MUSEUM ROAD

SPRING 2023

A publication of Reading Public Museum • Planetarium • Arboretum



READING PUBLIC MUSEUM

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The Robot Zoo

May 27 — September 4, 2023



Have you ever wondered how a fly walks on the ceiling, how a chameleon changes colors, or how a giant squid jets around in the ocean? Come learn about this and more at *The Robot Zoo* exhibition at The Museum this summer!

The Robot Zoo reveals the magic of nature as a master engineer. Eight robot animals and more than a dozen hands-on activities illustrate fascinating real-life characteristics.





The larger-than-life animated robots include a chameleon, a rhinoceros, a giant squid with 18-foot tentacles, and a platypus. Also featured are a house-fly with a 10-foot wingspan, a grasshopper, a bat, and a giraffe whose head and neck alone stretch 9 feet tall.

The machinery in the robot animals simulates the body parts of their real-life counterparts. In the robot animals, muscles become pistons, intestines become filtering pipes, and brains become computers.

Sensory activities include "Swat the Fly," a test of the visitor's reaction time (one-twelfth as fast as a house-fly's), and "Sticky Feet," where visitors wearing special hand and knee pads can try to stick like flies to a sloped surface. Triggering the "Tongue Gun" demonstrates how a chameleon shoots out its long, sticky-tipped tongue to reel in a meal.

Animation in the robots imitates real-life behaviors. The robot chameleon rocks back and forth, as it turns its head, looks around and fires its tongue at its insect prey. The front legs of the platypus swim in breaststroke style while the tail moves up and down. The tentacles of the giant squid grip a struggling fish, while the squid's beak-like mouth opens to reveal a spinning food grinder.

This exhibit comes to RPM from Evergreen Exhibitions and is based on the book *The Robot Zoo* which was conceived, edited and designed by Marshall Editions of London, England.

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Carlos Luna: Beyond the Surface

June 3 — September 10, 2023



El rapto de la Catalina, 2001, oil on canvas, 63 x 78 3/4 in.

One of the most dynamic voices in contemporary Latin-American art today, Carlos Luna (American, b. in Cuba, 1969) will be the feature of a monographic exhibition at the Reading Public Museum this summer. The exhibition will be on view in the Meinig Family and World Cultures Galleries on The Museum's First Floor from June 3 through September 10, 2023. The exhibition will feature nearly 30 works that range from the late 1990s through his most recent productions.

Born in Pinar del Río in rural western Cuba in 1969, Luna was raised in San Luis, known for its high quality cigars and tobacco plantations. He studied at the Instituto Superior de Arte in Havana and, seeking individual freedom, immigrated to Mexico in 1991, where he spent a decade in Puebla before arriving in Miami, Florida in 2002. During the past thirty years, the artist has formulated a unique visual language — a density of hybrid images — that consists of a magical blend of national identity, Caribbean folklore, Afro-Cuban traditions, visual and verbal puns, and personal familial memories.

The dazzling iconography of his paintings includes dancing Latin lovers, representations of Guajiro rural culture, symbolic animals such as the rooster, crocodile, horse, lion and elephant, and coffee and sewing machines from the domestic realm. Music, dancing, religion, and elements of the oppressive government of his childhood are also explored in his visually complex works. He builds up his compositions with multi-layered surfaces—bold outlines and intricate patterning—that contribute to the overall meaning and narrative of each work.

His debut exhibition in Reading features a group of Luna's large-scale paintings on canvas and wood, monumental traditional amate paper mixed media works, a selection of sculptures, and tapestries all featuring elements of iconic Cuban culture.

Luna's influences include the Cuban artist Wilfedo Lam, the seminal artistic movements Cubism and Surrealism, and important Mexican artists such as Jose Guadalupe Posado and Rufino Tamayo, among others. The artist's work explore themes that — although specific to him and his life experience — resonate universally: life, love, sexuality, freedom, and joy.



Dreamer, 2016, jacquard tapestry, 93 x 72 in

The artist has exhibited throughout the United States and Mexico, including solo exhibitions at The Bass Museum of Art, Miami, Florida; Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach, California; The American University Art Museum at The Katzen Art Center, Washington, DC; The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University, Miami, Florida; San Pedro Museo de Arte, Puebla, Mexico; and The Museum of Arts & Sciences, Daytona Beach, Florida.



BI, 2019, gouache & charcoal on amate paper, 35 1/2 x 64 1/2 in.



