

Friends Newsletter

President's Letter, August 2023

Dear Friends,

What can the purpose be of art at this moment—this August of 2023? Escape from the heat? Take refuge in air conditioning? Whatever its purpose, art can take us anywhere, anytime. It can enable us to see the beauty of trees and leaves today, as well as those of the time of Notre Dame de Paris, in the 12th century. (I do enjoy Mia's halftone photograph of a tree branch, its leaves and the cathedral floating behind it.)

As members of Friends, we can celebrate the restoration of this great cathedral, as well as entertain thoughts of Des Moines, Latin America, galloping horses and events in St. Cloud. Such is our late summer mix! This newsletter brings you articles and commentary on all. Let us each consider this bounty and decide where and when to partake. The new year of Friends begins now!

Below is a schedule for happenings in August, September, and the beginning of October. Save the dates! Look out, too, to receive your fall Friends postcard. And, as always, should you have questions or comments, give us a call at 612-870-3045 or drop by the Friends Office.

Warm regards,
Boyd

Date	Event	Of note
Tuesday, August 15	Tickets are available for Friends members	Get first choice on tickets for the September Lecture and Friends Fall Luncheon
Tuesday, August 15	Deposits due for the Art & Architecture tour to Des Moines	
Thursday, September 14 at 11 AM	Friends September Lecture	Spotlight on Notre Dame de Paris
Thursday, September 14 at 12:30 PM	Friends Fall Luncheon	A Taste of France
Friday, September 15 at 10 AM	Friends Member Book Club	Jump into September with <i>Horse</i> by Geraldine Brooks
Sunday, September 17	ReVisión: Art in the Americas exhibition closes	Art Corner commentary by Maria Eggemeyer
Tuesday, September 26	Dinner in Saint Cloud	Saint Cloud Friends of the Institute welcome Katie Luber
Thursday, October 5 - Sunday, October 7	Art and Architecture Tour to Des Moines	

Spotlight on our September Lecture

Notre-Dame de Paris: Rebirth of an International Treasure
 Michel Picaud, President of the Friends of Notre-Dame de Paris
 Thursday, September 14, 11:00
 Pillsbury Auditorium

On April 15, 2019, Parisians watched in horror as Notre-Dame’s spire burst into flames. Their iconic Cathedral—arguably the most famous Gothic cathedral of the Middle Ages—was on fire! Indeed, a structural fire had broken out beneath the roof, and before the fire was extinguished, the spire had collapsed. Most of the cathedral’s roof was also destroyed and its upper walls severely damaged.

For over four years now, the Cathedral has been undergoing a massive restoration and rebuilding effort, supported by the international fundraising efforts of the Friends of Notre-Dame de Paris. (The President will be our speaker on September 14.)

The French have decided to reconstruct the spire and the roof in a way that resembles and respects its original design. “We want to restore this cathedral as it was built in the Middle Ages,” said Jean-Louis Georgelin, the retired French army general overseeing the construction.

Fast forward to today, and we find a link to Minnesota! When the French put out a call for artisan carpenters, Peter Hendrickson of Grand Marais answered the call. Hendrickson reflects that when pounding his mallet on a chisel he often finds himself thinking about his medieval counterparts who were “cutting the same joint almost 900 years ago.”

The rebuilt roof will be an exact replica of the 13th century wooden structure—right down to its iron staples. Indeed, archeologists discovered that the iron staples used in the original construction date back to 1163. This makes Notre-Dame the first Gothic cathedral to have used iron so extensively! For the roof, explains Minnesota carpenter Hendrickson, “we have exactly the same material—oak. We have the same tools, with the same axes that were used. We have the same know-how. And soon [the roof and spire] will return to its same place. It is a real resurrection!”

Join us at the Friends Lecture to hear more about the rebuilding of Notre-Dame and get an update on the process which has a tight deadline of reopening the cathedral by December 2024.

Friends members can get their tickets starting August 15.

