

MUSEUM ROAD

WINTER 2012

A publication of Reading Public Museum • Planetarium • Arboretum

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The Prints of Andy Warhol

March 3 through June 17, 2012

More than 60 pop prints and four paintings will be the focus of an exciting exhibition this spring in The Museum's temporary galleries. Iconic works by one of the leading figures in twentieth-century art include Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor, Jackie Kennedy, Mao Tse-Tung, Mick Jagger, Ronald Reagan, and Judy Garland, along with the artist's famous Soup Cans and Camouflage prints. The exhibition provides an outstanding overview of Warhol's career as a printmaker. The photographic silk screens date from the early 1960s to the late 1980s and come to The Museum from The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Warhol rose to prominence in the late fifties and early sixties as part of the Pop Art movement which drew its subjects — comics, advertisements, headlines, Hollywood stars, and politicians — from popular culture. Warhol had worked as a commercial artist in New York for more than a decade before his paintings of Soup Cans brought him to national



prominence in the art world in 1962. From that time until his death in 1987, the artist continually selected subjects that wielded a powerful impact on his audience.

The exhibition was organized by The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and is underwritten by the Marlin and Ginger Miller Endowment. The Reading Public Museum is supported in part by grants from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.



Members Only Opening Reception

Friday, March 2 – 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

\$15 Members Only – More information available soon. Please check our Web site and look in your mail for our post card.

Related Programming (for more info, see Calendar in this issue, or check our Web site)

Friday, February 24 - 6 p.m. - Lecture

Andy and the Old Masters with Scott Schweigert, Curator of Art & Civilization

Saturday, March 3 - 2 p.m. - Lecture

Andy Warhol with Eric Shiner, Director, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, PA

Sunday, March 4 - Noon - 3 p.m. - Sunday Family Fun-days

Andy Warhol

Tuesday, April 3 - Noon - Noontime Knowledge

Andy Warhol with Selby Doughty

Ancient Sculptures Inspire New Exhibition — *Jim Dine: Glyptotek*

March 3 through June 24, 2012

This spring, the Works on Paper Gallery will feature sixteen works by contemporary painter and printmaker Jim Dine, recently donated to The Museum. The core exhibition includes fourteen works from a complete portfolio of works published in 1988, which were recently donated to The Museum. The prints were inspired by ancient sculpture observed at Munich's Glyptothek. During the course of two summers — 1987 and 1988 — Dine created sketches of what he called, "my Glyptotek." In the series, the artist employed unusual croppings and energetic mark making to create what he described as "a dance of carved stone." You can explore the artist's interesting engagement with and interpretation of the art of the past.



Jim Dine (American, b.1935),
Untitled from Glyptotek
portfolio, 1988, intaglio prints
in colors, Gift of Carl Steele

Members Only Opening Reception

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Theresienstadt's Children and Their Art

February 18 through May 13, 2012

This moving exhibition features more than 30 objects from the Beit Theresienstadt Holocaust Museum, Archive and Educational Center in Israel. The works, including collages, drawings, embroidery, dolls, diaries, magazines, games, and marionettes, were created by children at the Theresienstadt ghetto in what is now the Czech Republic. When Nazis invaded, the town of Terezin was turned into a ghetto and renamed Theresienstadt. Jews were gathered in the ghetto before being sent to the extermination camps. During its operation, more than 12,000 children passed through the Theresienstadt ghetto. Approximately 90 percent of the children perished in the camp. For many of the children, these objects are the only things that remain from their lives.



Exhibition presented by:



Opening Reception

Saturday, February 18 – 6 - 8 p.m.

\$15 for Members / \$20 for Non-Members

Reception presented by:



This exhibition is part of the *Theresienstadt Project*, a collaborative educational effort among the Reading Public Museum, the Reading Symphony Orchestra, and the Jewish Federation of Reading.

Make it Memorable. Make it a Masterpiece.