Carlos Luna

The Luther W. Brady Collection
July 8, 2023 — January 7, 2024



Dr. Luther W. Brady

Luther W. Brady of Philadelphia has been an extraordinary friend of the Reading Public Museum. His generosity has spanned more than two decades and his gift giving ranks him among The Museum's most devoted patrons. In celebration of his recent, landmark bequest of more than 100 works of art, RPM will host *The Luther Brady Collection* on view in the Jerome I. Marcus American Gallery and the Irvin and Lois Cohen Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art from July 8, 2023 through January 7, 2024.

Dr. Brady, a world-renowned radiation oncologist, was an avid supporter of the visual and performing arts. He served two terms on The Museum's board and was a member of RPM's Collections Committee. Dr. Brady was also an Emeritus Board Member of the Santa Fe Opera, served on the Board at The Textile Museum in Washington, DC, and was a member the Collections Committees at the Philadelphia Museum of Art — where he also endowed the Luther W. Brady Curator of Japanese Art — and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. His first gift to RPM came in 2002 and since that time, he has donated a large group of artworks ranging from ancient South- and Central-American pottery, to North American Indian objects, to modern and contemporary American and British painting and sculpture. In 2006, a gift of more than forty Pre-Columbian works was given as part of The Museum's renovation and reinstallation of the Latin American Gallery.

His true passion, however, was for modern and contemporary art, especially works by members of the Abstract Expressionist School, which emerged in New York in the 1940s and 50s, and their followers. The Brady gift transforms The Museum's collection of twentieth-century art in immeasurable ways. Paintings by Hans Hofmann, Robert Motherwell, Helen Frankenthaler, Adolph Gottlieb, Esteban Vicente, Friedel Dzubas, and Kenzo Okada will take center stage in the exhibition. Works by important American modernists Jules Olitski, Frank Stella, Louise Nevelson, George Segal, Larry Poons, and Nancy Graves will be explored. A smaller, but important, group of works by British artists includes examples by Henry Moore, Lynn Chadwick, Howard Hodgkin, and Antony Gormley. The wide-ranging exhibit also examines works by important Native American modernists Fritz Scholder and Kevin Red Star, and paintings by Paul Pletka, who heroicizes indigenous peoples in his work. Philadelphia-based artists, with whom he formed lasting friendships such as Liz Osborne, Thomas Chimes, Edna Andrade, Murray Dessner, Diane Burko, David Fertig, and Jimmy Leuders, among others, also form part of the focus of the current exhibition.

For more than a century, bequests such as Dr. Brady's have been instrumental to building RPM's permanent collection. Gifts have enriched our visitors' experiences and have helped establish The Museum as an important repository of historic and contemporary art and artefacts from across the globe. If you have questions about Planned Giving and Estate Planning, please contact RPM to preserve your legacy.



Dogs & Brews is Back

The Reading Public Museum is gearing up to host its Tenth Annual Dogs and Brews. Bring your furry friends (and family!) to the Stone Terrace Tent for an afternoon of craft brews, wine and spirits, and indulge in local eats while you peruse the booths of pet-friendly shops and businesses. To stay up-to-date on participating breweries, vendors, and food trucks, visit our website.

Reserve your tickets and tasting glass early by calling Michaela at 610-371-5850 x254. Tasting tickets include a tasting glass (while supplies last) and access to vendors exhibiting at the event. Designated driver tickets and under 21 tickets do not receive a glass. Cost: $45 per person, $80 per couple, $25 per designated driver or under 21.

Into the Limelight: The Art of Joseph A. Pecsenke
May 27 — September 4, 2023



Joseph A. Pecsenke (American, born in Hungary, 1942 – 1989), *Commedia dell'Arte* I-A, 1981, ink on paper, 25 5/8 x 19 1/2 inches, Gift, Paul Sobota, 1985.111.24.1.

Into the Limelight highlights over forty prints from RPM's permanent collection featuring scenes from the theater by Joseph A. Pecsenke (1942 – 1989). Pecsenke was a Hungarian American actor, director, musician, graphic designer, and printmaker.

After graduating from the Budapest Academy of Fine Arts, Pecsenke worked as an illustrator in Hungary before moving to New York in 1971. Eventually he moved to Sweden, where he stayed for the rest of his life.

