

WINTER 2021

serving the KIA, our members and the community since 1955

We hope you all enjoy this first issue of our digital FOCUS! You may have missed our quarterly printed newsletter, but given our very limited budget this year, we opted to reach out in a way that keeps you informed about Art League events, and share updates about where we are going forward. We'd love to save the planet by "going green" in the future. A couple of great benefits to this format is that we can have more pages, use color and embed links to more information about what you're reading! We hope you enjoy this digital issue of FOCUS. Please let us know what you think by emailing us at artleaguekalamazoo@gmail.com. We're very optimistic we'll be able to return to our normal in-person events typically held at the KIA sometime in the future. Despite our challenges with Covid, we are continuing to offer great programming this year. Our virtual lecturers hail from Boston, Washington, Chicago and the state of Georgia. Attendance

at our first two lectures was outstanding and responses show they were well-received.

"Loved it! Thank you! Great representation of the Gardner Museum!"

"We were glued to the computer screen during this morning's virtual Art League presentation. It was most enjoyable. My husband was very pleased with the overall presentation. As for me, I now want to go to Boston and see the museum in person."

"Wonderful guest lecturer, very interesting topic...seamless presentation. I didn't want it to end! Thank you!"

"I enjoyed this virtual lecture almost as much as the ones held at the KIA! I could hear more and see more detail in the images."

Information about our March and April speakers can be found on pages 4 and 5. Keep your fingers crossed, observe the masking and social distancing guidelines, get your vaccines, and by all means, stay safe, stay healthy, and stay connected to your friends and family!

A Message From Our President

Karen Matson



Dear Art League Supporters,

What a year this has been! It's hard to believe that just 10 months ago, our lives turned upside down. But a bright light is in sight...and we Kalamazooans have much to be proud of as the Pfizer trucks roll down Portage Road!

I would like to thank you all for your support and patience as we navigate our own road with the KIA and the Kalamazoo Art League. I would also like to thank and commend our Board for making the transition to a virtual world so efficiently...without missing a beat. I'm thrilled that our September and October lectures were met with overwhelming participation and positive responses to the format as well as the content of our speaker's presentations. I hope to see you (on ZOOM) in March and April and in the meantime, have a wonderfully safe holiday season,

All the best,



THANK YOU DONORS!



Because of your generous donations, the Art League has been able to continue providing quality programs and lectures since last March. Over the years, your dues have been the primary source of revenue to support our programs and events. With this year's waiver of those dues, we have had to tighten our belts responsibly without sacrificing quality lectures and supporting online events on our website kalamazooartleague.org. **Many, many thanks** to these generous benefactors:

Janae Aasen

Barbara & David Brose

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Linda Ginsberg

Linda & Joe Kanamueller

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Kym Mulhern

Peggy Napier

Lora Painter

Priscilla Pedraza

Paul Rahn

Diana Rajchel

Helene & Joseph Reish

Louise Robeck

Stephanie Robinson

Jim Rojas

Linda Rzoska

Roy Secor

Kathryn Steadman

Doreen Thomas

Nancy Troff

Mary Tyler

Joann Yochim

This & that...

We are using this time to update our website to create a smarter and better experience for our users and members. We recognize the importance of maintaining a high quality website for our members to align with the high standards of the KIA. We welcome you to check our site frequently to stay up-to-date with news about our lectures/lecturers, check out what current and past speakers are engaged in now, and discover interesting and engaging links to a variety of art-related events on our [Armchair Art League](#) page.

KalamazooArtLeague.org

ART LEAGUE is a motivated and dedicated volunteer organization founded to organize an annual lecture series at the [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#). Since 1955, lecturers have been selected from across the US representing the forefront of experts who create, curate, study or write about art. Art League programs promote understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the visual arts for its members, the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and our community.



In collaboration...