Weddings AT THE Museum

If you've ever Google-searched "weddings in Berks County," your results most likely consisted of the same old, tired venues that have been a staple of the Greater Reading wedding arena for decades. Do you really want to get married in the same ballroom where you had your high school prom or even worse, where your parents tied the knot? Of course not! You want something completely different, right? The only problem is... what are the other local options? It's hard to come up with a list, that's for sure.

As has been the trend over the past number of years, the engaged couples of Berks County have had to search outside the area in order to find unique, dynamic, and most of all, contemporary wedding venues. The event staff of the Reading Public Museum is pleased to announce that we're bringing the wedding business back to Berks! With the capabilities to host ceremonies and receptions both inside our Museum and Planetarium, as well as outside in our Arboretum, we're quickly becoming the premiere wedding venue in Greater Reading.

Where else can you say your vows among the artwork of history's most renowned artists or dance your first dance under the glow of the midnight sky? Future brides, get ready to be amazed! No more lackluster décor, boxy ballrooms, or chicken and beef from the hotel kitchen. Refuse to be the victim of another humdrum wedding. Make it memorable.

Make it *your* masterpiece. Your special day is awaiting you at the Reading Public Museum! Call 610-371-5850 x234 or e-mail stephanie.hafer@readingpublicmuseum.org for more information.



Photo courtesy Blacksilver Imaging



Change is Good - A New Native American Gallery

We hear from people all the time, "Gee, The Museum looks just as it did when I was a kid." And we know just what they mean — some things have been the same for a long time. So, this winter, you'll have to say good-bye to the former North American Indian Gallery. It's closing down this spring, and when it re-opens in the summer of 2012, it will be unrecognizable — in a good way!



Now we admit, sometimes we like change just for the sake of change. However, the new Native American Gallery will be more than a coat of paint and a shuffling of the long displayed artifacts. It will boast an interdisciplinary approach, meaning it will encompass ideas of art, environmental science, history and economics. These

ideas work perfectly for the school and family groups that use the gallery most. And, the new gallery will also encourage active learning and participation rather than just looking at objects in a case. In addition to hands-on opportunities, this new environment will include light, sound, and video in a way never seen before at the Reading Public Museum.

What's best of all, is that the new gallery is built for change. An area dedicated to rotating thematic exhibitions will be part of the new design so that the gallery can show new work or temporary exhibitions within the new space. We know that you'll love this newly designed, active approach to the Native American Gallery, so "stay tuned." We can't wait to show it off.



From the Director

I've heard people say that unless you, your father, and your grandfather were all born in Berks County, you're still new to the area — after a year as Director of the Reading Public Museum though, this place truly feels like home. Of course, when I'm introduced to people around town I'm still referred to as the “new” Museum Director; but with all of the changes that happened here during 2011, maybe they're just thinking that it is The Museum that is new?



From our renovated 2nd-floor Galleries, to the improvements in The Neag Planetarium, to our expanded youth and science programming, the Reading Public Museum does seem pretty new to visitors who haven't been here recently. And while it may be nice to sit back and take a break from all the growth and change, we aren't planning on slowing down now! In 2012 we're asking people to “meet me at The Museum” and we think we're giving you plenty of reasons to take us up on the offer.



No, *this* is not our Director (that's John Graydon Smith in the upper right photo), but you'll be seeing this face in our newly renovated Modern and Contemporary Gallery on our second floor. Andy Warhol, *Mao: one plate (F. & S. II.94)*, 1972, screenprint in colors, Museum Purchase

As we ring in the New Year we also celebrate the opening of our new “Modern and Contemporary Gallery” which was expanded thanks to the support of longtime Museum members Irv and Lois Cohen. This gallery, which is double the size of our old 20th Century Gallery, features some new and important works from the last several decades, including several pieces by well-known artists from the Cohen's collection and those of other Museum Members. We also have our own Andy Warhol on display, which will serve as a teaser for what is to come during the rest of 2012.