Pecsenke was profoundly involved in the theater world. In addition to his work as an actor and set designer, Pecsenke directed opera performances all over the world. It was his work in the theater that inspired his series *Commedia dell'Arte* and *Opera Suite*, both of which are included in this exhibition.

The *Commedia dell'arte*, or "comedy of professional artists," is a form of theater performance that emerged in Italy in the 15th century and was popular across Europe through the 18th century. The *Commedia* contains set plotlines and recognizable stock characters, and performing the *Commedia* is regarded as an intricate art form. Pecsenke's *Opera Suite*, comprised of a series of lithographs illustrating a variety of operas, includes scenes from *Otello, Madame Butterfly, Faust,* and *La Boheme*. Pecsenke's colorful renderings portray actors mid-scene, often clad in ornate costumes and masks, in front of elaborate stage sets, capturing a moment of a dramatic performance.

Pecsenke's artwork has been exhibited all over the world, and is currently in the collections of the Metropolitan Opera, the Joffrey Ballet, the Folger Shakespeare Library, the New York Philharmonic, and Yale University. *Into the Limelight* will be on display in The Museum's Works on Paper Gallery from May 27 through September 4, 2023.

Letter from the Director



Paul G. Oxholm

Throughout my career I have always valued getting to know, and learn from, the people with whom I work. Nowhere has that been more true than at RPM. Each staff member contributes their understanding, experience, and insight for the success of The Museum and every "student." The wonderful thing is that every team member is both an educator and a student! They love learning and they take great pleasure in sharing what they know so that others can enjoy learning just as they do.

Maybe you've read this a thousand times, but the mission of the Reading Public Museum is to be a "dynamic center of lifelong learning." If you take a moment to read through the pages of this *Museum Road*, or better yet attend any of the many programs that we regularly offer, you'll discover exactly how well our staff fulfill this mission. And, they make it fun. Some in the industry call it "edu-tainment." Whether it is a Senior Series lecture, a class tour, or a child's birthday party, you are going to learn something new and you'll probably notice that the person sharing their knowledge with you loves doing so. That is the culture and spirit of the Reading Public Museum.

No one represented that spirit better than Robert W. F. Ciferri, a member of our facilities staff who recently passed away at the young age of 67 following a devastating cancer diagnosis. Bob had been a member of the staff of The Museum for more than 8 years after a successful and multifaceted career. Unless you were involved with the facilities team or the Arboretum Assistants, you may not have known Bob very well, but he embodied lifelong learning and patiently shared his knowledge with everyone who wanted to learn. He was a cherished member of our team and is greatly missed.

Bob's legacy lives on in all of The Museum staff and volunteers that he came in contact with, especially the 100+ Arboretum Assistants who benefitted weekly from his thoughtful guidance as they carefully tended to the plants and flowers throughout this spectacularly cared for 25-acre campus.

There is an old Buddhist saying, "When the student is ready, the teacher will appear." Bob was a lifelong student and teacher. Our staff, volunteers, and members have the privilege to be students when we visit this remarkable campus. Let's remember that we also have the opportunity to be outstanding teachers whenever a student is ready, just like Bob. Whether a student or a teacher, we all need to be spending more time at The Museum!

More Events

Slow Art Day
April 15 · 11am-3pm
Take a moment to look slowly, relax, and enjoy art as you participate in the global event Slow Art Day.

SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.

RPM's Celebration of Women
May 14 · 11am-5pm
Celebrate the special women in your life at The Museum on Mother's Day, May 14 with special activities and programming. Bring out your picnic blankets or chairs to enjoy a meal out in The Arboretum with your favorite women. Picnic lunches, provided by Special Occasions by Panevino, will be available for purchase as well.

Robot Zoo Member Preview
May 27 · 9-11am
Members will have exclusive access to this summer's new exhibit before the general public. Explore the world of animals and how they inspire robot mechanics in our newest temporary exhibit, *The Robot Zoo*. Crafts and activities will be available from 9:00-11:00am. While supplies last.

Registration required - visit www.readingpublicmuseum.org

Arboretum Plant Sale
May 28 · 9am
Join the Arboretum volunteers at the Greenhouse for their annual Arboretum Plant sale. Choose from an assortment of perennials and annuals. Cash and checks preferred.

Dinner Series
June 20 · 5:30pm
Join us for a culinary treat and learn more about *Carlos Luna: Beyond the Surface.*

Registration required - visit www.readingpublicmuseum.org. Sponsored by Stevens + Lee.