KALAMAZOO INSTITUTE OF ARTS

The KIA galleries are currently open on Fridays & Saturdays from 11am–5pm. We recommend all visitors pre-book their gallery visit with our NEW timed ticketing platform that can be found at kiarts.org under the [Reserve Tickets and Register](#) button. Walk-ins are welcome but we cannot guarantee availability. On display in our main level galleries is [Cultural Encounters: Art of Asian Diasporas in Latin America and the Caribbean 1945–Present](#). If you have not taken a moment to view this exhibition, I highly recommend coming before its closing date on January 17th. For more information about the exhibition, please visit our [website](#). Coming soon in the lower galleries is the reimagination

of our permanent collection, [Unveiling American Genius](#). Our soft opening for this show is scheduled for December 18th. Also opening soon is [Modern Abstractions: Japanese Prints from the Joy and Timothy Light Collection](#). The Lights have long been supporters/members of the KIA and Kalamazoo Art League. Please visit our website for the most up-to-date announcements and changes.

Don't forget the [Kirk Newman Art School](#) winter classes will be starting in January! Classes are still available and can be booked on the [KIA website](#). We also have a full agenda of upcoming ArtBreaks, UnReeled and Book Discussions set to get you through the rest of 2020 and start your 2021 off right!

A Message From The KIA Executive Director Belinda Tate

Happy Holidays Art League!

With so much change in 2020, I have been encouraged by our shared community of art lovers, whether it be through our calendar of digital programs, virtual tours or our art making classes. Art League has done much to help inspire and engage community members during the loss of many in-person gatherings, and as ever, I am grateful for your work. At the KIA, we are looking forward to opening [Unveiling American Genius](#), the reinstallation of our permanent collections in the lower level, later this month. Casting off chronology, the new presentation shares stories of ingenuity and innovation that have emerged from all corners of American society. We hope that our Covid precautions and guidelines for staff and visitors will make you feel safe to pre-book advance tickets to visit our galleries again soon.

We are spending December in reflection of the many developments necessitated by 2020's particular circumstances, and we are looking forward to what may come in 2021. Certainly, the KIA and Art League will continue to collaborate to serve the communities of Southwest Michigan. We continue to believe that the arts are for everyone, and the arts will continue to inspire, transform and fulfill in new ways.

Warmly,

Belinda Tate

2021 Spring ZOOM Lecture Series

To participate in these virtual lectures, you must RSVP at artleaguelamazoo@gmail.com. You'll receive a ZOOM invitation link from Diane Eberts prior to each lecture. Please check your spam folder as your email service may not recognize Diane's address.

Wednesday

MARCH 10, 2021

10:00 am • ZOOM/Virtual Lecture

VIRGINIA MECKLENBURG

Chief Curator, Smithsonian American Art
Edward Hopper: The Watercolors

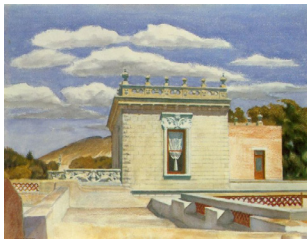
Dr. Virginia M. Mecklenburg, a long-distance friend of the Art League for several years, delighted us when she accepted Art League's invitation to speak here in Kalamazoo. At that time she offered several fascinating topics for her lecture. *Edward Hopper: The Watercolors* was the committee's unanimous choice.



Hopper's watercolors are quite different from his better-known oils. However, it was the watercolors from the summers of 1923 and 1924 that catapulted Hopper to fame.

While the oils are carefully composed urban scenes heavy with alienation and rigid geometry, the watercolors are spontaneous – moved by the thematic possibilities of simple houses and expansive skies. **Edward Hopper: The Watercolors** is sure to be a delight!

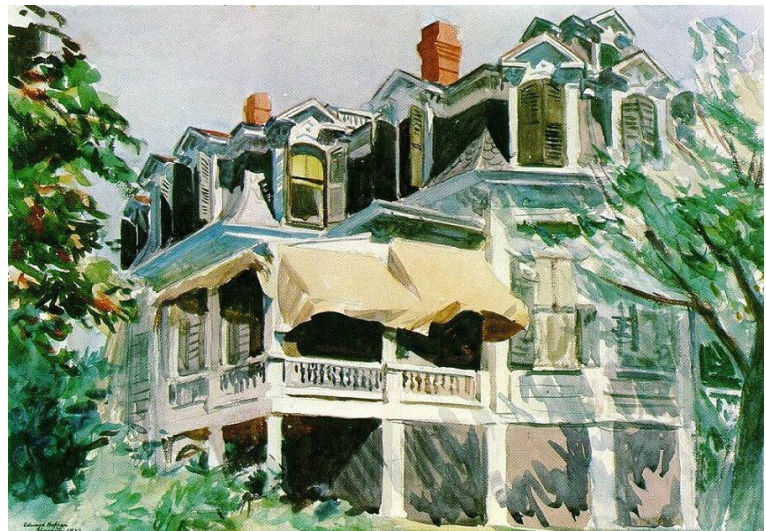
Dr. Mecklenburg is Senior Curator of Painting and Sculpture at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. She has been a curator at the Smithsonian since 1979 and has organized more than 25 exhibits. Be sure to RSVP to see examples of Hopper's work and to enjoy Dr. Mecklenburg's vast knowledge of this iconic artist.