Upon the closing of our very popular American Impressionism exhibition (closing January 29), we'll begin preparing our 2nd Floor Galleries for the arrival of a large exhibition of Andy Warhol's most recognizable prints and paintings, which is set to open March 3. Running concurrently with the Warhol show will be an exhibition of prints in our Works on Paper Gallery by famed pop artist Jim Dine, which is a recent addition to The Museum's collection, and both shows will feature some terrific surprises that will keep visitors coming back for more!

Before Warhol arrives, though, The Museum will be presenting a powerful and important exhibition entitled *Theresienstadt's Children and Their Art* in our Central Gallery. This collection comes from Beit Terezin in Israel and features the artwork created by children imprisoned at the Theresienstadt camp during WWII. The exhibition, which is co-curated by RPM and Beit Terezin, runs from February 18 through May 13 and promises to be one of the most impactful experiences you've ever had here at The Museum.

As you can see in this edition of *Museum Road*, 2012 looks to build upon the momentum we established in 2011 and we promise there is even more to come.

It has been a privilege to help lead the Reading Public Museum forward over the past year and I'm looking forward to even more successes this year. I hope you'll “meet me at The Museum” in 2012 and bring some friends along with you!



Our American Impressionism exhibition continues through January 29, 2012.



Wonder-full New Planetarium Show is Appropriate for 2012

Immerse yourself in the beauty of Chichén Itzá, Mexico, the “seventh wonder of the modern world.” Listen to the story of the ancient Maya civilization as you experience *Tales of the Maya Skies*, the new Star Show opening this winter at The Neag Planetarium (3 p.m. on Sundays).

With unprecedented realism, *Tales of the Maya Skies* immerses you in Maya science, art and mythology, using full-dome digital technology to transport us back into the world of the Maya. Produced by Chabot Space & Science Center, this Show inspires and educates through its description of the Maya’s accurate astronomical achievements and how astronomy connected them to the Universe.

Grammy Award winner and Oscar © nominee, Lila Downs, narrates, as *Tales of the Maya Skies* brings us back to the ancient jungles of Mexico, where the Maya built cities and temples aligned to movements of the Sun, Moon, and planets. Over many years they observed and documented astronomical events with great accuracy.

The Maya made sense of an ever-changing world by observing, recording and predicting natural events such as solstices, solar eclipses, weather patterns, and planetary movements. These observations, in combination with a sophisticated mathematical system, allowed them to develop a precise calendar system — their measurements of the length of the solar year were more accurate than measurements the Europeans used as the basis of the Gregorian calendar. The Maya also predicted eclipses, were able to forecast seasonal change and developed the concept of mathematical zero, enabling them to predict events into the future.

Tales of the Maya Skies weaves together this rich combination of science, culture, and legend, immersing viewers in the sounds and sights of an ancient way of life. Recent deciphering of the Maya hieroglyphics is providing archeologists with new and exciting discoveries. Using three-dimensional laser scanning and advanced graphic techniques, the virtual reconstruction of architecture in this Show also supports these archeologists in interpreting the ancient sites, and contributes to their conservation.

Please check our Web site, www.readingpublicmuseum.org, for show times and prices.

15 Minutes of Fame – The 2012 Gala

Saturday, April 28, 2012 – SAVE THE DATE!



What better way to throw a great event than in the spirit of quirky Andy Warhol with a twist of flashy Studio 54! Andy was known for his controversial art, famous quotes and party lifestyle. Studio 54 was known for its celebrity guests, risqué behavior and velvet rope waiting lines. A perfect match.

Bask in an evening of entertainment while celebrating The Museum and our mission. Three floors of food, drinks, auctions, lounges, music, and dancing await at “Club RPM!”

The Gala is The Museum’s largest single-event fundraiser. We hope you can make it a night out on the town with us and show your support. Cost is \$175 per person and registration is required. Look for your invitation in the mail in March...will you make the list?

For more information call 610-371-5850 x230 or visit our Web site.

Halloween Storm Haunts the Arboretum

On Saturday, October 29, 2011, Halloween weekend, a freak storm dumped a lot of snow in the Northeast, and our Arboretum suffered an unfortunate casualty in the process. One of our PA Champion trees, the White Poplar, couldn't bear the weight of the heavy, wet snow and it fell to the ground. The age of the tree is unknown at this time, and was the only white poplar in the state to have been nominated as a Champion. It lived along the creek in the area of the perennial garden.