In the Neag Planetarium

SUNDAY SHOWS APRIL-JUNE
1pm - Magic Globe: A Story of the Seasons
2pm - The Zula Patrol: Under the Weather
3pm - Dream to Fly
4pm - 5000 Eyes: Mapping the Universe with DESI
5pm - The James Webb Space Telescope
6pm - Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity (Spanish-Language Version)

Weekday shows
2pm - The Zula Patrol: Under the Weather
3pm - Dream to Fly
4pm - 5000 Eyes: Mapping the Universe with DESI
5pm - The James Webb Space Telescope (WEDNESDAYS ONLY)

Floyd Final Fridays
April 28, May 26, June 30
7pm - Pink Floyd: Wish You Were Here
8pm - Pink Floyd: Dark Side of the Moon
9pm - Pink Floyd: The Wall
10:15pm - Pink Floyd: Dark Side of the Moon

What's new at The Museum? Easily bookmark us using the upper right hand corner on your browser for quick access to The Museum website and stay up-to-date on any pop-up programs or event changes.

visit: readingpublicmuseum.org

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 Neag Planetarium is FREE! Plus, there are even more benefits.

Please visit readingpublicmuseum.org and click on "Join and Support" for complete details and to join securely online.

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). Members receive 10% off every day!

Book a Group Visit
We're thrilled to welcome eager and attentive learners from Pre-K to Seniors on a daily basis. Group rates apply to 10 or more people. For more information or to book a group, contact wendy.koller@readingpublicmuseum.org.

Book Your Event
The Museum is home to Berks County's most treasured and distinctive wedding and event venues. Among our Fine Art Galleries, Neag Planetarium, and Stone Terrace Tent, we have a venue to accommodate every size and budget. For more information, please contact kara.seawell@readingpublicmuseum.org.

Museum Ambassadors
RPM Ambassadors will have the opportunity to assist in several departments including events, education, customer service and more! Contact Michaela at michaela.zaborowski@ readingpublicmuseum.org for more info.

Museum Address/Phone
500 Museum Rd., Reading, PA 19611
610.371.5850

Museum Hours
Daily: 11am to 5pm
For Holiday hours, please check our website.

Museum Admission
$10 Adult (18-64); $6 Seniors/Children/College Students (w/ID); Members and Children 3 and under are free.

Planetarium Hours
Sun. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6pm plus Weekday Shows at 2, 3, 4 & 5pm (Mon. – Fri. with some exceptions). Show Prices (for each show): $8 Adults (18-64); $6 Seniors/Children/College Students (w/ID); Members and Children 3 and under are free.

EXHIBIT CALENDAR

Holly Trostle Brigham: Mothers, Sisters, and Daughters
March 18—June 4, 2023

The Robot Zoo
May 27—September 4, 2023

Into the Limelight: The Art of Joseph A. Pecsenke
May 27—September 4, 2023

Carlos Luna: Beyond the Surface
June 3—September 10, 2023

Luther W. Brady
July 8, 2023—January 7, 2024

Voyage to the Deep
September 23, 2023—January 7, 2024

FAMILY PROGRAMMING

*Registration required. Contact Mary at 610.371.5850 x227 or email mary.johnson@readingpublicmuseum.org

Homeschool Days

10am-Noon

Join educators from The Museum for an exciting morning filled with special tours and hands-on projects that the whole family can enjoy! Programs are designed for elementary school age students (younger and older siblings welcome to participate).

4/12/23 – Radical Rainforest

4/26/23 – Wacky Weather

5/10/23 – Spy Science

5/24/23 – Epic Electricity

6/7/23 – Marvelous Machines

Registration is required.

+Deadline to register is the Monday prior to each program. Pricing: $15 for Members (includes 1 adult and 1 child), $5 for each additional adult or child. $20 for Non-Members (includes 1 adult and 1 child), $7 for each additional adult or child. Includes Museum Admission for the day of the program.

Full STEAM Ahead

Every other Monday, 9:30-11am

Explore a variety of STEAM topics while having fun at The Museum with your little beaker buddy. Each session, explore a new topic that combines both science and art activities. Program includes light refreshments for the toddlers.

4/3/23 – R is for Robot

4/17/23 – S is for Soaring

5/1/23 – T is for Turtle

5/15/23 – U is for Underground Animals

Registration is required.

