

MUSEUM ROAD

WINTER 2024

A publication of the Reading Public Museum • Planetarium • Arboretum



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NATURE all around us

January 20 — May 12, 2024

Nature is thriving right under our noses in our cities and towns. Visitors will have the opportunity to learn about the wild plants and animals that share their communities in a new immersive exhibit, *Nature All Around Us*. The exhibit features everything from specimens to state-of-the-art digital integrations, including 3-D mapped projections, a virtual bicycle ride, digital periscopes, and multiple fun and challenging games for all ages. The exhibit is presented at RPM in partnership with Berks Nature, with different exhibition components on display at each site.

The exhibit also highlights the work of community scientists including Rebecca Ray, internationally recognized arachnid identifier. “*Nature All Around Us* asks visitors to see familiar places with new eyes and provides opportunities to learn and practice the skills of a naturalist,” said Lisa Thompson, exhibit developer and interpretive planner at the Natural History Museum of Utah. “We hope to challenge the notion that urban and natural environments are separate or at odds by showing the many ways they are inextricably linked, and to encourage the public to learn about planning, designing, and managing to nurture nature in their communities.”

In fact, *Nature All Around Us* was developed with the advice of more than 50 experts including urban foresters, conservation biologists, community garden organizers, a river restoration designer, and numerous scientists. The exhibition introduces visitors to the multiple rich ecosystems that thrive in communities throughout North America and empowers them to discover the amazing biodiversity all around. With an introduction to observation tools including iNaturalist, a community science app that helps individuals identify and document biodiversity, visitors will gain new skills, abilities and interest in community science—a legacy of *Nature All Around Us* long after the exhibition ends. This new exhibit is based on the idea that we can make our community an even better place in which to live by discovering, celebrating, and conserving the nature we find in our own neighborhoods, open spaces, and waterways.

Nature All Around Us was developed by the Natural History Museum of Utah, in collaboration with the Science Museum of Minnesota. Support for the national tour of *Nature All Around Us* was provided by My Good Fund and the Joanne L. Schrontz Family Foundation.

In partnership with Berks Nature



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The Penn Entertainment Foundation



Natural Histories: 400 Years of Scientific Illustration

January 20 – May 5, 2024

Explore scientific illustrations from the Rare Book collection of the American Museum of Natural History’s Library in this fully bilingual exhibition.

Illustration has played an integral role in scientific discovery for centuries. Images were created in pursuit of scientific knowledge and to accompany important scientific works in disciplines ranging from astronomy to zoology. Travel back in time as you explore 40 striking scientific illustrations spanning five centuries and try your hand at scientific illustration in *Natural Histories: 400 Years of Scientific Illustration*, a new exhibition displayed in The Museum’s World Cultures and Meinig Family Galleries.



Saucer-eyed cephalopod, published in *Historia animalium* (*Histories of the animals*) by Conrad Gessner (1516–1565).



Giraffes, published in *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* by John Gould (1804–1881) and (1820–1899).

The exhibition was inspired by the American Museum of Natural History publication, *Natural Histories: Extraordinary Rare Book Selections*, which highlights several gems from the American Museum of Natural History Library. It showcases reproductions of illustrations by celebrated artists Albrecht Dürer, Joseph Wolf, Moses Harris, and John Woodhouse Audubon, among others.

In the process of observing specimens, describing their structures, and working closely with illustrators or creating detailed illustrations themselves, naturalists including Charles Darwin, Marcus Elieser Bloch, and Maria Sibylla Merian cataloged new species, found similarities between species, and began to place them on the evolutionary tree. Illustrated books allowed the wider public to share in the excitement of discoveries, from Antarctica to the Amazon, from the largest life forms to the microscopic.

Today, scientists use many imaging technologies to conduct research: infrared photography, scanning electron microscopes, computed tomography (CT) scanners, and more. But, there is still a role for illustration. How else to depict animals that can’t be seen live, such as a fleshed-out dinosaur? Illustration is also used to clearly represent complex structures, color graduations, and other essential details, and is a true art form in its own right.

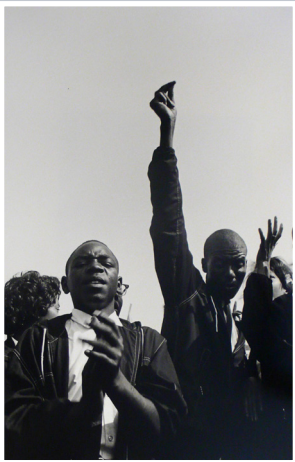
Natural Histories: 400 Years of Scientific Illustration is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (amnh.org).