In 2010, this tree was among four of The Museum's which were listed on The Pennsylvania Forestry Association's Web site, www.pabigtrees.com, thanks to the efforts of Master Gardener Jim Smoker of The Museum's Arboretum Committee.



The Museum's PA Champion Tree, the White Poplar (*Populus, alba*), as it appeared in better days, 2010.

The trees are honored as a part of the Association's "Champion Tree Program." Smoker completed the necessary paperwork and provided photos of these majestic trees — White Poplar (*Populus, alba*) and Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo, biloba*), indicating the trees' circumference, height, spread, points, and GPS coordinates.

Smoker said, "You always hate to see a Champion tree go, but it happens, either because of age or environmental factors — usually the latter!"

The tree is now firewood, but we are striving to continue the tradition of this natural wonder of The Museum's heritage. We have saved a three- to six-inch "cookie" of the main trunk to use for educational purposes, and since we have identified viable suckers growing from the roots of the tree, we'll be trying to propagate a sapling from the original tree for future generations to enjoy.



The Museum Shop

Looking for a unique gift? You'll find handmade gifts, toys and games for children, exquisite jewelry and more. Our stock is always changing, so stop in often to see our new items! Open during regular Museum hours (no admission required).

And remember, Members get 10% off every day!

Museum Phone:
610-371-5850

Museum Hours:
Tuesday – Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
Sunday Noon to 5 p.m.
For Holiday hours, please check our Web site.

Museum Admission:
*\$8 Adult (18-59); \$5 Seniors/Children/Students (w/ID);
Members and Children 3 and under: free.
*Special exhibition surcharge may apply.

Planetarium Hours:
Sun. 1, 2, 3 & 4 p.m. plus Weekday Shows at 4 p.m.
(Tuesday through Friday)
Show Prices (for each show): \$7 Adults (18-59);
\$5 Seniors/Children/Students (w/ID);
Members and Children 3 and under: free.

Join Your Museum Today!

The Reading Public Museum is dynamic and ever-changing, offering diverse exhibitions all year long! Temporary exhibitions featuring science and art combine with our permanent galleries to offer you an engaging experience every time you visit. As a Member, every visit to The Museum and Planetarium Star Shows is FREE! Plus, there are even more benefits...check www.readingpublicmuseum.org and click on "Membership" for complete details and to join securely online.

Calendar of Events and Activities

Planetarium

Star Shows

EVERY SUNDAY IN JAN., FEB. & MAR.

1 p.m. – *In My Backyard*

2 p.m. – *Realm of Light*

3 p.m. – *Tales of the Maya Skies*

4 p.m. – *Jack Frost and the Skies of Winter*

WEEKDAYS – TUES.-FRI., 4 p.m.

A different Show each day of the week.

Check our Web site for titles.

Prices for the Star Shows are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children, seniors and students. Members and children 3 and under are free.

Floyd Final Fridays

FRIDAYS – Jan. 27, Feb. 24 & Mar. 30

7 p.m. – *SonicVision*

8 p.m. – *Pink Floyd: Wish You Were Here*

9 p.m. – *Pink Floyd: Dark Side of the Moon*

10 p.m. – *Pink Floyd: The Wall*

Prices for each Music Show are \$5 for Members and \$7 for Non-Members.

For Show details, check our Web site.

Exhibitions

Through January 22, 2012

Andrew Orth: *Directing Hollywood*

Through January 29, 2012

American Impressionism: *The Lure of the Artists' Colony*

February 18 - May 13, 2012

Theresienstadt's *Children and Their Art*

March 3 - June 24, 2012

Jim Dine: *Glyptotek*

March 3 - June 17, 2012

The Prints of Andy Warhol

Events

OPENING RECEPTIONS

Saturday, February 18 - 6 - 8 p.m.