+Deadline to register is the Thursday prior to each program. Pricing: $20 for Members (includes 1 adult and 1 child); $25 for Non-Members (includes 1 adult and 1 child); $5 for each additional adult or child. Includes Museum admission for the day of the program

S.T.E.M. Sunday

Join museum educators and Science Explorers® for science demonstrations, fascinating lectures, and STEM activity kits. STEM Sunday is a series of afternoon events fit for all ages. Each month we'll gather on the Stone Terrace in front of The Museum to discover a new topic with a STEM twist.

6/25/23

7/23/23

8/20/23

Visit website for pricing and details.

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ADULT PROGRAMS

*Reservations required. Contact Wendy at 610.371.5850 x223 or email wendy.koller@readingpublicmuseum.org

Senior Series • 1pm (NEW TIME!)

You are never too old to learn! Come to The Museum for this senior-friendly program. The program runs on the 4th Friday of the month unless otherwise noted. **All documentaries will be shown in The Neag Planetarium. Guests of all ages welcome.

Registration is required.

FREE for Members and FREE with Museum admission or a $5 donation to The Museum.

• 4/28/23 – Meet the Artist – Holly Trostle Brigham

• 5/26/23 – A Historic Look at the *Commedia dell'arte*

• No Program in June – See you in July!

Arboretum Education • 10am

Join us in the Arboretum for a variety of learning opportunities presented by Master Gardeners, avid horticulturists, and other industry specialists.

• 4/25/23 – "Getting the Most Out of Backyard Wildlife" presented by Brant Portner, Environmental Education Specialist Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, Pennsylvania Game Commission

• 5/23/23 – The Reading Public Museum Iris Garden – Presenter to be announced

• 6/27/23 – Emily Dickinson: Poet Gardener presented by Margaret Yevics

Registration is required.

FREE for Members and Arboretum Assistants and FREE with Museum admission or a $5 donation to The Museum.

Yoga Under the Stars

Tuesday Evenings • 5:30–6:30pm

Led by a certified instructor, these yoga sessions in The Neag Planetarium provide gentle yoga relaxation under the stars.

Registration is required.

Pricing per series is $30 for Museum Members and $48 for Non-Members. Register for both series and save — $50 Members; $80 Non-Members.

• Spring Series 2: April 18 - May 23, 2023

Bus Trips

Visit www.readingpublicmuseum.org for scheduled bus trips.

SCOUTS

*Reservations required. Contact Rebeka at 610.371.5850 x258 or email rebeka.birch@readingpublicmuseum.org

Girl Scout Days and Overnights at RPM!

4/2 – The Art of Comics – 9am-12pm (Junior/Cadette)

4/29 – Night at The Museum – 6-9pm (Cadette/Senior)

4/30 – Deep Space Adventure – 9am-12pm (Junior/Cadette/Senior/Ambassador)

Private programming is also available for all levels!

See website for additional details and programs.

Cub/Boy Scout Days and Overnights at RPM

4/19 – Art Explosion – 5-8pm (WEBELO)

5/18 – Earth Rocks! – 5-8pm (WEBELO)

Private programming is also available for all levels!

See website for additional details and programs.

FAMILY DAYS AND EVENTS

Reservations required. Online reservations ONLY

Easter at The Musuem

April 8 • 9-11am

Children ages 2 to 12 will have the opportunity to have their photo taken with the Easter Bunny, receive craft kits, and treats to take home, participate in a special Easter scavenger hunt, and of course, explore The Museum!

Keep your child learning while having fun this summer! Museum Discovery Camp is for children entering grades 1st – 5th in the fall of 2023 (unless otherwise specified). Camp days are from 9am – 4pm.

June 12 - August 18
Each week features a different theme. Visit the website to learn more about each week.

Pricing:
Member Early Bird register – March 1 – April 30 - $155.00/week/camper

Non-Member Early Bird register – April 1 – April 30 - $185.00/week/camper

Member Regular register – May 1 – Close - $180.00/week/camper

Non-Member Regular register – May 1 – Close - $205.00/week/camper

***All campers must be preregistered.**
Registration closes the Monday prior to the start of the camp week. All monies and completed forms must be submitted by that time or registration cannot be guaranteed.

Contact Rebeka Birch for details or to register at rebeka.birch@readingpublicmuseum.org or 610.371.5850 x258.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR ALL PROGRAMS.

For details on events and updates to the calendar, visit: readingpublicmuseum.org