Death's-head moth, published in *The Aurelian* by Moses Harris (1731?–1785?).

Danny Lyon: Memories of the Southern Civil Rights Movement

January 13 – May 12, 2024



Danny Lyon (American, born 1942), *March on Washington, 1963*, silver gelatin print. © Danny Lyon, New York & Magnum Photos, New York/ Courtesy Edwynn Houk Gallery, New York.

On display in The Museum’s Works on Paper Gallery, this engaging exhibition is comprised of over 50 photographs by Danny Lyon, taken during his time as staff photographer for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) from 1962 to 1964.

A giant of post-War documentary photography and film, Brooklyn native Danny Lyon helped define a mode of photojournalism in which the picture-maker is deeply and personally embedded in his subject matter. A self-taught photographer and a graduate of the University of Chicago, Lyon began his photographic career in the early 1960s as the first staff photographer for the SNCC, a national group of college students who joined together after the first sit-in by four African American college students at a North Carolina lunch counter. From 1963 to 1964, Lyon traveled the South and Mid-Atlantic regions documenting the Civil Rights Movement. The photographs were published in *The Movement*, a documentary book about the Southern Civil Rights Movement, and later in *Memories of the Southern*

Civil Rights Movement, Lyon’s own memoir of his years working for the SNCC.

©Danny Lyon/Magnum Photos, Courtesy of Etherton Gallery AZ
Exhibition is organized by art2art Circulating Exhibitions.



Danny Lyon (American, born 1942), *Entrance to the City Café, Selma, 1963*, silver gelatin print. © Danny Lyon, New York & Magnum Photos, New York/Courtesy Edwynn Houk Gallery, New York.



Painted Pages: Illuminated Manuscripts 13th to 18th Centuries installed at the Polk Museum of Art, Lakeland, FL, 2019. Photograph courtesy of the Polk Museum of Art.

Touring Exhibitions

The Museum fulfills its mission of educating, enlightening, and engaging current and future generations through objects of art, science, and civilization far beyond the borders of Berks County. Presently, RPM is proud to offer eight touring exhibitions for rental to museums across the country! Curated entirely from The Museum’s vast permanent collections, all touring shows debut here in Reading

to be enjoyed by our local community before they go on the road. Offering our exhibitions to other institutions after they have ended their run at RPM not only engages larger audiences with our collection geographically, but also adds longevity to the work that the Curatorial Department puts into producing high quality exhibitions. Since The Museum’s touring exhibition program began 11 years ago, we have earned our reputation in the industry as a valuable resource for a wide variety of quality exhibitions and exceptional customer service.

To date, RPM has sent 82 exhibitions to museums across the USA. In many cases, museums borrow a show that covers topics or artistic styles that are lacking in their own collections, thus exposing their audience to entirely new material. We are delighted to regularly receive positive feedback from institutions hundreds of miles away, telling us how much their audience enjoyed the exhibition and will be sad to see it leave. *American Impressionism: The Lure of the Artist’s Colony*, *Modern Masters*, *Across the Atlantic: American Impressionism through the French Lens*, and *Masters of American Photography* were all very popular until they were retired. Despite incredible demand, exhibitions can only travel for a limited time to prevent damage to the art.

As exhibitions retire, new ones are created to take their place. Current favorites include: *In Nature’s Studio: Two Centuries of American Landscape Painting*, *Painted Pages: Illuminated Manuscripts 13th – 18th Centuries*, *Floating Beauty: Women in the Art of Ukiyo-e*, and *Women Artists: Four Centuries of Creativity*. In 2024 and 2025, our touring exhibitions will proudly make appearances at institutions in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, and North Dakota!



In Nature’s Studio: Two Centuries of American Landscape Painting installed at the Hunter Museum of American Art, Chattanooga, TN, 2023. Photograph courtesy of the Hunter Museum of American Art.

Ayana Ross: From Whence You Came

February 17 – June 2, 2024



Ayana Ross (American, b.1977), *Writing In the Sand*, oil on panel, 48x36 inches.

The Reading Public Museum is pleased to present an engaging body of recent work by Atlanta-area contemporary figurative painter Ayana Ross (born 1977). Ross’s subjects are everyday figures, which are inspired by the events in her family’s own history in the American South. The artist captures poignant, sometimes nostalgic, moments that address broader issues of identity, race, family, and memory. Her large-scale compositions often include monumental figures and bold graphic fields of pattern and color. The exhibition at RPM will include more than a dozen of her recent canvases.

