in March!

Sincerely, *Marissa Harrington*



depARTure

ART  
*cards* Appleblossoms



Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Join us for a springtime jaunt to Douglas for private tours of three of Southwest Michigan's premier art venues—**Water Street, Button, and LaFontsie Galleries**.

Enjoy personal tours by the gallery owners/curators, learn about the artists they represent and the upcoming 2017 art season. Afterward we'll indulge in a gourmet lunch at one of the finest restaurants in the area, **J. Paul's** inside **The Kirby** hotel. The ride to and fro will be filled with merriment and tasty beverages. Don't miss out on all the fun! Register by contacting Karen Matson 269-598-6978, karen@karenmatson.com or Becky Marvin 269-501-0709, rebeccakal@aol.com by **March 3, 2017**.

More information and registration forms are available at the KIA reception desk and online at [KalamazooArtLeague.org](http://KalamazooArtLeague.org).

**Included:** Transportation by luxury motor coach, gratuities, gourmet luncheon, tasty traveling beverages and a surprise package for everyone. **Registration deadline, March 3, 2017.**

- \$104\* Art League Members
- \$124\* KIA Members
- \$154\* General Public/Non-Members

\* A portion of this fee is a tax-deductible donation to the Kalamazoo Art League.

**Enrollment is limited to 16 so register early!**

## Wednesday Evening Lecture: Joseph Becherer Chief Curator, Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

April 12, 2016 / 6:30 pm / KIA Auditorium

### Building America's Garden of Art from Rodin to Ai Weiwei



An acclaimed speaker, Dr. Joseph Becherer will present Art League's evening program on Wednesday April 12. His topic, 'Building America's Garden of Art from Rodin to Ai Weiwei' will reveal the rationale for collecting particular art works and building new collections.

Rated at the top of many museum and garden must-see lists, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park attracts visitors from near and far. As its Chief Curator and VP of Collections and Exhibitions, Joseph Becherer, has led the development of its internationally-acclaimed permanent collection of Modern and Contemporary sculpture.

Dr. Becherer earned a BFA and MFA at Ohio University, and completed a Ph.D. at Indiana University. He has been with Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park for 18 years. Among his many additional involvements, he is: the Lena Meijer Professor in the History of Art at Aquinas College, teaching courses in Renaissance, Baroque, Modern, and Contemporary art; has been a PBS Arts contributor; written many books and articles; and, serves as a regular columnist on visual arts for the Grand Rapids Magazine.

Recognized for his work in the arts and humanities by numerous advisory and professional organizations—locally, nationally, and internationally—Becherer has the added distinction of being honored by the Republic of Italy and by the Shiga Prefectural Government in Japan.

**You Are Cordially Invited to the  
Art League Annual Meeting & Election  
on Wednesday, May 10, 2017  
@ 6:30 pm @ the KIA Auditorium**

## Stay in the Know

### Nominating Committee Seeks Input to Prepare for Annual Meeting & Election

The Art League's Nominating Committee is preparing a slate of board members for consideration at the Annual Meeting & Election on May 10. Nominations from the membership are welcomed through March 10, 2017.

Individuals recommended to the Nominating Committee need to be, or become, a member of the KIA and the Art League, and commit to: attending board and committee meetings; attending and assisting with the lecture series, and other activities that support the Art League's mission.

Nominating forms are available at the KIA reception desk and online at [www.KalamazooArtLeague.org](http://www.KalamazooArtLeague.org). The Nominating Committee will carefully consider your suggestions as we interview candidates and prepare a slate to lead us in 2017-2018.

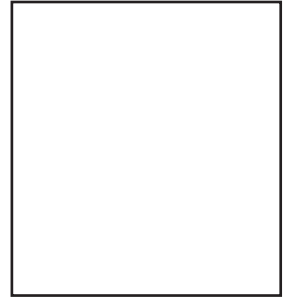
### Thank You, Larry Bell!

Neither winter cold and snow—nor parking congestion—could keep more than 80 Art League members away from the wonderful reception Larry Bell hosted for us in December. Larry's warm hospitality included a home tour, talk about his collections of historical maps, art and memorabilia, delicious refreshments, crackling logs in the fireplace, and an informal chance to meet our December lecture speaker, Brian Dunnigan.

Thank you to the people who helped arrange the shuttle bus; and thank you, again, to Larry for inviting us to your home.



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



**FOCUS**  
Winter 2017

The Mission of the Kalamazoo Art League is to fund, organize, and sponsor an annual lecture series and other activities to promote understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the visual arts.

We value and actively support diversity and inclusion on the Board, in our membership, in the lecture series and other programs we offer.

The Kalamazoo Art League is a 501c3 nonprofit organization; donations are tax-deductible.

## Kalamazoo Art League Upcoming Lecture Series Speakers

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**Romaine Brooks  
in London & Paris  
with Joe Lucchesi**

**Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 10 am KIA Auditorium**

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**Building America's  
Garden of Art  
with Joseph Becherer**

**Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 6:30 pm KIA Auditorium**

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**Comics, Graphic Novels & the  
Tradition of Visual Storytelling  
with Sean O'Neill**

**Wednesday, May 10, 2017, 6:30 pm KIA Auditorium**