Theresienstadt's *Children and Their Art*

Opening Reception

\$15 for Members / \$20 for Non-Members

Friday, March 2 - 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The Prints of Andy Warhol and Jim Dine: *Glyptotek*

Members Only Opening Reception

\$15 Members Only

BAGELS, BACH & BEYOND

Join us Sunday mornings (10 a.m. - noon) for light breakfast and live music in our Atrium.

February 26 - *Klinton Klez*

March 25 - *David Cullen & Tony Miceli*

\$20 for Members/\$30 for Non-Members

Please see our Web site for registration form.

DINNER SERIES

Thursday, February 16 - 5:30 p.m.

Food from Go Fish!

\$125 for Members/\$145 for Non-Members

See Web site for more info and registration form.

READERS THEATRE

Thursday, February 23, 7 p.m.

Saturday, February 25, 7 p.m.

Sunday, February 26, 2 p.m.

\$10 for Members/\$15 for Non-Members

Join us for this unique program with Genesis Theatre. The wonderful players of Genesis take a seat for their thought-provoking reading of *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

See Web site for more info and registration form.

(continued next column)



500 Museum Road
Reading, PA 19611-1425

JAZZ UNDER THE STARS

Friday, March 30 - 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

The Dave Posmontier Trio & Special Guest (TBA)

A unique live music experience in

The Neag Planetarium

\$30 for Members and Non-Members

Adult Programs & Events

Noontime Knowledge - Food for Thought

"Everything is New in 2012"

JANUARY

3 Tuesday, Noon

New Planetarium Show: *Tales of the Maya Skies*

FEBRUARY

7 Tuesday, Noon

A New Modern & Contemporary Gallery

Scott Schweigert, Curator of Art & Civilization

MARCH

6 Tuesday, Noon

Crazy Hearts: The Art of Jim Dine

Anne Corso, Director of Education

APRIL

3 Tuesday, Noon

Andy Warhol

Selby Doughty

Free with Museum admission (Members free)

Special lunch and lecture cost of \$5 for

Members / \$10 for Non-Members

Lecture Series

Friday, February 24, 6 p.m.

Andy and the Old Masters

Scott Schweigert, Curator of Art & Civilization

Saturday, March 3, 2 p.m.

Andy Warhol

Eric Shiner, Director, Andy Warhol Museum,

Pittsburgh, PA

Friday, March 30, 6 p.m.

Lost and Found: The Confiscation of European Art

by the Nazis and its Repatriation

Dr. Pamela Volkman

Series cost: \$45 per Member / \$60 per Non-Member

Per Lecture cost: \$20 per Member / \$30 per Non-Member

Contact Anne Corso at 610-371-5850 x227

RPM Business Breakfast Series

THIRD TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

(Jan. 17, Feb. 21, Mar. 20 - 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.)

Join us for breakfast before work in one of our unique gallery spaces. Chat with John Graydon Smith, Director and CEO, network with other business professionals and learn about The Museum's collection while enjoying hot coffee and a light breakfast. Don't miss your most important meal of the day! (continued next column)

RSVP to lauren.mccarroll@readingpublicmuseum.org or at 610-371-5850 x264. Free for Reading area business professionals with your company business card. Sponsored by Weidenhammer Systems Corporation.

Family-Friendly Activities

Family Events

"Sunday Family Fun-days"

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

From noon to 3 p.m., includes family tours, talks or demonstrations

January 1 - Museum closed for holiday

February 5 - *Knights in Shining Armor*

March 4 - *Andy Warhol*

Free to Members, cost of admission to Non-Members

"Final Fridays"

THE LAST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH

January 27 - check-in at 6:15 p.m. -

Cub Scout Sleepover

Museum tour, Planetarium Show, sleepover and

continental breakfast

Cost: \$35 per scout / \$20 per parent

For February & March, See Lecture Series



Our popular Arms and Armor Gallery is being renovated, with completion scheduled for February 2012. Don't miss it!

Subject to change — For more info and the latest updates, check www.readingpublicmuseum.org