Ross was the recipient of the prestigious Bennett Prize (2021), which supports a stand-out contemporary female figurative painter. She earned a B.S. in Apparel Design and Merchandising from Georgia Southern University, an MA in Liberal Arts from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, and an MFA in Painting from the Savannah College of Art and Design. In addition to a career in the fashion industry, Ross also taught art in public schools and the private sector. She has exhibited her work at the Muskegon Museum of Art, the Arnot Museum of Art, and the Bo Bartlett Center.

Best Place to Book an Event – Seven Years Running!



For the seventh year, YOUR Museum has been named “Best Place to Book an Event” by Berks County Living, the region’s premier lifestyle magazine! We are truly grateful, and we share this win with our Members, donors, and loyal network of preferred caterers and creative partners. Thanks to their superb collaboration, RPM can call itself one of the most treasured and distinctive venues in Berks County. We hope you will continue to help us spread the word about private events at The Museum. If you are looking to plan an event of your own, please consider us! Our events team would love to meet you, take you on a complimentary tour, and help you bring



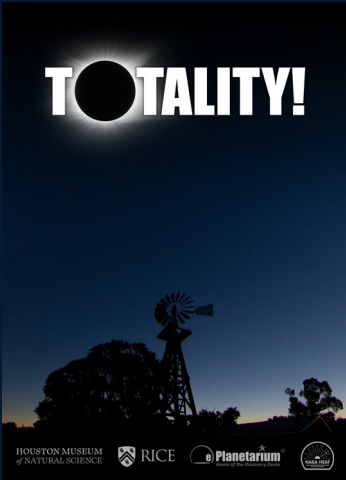
your once-in-a-lifetime celebration to life! To book, contact Kara at kara.seawell@readingpublicmuseum.org or 610.371.5850x234.

Weddings Open House

Recently engaged? Save the date for our 6th Annual Weddings Open House! You’re invited to join us on Saturday, February 3 from 10am - 2pm. Meet RPM’s event team, tour our ceremony and reception venues, and get inspired. Free to attend! Appointment is required. For more information or to reserve your timeslot call or email Braden Stone at 610.371.5850 x230; braden.stone@readingpublicmuseum.org.



Michelle Ernst Photography LLC



New Planetarium Show - **TOTALITY!**

A total eclipse will cross the US (traveling extremely close to our location in Pennsylvania) on April 8, 2024! A solar eclipse is a rare and beautiful phenomena, and in this new planetarium show, **TOTALITY!**, you will learn how eclipses happen, how to safely view one, and where precisely this eclipse will take place. Explore the fascinating phenomena of eclipses, from lunar to total solar. See how they occur and what happens when they do. The next solar eclipse to cross the US won’t be until 2045 so do not miss this one!

Show time: 25 minutes

For all audiences

4pm on Weekdays and Sundays January-April

6pm on Sundays (Spanish-language version)

Join us at The Neag Planetarium on Friday, February 23, 2024 at 1pm for a special screening of **TOTALITY!** including a further discussion and presentation focusing on other eclipse anomalies as part of the ongoing Museum Senior Series.



Golfin' in the Galleries

Get your putters ready! We are gearing up for the first RPM fundraising event of 2024: Golfin' in the Galleries. Gather a team of family, friends, or coworkers, and play an engaging round of 18-hole mini golf throughout our galleries. Enjoy the many exhibits while aiming for a hole-in-one! Guests will also enjoy a raffle with multiple prizes, and delicious food, beer and wine. This is a great event for team bonding, networking, and healthy competition. Participating is a great way to support The Museum and have fun! Golfin' in the Galleries is a 21+ event taking place on Friday, February 16, 2024, from 6-9pm. Registration is required. Register on our website at www.readingpublicmuseum.org/golfin or email Sydney Ernst

at sydney.ernst@readingpublicmuseum.org. If you or your business are interested in being an event sponsor, contact Sydney.

Putt Putt

Families and children will also have the opportunity to golf throughout our galleries! The mini golf course will remain in The Museum throughout the weekend from Saturday, February 17 through Monday, February 19 during our open hours, 11am-5pm. The price is \$5 per ball, and participants can enjoy playing on the same course that is set up for Golfin' in the Galleries. Registration is not required for putt-putt from Saturday to Monday.