Roofs of the Cobb Barn, 1931



Saltillo Mansion, 1943



The Mansard Roof, 1923

Wednesday

APRIL 14, 2021

10:00 am • ZOOM/Virtual Lecture

GLORIA GROOM

Chair of European Painting and Sculpture
Art Institute Chicago

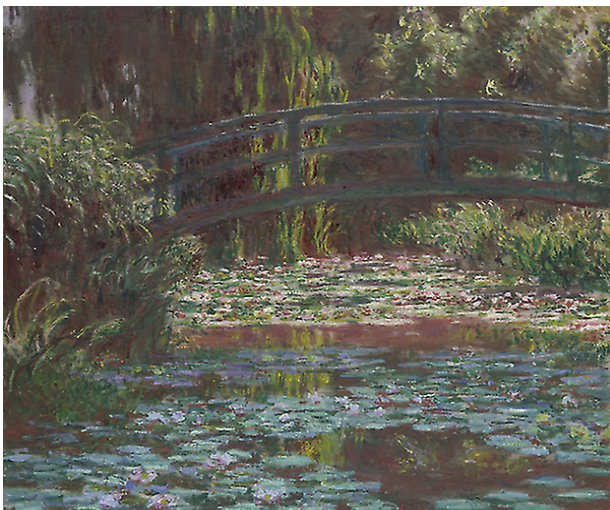
New Light on Monet

An internationally acclaimed scholar and author on 19th Century French painting, Dr. Gloria Groom is currently Chair of European Painting and Sculpture, and the David and Mary Winton Green Curator at The Art Institute of Chicago. In addition to her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin,

she has a degree in museology from the Ecole du Louvre, Paris. Since joining the Art Institute (1985), she has been involved in many major exhibitions and catalogues. Art League members may remember the fabulous depARTures private tour of one of those blockbusters, *Impressionism, Fashion and Modernity*.

Over the past decade, curators, conservators and scientists have undertaken art historical and scientific investigation of the museum's 33 paintings by Monet, resulting in an intriguing picture of his method and meaning. Dr. Groom will present some of these deeper dives into Monet's surfaces to show how his famous "eye" consisted of both observations en plein air, and magical re-imaginings within the studio.

Inspired by Dr. Groom's lecture, Art League members and friends can look forward to another blockbuster depARTure (date TBA) when the [Monet and Chicago](#) exhibit opens.



Waterlily Pond, 1900



Bordighera, 1884



*from the kitchen of Laura Cathcart,
Art League's Chef Extraordinaire!*

RUGELACH

pronounced **ROO** - guh - laak

INGREDIENTS

2 cups of all-purpose flour
1/4 tsp salt
1 cup unsalted butter
1 (8oz) package of cream cheese
1/3 cup sour cream
1/2 cup white sugar
1 tbs ground cinnamon
1 cup finely chopped walnuts
1/2 cup raisins

DIRECTIONS

Cut cold butter or margarine and cream cheese into bits. In food processor, pulse flour, salt, butter or margarine, cream cheese and sour cream until crumbly.

Shape crumbly mixture into four equal disks. Wrap each disk and chill two hours or up to two days.

Combine sugar, cinnamon, chopped walnuts, and finely chopped raisins (may substitute miniature chocolate chips for raisins).