Letter from the Director

Most of you are aware that the Reading School District holds title to the Reading Public Museum and that the Foundation for the Reading Public Museum was made responsible for managing and operating The Museum in 1991. With this letter I would like to celebrate our relationship and accomplishments.

In the spring of 2022, District Superintendent Dr. Jen Murray began holding meetings with Foundation Board Member Dr. Anna Weitz. After several productive sessions, the two organizations streamlined school trip administrative procedures and jointly issued a press release on their shared responsibilities regarding the Museum collection as a community treasure, "one in which both organizations take great pride."



Paul G. Oxholm

This year, the collaboration has truly blossomed. While The Museum relishes receiving students from each and every school district in Berks County, there is none that we work more closely with than Reading. This year we will host more than 22,000 students– a 30+% increase over our busiest year ever (2013), and a nearly 90% increase over 2022. Not surprisingly, more than half of those students come from Reading!

At the same time, The Foundation recently embarked on a major campaign to refresh and improve a number of infrastructural components. While more than \$1 million of capital investments were made in the Museum in 2023, the biggest single item, a new electrical transformer, was underwritten RSD for in excess of \$600,000. As the Foundation is a private 501 (c)(3) that relies heavily on donated funds in order to cover operational expenses, the importance of their support cannot be overestimated.

Key to this remarkable progress has been the continued leadership of Dr. Anna Weitz who is now Chair of the Foundation and the dedicated engagement of Mark Detterline who until recently served our community as both a District Board member and officer and as a Foundation Board and Executive Committee member. Just as with Dr. Murray, Dr. Weitz developed a relationship of trust, candor, and respect with Mr. Detterline which now offers a clear path for even greater future collaborations.

The District and the Foundation share a very different relationship than we did just two years ago, and it can't be celebrated enough. It's exciting to see how far we have come, and to consider how far we can go as The Museum continues to grow and thrive. Please read carefully through everything that is included in this issue of Museum Road – there is a lot! After that, I expect to see you at The Museum.....often!

Events

Family programming in RED
Adult programming in BLUE
Scout and Camp programming in GREEN
* = Requires registration/tickets

For more information visit our website or call the education department at 610-371-5850 x255.

YOGA in The Neag Planetarium

- Tuesdays | 5:30-6:30pm
- Spring Series 1 - January 9 to February 17
- Spring Series 2 - March 12 to April 16
- Spring Series 3 - May 7 to June 11

Dinner Series 2023-2024*

- February 29, 2024 | *Nature All Around Us*
- All dinners begin with cocktail hour at 5:30pm. Dinner starts at 6:30pm. Catering by Gracie's 21st Century Café.

Summer camp 2024*

Keep your child learning while having fun this summer! Museum Discovery Camp is for children entering grades 1st – 5th in the fall of 2024. Camp days are from 9am–4pm. Contact Rebeka Birch for details or to register at rebeka.birch@readingpublicmuseum.org or 610-371-5850 x258.

In the Neag Planetarium

Sunday Shows January-March

- 1pm - *Legends of the Night Sky: Orion*
- 2pm - *Jack Frost and the Skies of Winter*
- 3pm - *The Sun: Our Living Star*
- 4pm - *TOTALITY!*
- 5pm - *The James Webb Telescope Show*
- 6pm - *¡TOTALIDAD! (De idioma español)*

Weekday shows

- 2pm - *Jack Frost and the Skies of Winter*
- 3pm - *The Sun: Our Living Star*
- 4pm - *TOTALITY!*
- 5pm - *The James Webb Space Telescope Show (Wednesdays only)*

Floyd Final Fridays:

- 1/26, 2/23, 3/29
- 7pm - *Pink Floyd: Wish You Were Here*
- 8pm - *Pink Floyd: Dark Side of the Moon*
- 9pm - *Pink Floyd: The Wall*



More programs listed on back page.

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

What's new at The Museum? Easily bookmark our website using the upper right hand corner on your browser for quick access to The Museum's 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 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. Buy tickets at the Museum desk.

EXHIBIT CALENDAR

The Art of Collecting: The Luther W. Brady Bequest
Through January 7, 2024

Voyage to the Deep
Through January 7, 2024

Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood®: A Grr-iffic Exhibit
Through January 14, 2024

Danny Lyon: Memories of the Southern Civil Rights Movement
January 13—May 12, 2024

Natural Histories: 400 Years of Scientific Illustration
January 20—May 5, 2024

Nature All Around Us
January 20—May 12, 2024

Ayana Ross: From Whence You Came
February 17—June 2, 2024

Family programming in RED
Adult programming in BLUE
Scout and Camp programming in GREEN
* = Requires registration/tickets

For more information visit our website or call the education department at 610-371-5850 x255.

JANUARY

Voyage to the Deep Member Farewell*
• January 7 | 5-7pm

Cub Scout Workshop*
• January 13 | 9am-12pm – Tiger: Stories in Shapes Workshop

Homeschool Days*
• January 17 | 9-11am – Latin American Gallery (Mayan Mythology and Astronomy)
• January 31 | 9-11am – Nature All Around Us (Urban Forests)

Nature All Around Us Member Preview*
• January 20 | 9-11am

Girl Scout Workshops and Overnight*
• January 27 | 2-5pm – Bugs! Workshop
• January 27-28 | 6pm-8:30am – Animal Friends Overnight

FEBRUARY

Cub Scout Workshops and Overnight*
• February 2-3 | 6pm-8:30am – Wolf/Bear/WEBELO: Uncovering the Past Nova Award Overnight
• February 15 | 5-8pm – Bear: Super Science Workshop

Weddings Open House*
• February 3 | 10am-2pm
Details on page 5.

Sensory Inclusive Hours*
• February 8 | 5-6pm
• February 17 | 10-11am

Homeschool Days*
• February 14 | 9-11am – Natural Histories: 400 Years of Scientific Illustration
• February 28 | 9-11am – Nature All Around Us (Nature in the City)



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Golfin' in the Galleries*
• February 16 | 6-9pm
Details on page 6.

Putt-Putt in the Museum
• February 17-19 | 11am-5pm
Email
sydney.ernst@readingpublicmuseum.org
with any questions.

Subs and Science*
• February 19 | 12:30-2pm
Email
mary.johnson@readingpublicmuseum.org
with any questions.

Arboretum Education*
• February 20 | 10am
Tree Lore and Legend – presented by Rebeka Birch, Summer Camp and Scout Program Coordinator

Senior Series*
• February 23 | 1pm
60 minutes in the Dark with Mark: The Great Total Eclipse of 2024

Girl Scout Overnight*
• February 23-24 | 6pm-8:30am – Gardening by Moonlight Overnight

MARCH

Explore Nature and Art at the Reading Public Museum
• March 2 | 10am-2pm

Girl Scout Workshops*
• March 2 | 3-6pm – Become an Artist in Nature's Studio Workshop (with Berks Nature) Location: Reading Public Museum
• March 16 | 3-6pm – The Art of the Outdoors Workshop (with Berks Nature) Location: Berks Nature

Sensory Inclusive Hours*
• March 7 | 5-6pm

Cub Scout Workshop*
• March 9 | 9am-12pm – Tiger: My Tiger Jungle Workshop

Homeschool Days*
• March 13 | 9-11am - Ayana Ross: From Whence You Came (Women Artists)
• March 27 | 9-11am - Nature All Around Us (Yards and Gardens)

Explore Nature and Art at Berks Nature
• March 16 | 10am-2pm

Arboretum Education*
• March 19 | 10am
Fungus Among Us – presented by Mary Johnson, Manager of Stem Education

Senior Series*
• March 22 | 1pm
Documentary Screening: American Experience, Freedom Riders

Trivia Night in the Planetarium (21+)*
• March 22 | 6-9pm
Email
sydney.ernst@readingpublicmuseum.org
with any questions.

Subs and Science*
• March 28 | 12:30-2pm
Email
mary.johnson@readingpublicmuseum.org
with any questions.

Pictures with the Easter Bunny*
• March 30 | 9-11am

Easter Bunny Brunch*
• March 30 | 11am-1pm

Easter Weekend Festivities
• March 30 | 11am-5pm
• March 31 | 11am-5pm

Looking ahead: Save these dates in 2024 to attend our most popular annual events and programs!

Golfin' in the Galleries | 2/16 • Putt-Putt in the Galleries | 2/17-2/19 • Dinner Series | 2/29, 6/20, and 10/24
Pictures with the Easter Bunny | 3/30 • Dogs and Brews | 5/26
Summer Camp | weeks of 6/10 through 8/19, excluding the week of 7/1 • Night at the Museum | 9/21 • Trick or Treat | 10/26
Purchase Party 11/14 • Pictures with Santa 12/8

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