Roll each disk into a nine- inch round keeping other disks chilled until ready to roll them. Sprinkle round with sugar/nut mixture. Press lightly into dough. With chef's knife or pizza cutter, cut each round into 12 wedges. Roll wedges from wide to narrow, you will end up with point on outside of cookie. Place on ungreased baking sheets and chill rugelach 20 minutes before baking.

Preheat oven to 350° F (180° C).

After rugelach are chilled, bake them in the center rack of your oven 22 minutes until lightly golden. Cool on wire racks. Store in airtight containers...they freeze very well.

Variations: Before putting the filling on the dough, use a pastry brush to layer apricot jam as well as brown sugar. Then add the recommended filling. You may also make a mixture of cinnamon and sugar and roll the rugelach in this prior to putting them on the cookie sheets.

CRANBERRY AND CHEDDAR TARTS

INGREDIENTS

1 two-pack frozen pie crust
12 oz. package of fresh cranberries
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup water
1 tbs lemon juice
1/2 cup finely shredded cheddar cheese (Brie works, too just cut into teaspoon-size chunks)

DIRECTIONS

Thaw two frozen pie crusts.

Cook the cranberries, sugar, water and lemon juice over medium heat until thickened (about 10 minutes).

Spray a 24-cup mini-muffin tin with oil.

Unfold one pie crust and press out any fold lines.

Using a 2-1/2" round cookie cutter, cut 12 circles from each crust and press into the muffin tin.

Continue with second pie crust.

Fill each cup with about one teaspoon of shredded cheese. Top with the cranberries.

Bake at 350° F for 10-15 minutes.



AZIAGO CHEESE AND BLACK PEPPER BISCUITS

INGREDIENTS

1-3/4 cup self-rising flour plus more for rolling
4 oz. aged Asiago cheese, grated
1 cup heavy cream
1-2 teaspoons coarsely ground black pepper

DIRECTIONS

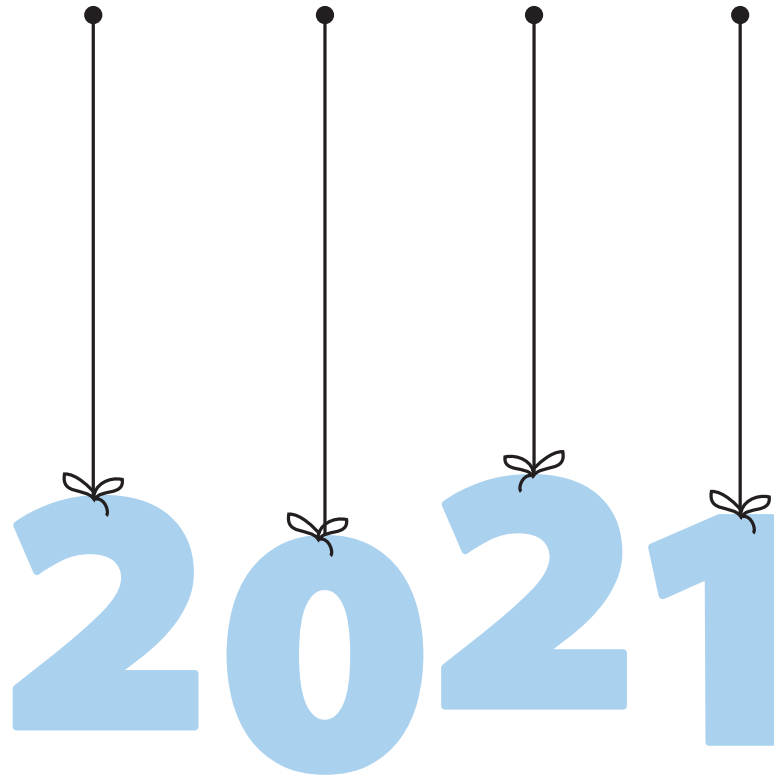
Toss cheese with flour.

Add cream and black pepper and stir until well-blended.

Roll to 3/4" thick on lightly floured surface.

Cut with 2" biscuit cutter (or desired size) using a straight down-and-up motion. Brush with milk, if desired.

Place on baking sheet very closely together and bake at 425° F for 12-15 minutes, or until lightly browned.



Happy New Year!

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and COVID free new year!