A Taste of France Luncheon: September 14

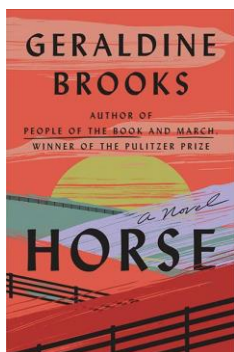
We are delighted to salute our September Lecture topic and honor our speaker with a celebration of all things French at the luncheon. Our “Taste of France” luncheon will include a choice of a Salade Niçoise (with Tuna) or a Vegetarian Salade Niçoise, together with fresh baguettes. Sweet French Macarons and Madeline Cookies will be served for dessert.

Our pre-lecture coffee buffet will feature miniature Beignets.

Make your luncheon reservations beginning August 15, and, Bon appétit!

P.S. Do you know the history of the expression “Bon appétit!?” **Send your ideas** to Newsletter Co-Chair Holly Hernandez hollybhernandez@gmail.com. Stay tuned for our next edition for the answer!

Jump into September with *Horse*, by Geraldine Brooks



The Friends Only Book Club begins again in September! We will continue to offer just one date per month for the time being. It's an opportunity to engage in a lively discussion

with fellow Friends, followed by a guided tour. Mark your calendar for Friday, September 15 at 10:00 am. A guided tour of art related to the book will run from 11:00 am to noon.

“A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history.” What better way to kick off this new season of the Friends Only Book Club than with *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks? This book promises to engage your mind and tantalize your senses.

Register at friends@artsmia.org or 612-870-3045.

This event is a Friends Member Event. Join the Friends today and attend the book club!

St. Cloud welcomes Katie Luber: September 26

The [St. Cloud Friends of the Minneapolis Institute of Art](#) will present “**Katie Luber: An insider’s glimpse of what’s new at Mia**” on September 26 at the St. Cloud Country Club.

Dr. Luber will talk about how she is guiding the museum toward the future, with an emphasis on access and connectivity. Growing audiences by gathering around the broadest representation of the human experience, Mia, under her direction, offers both inspiration and information, solace and discovery. Expanding its curatorial expertise into new areas, such as Latin American art, the museum asserts the value of encyclopedic collections while becoming more reflective of its community. (See the “Art Corner” article about the **ReVisión** exhibit included in this newsletter)

The presentation by Dr. Luber will be followed by a dinner in her honor. For more information about our sister organization, contact Amanda Falloon with [St. Cloud Friends of the Minneapolis Institute of Art](#) at falloon@mac.com.

Art and Architecture Trip October 2023

Did you know that our neighbors to the south can boast an impressive arts and architecture presence in their capitol city? Thanks to the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation, the city is establishing itself as a world-class destination for public art.

Save the dates: October 5 – 7! Join us for our fall 2023 Art and Architecture trip to Des Moines where we’ll do the following: (Be prepared for walking tours each day!)

- Take a walking tour of architecture designed by architects such as Mies van der Rohe, Helmut Jahn, Renzo Piano and David Chipperfield
- Visit the Des Moines Art Center with buildings designed by Eliel Saarinen, I.M. Pei and Richard Meier, housing the museum’s contemporary and modern art collection.
- Take a walking tour of the Pappajohn Sculpture Park

- Tour the historic Salisbury House & Garden
- Take a walking tour of the historic Owl's Head Neighborhood
- Spend an evening enjoying live music and explore art from over 200 artists at Mainframe Studios

The cost of the trip is \$750 per person for a double shared room. For a single room supplement an additional \$150. The trip can accommodate 28 travelers.

Note that half down on the final pricing will be due by August 15 and final payments due by September 15. Include the following note on your check: "Art and Architecture Trip Oct. 5-7" and address the checks to "Mia Friends of the Institute." Any questions, please call the Friends office at (612) 870-3245.

Mailing address:

Minneapolis Institute of Art
 Attn: Friends of the Institute
 2400 Third Avenue South
 Minneapolis MN 55404

Art Corner, commentary by Maria Eggemeyer

Having close ties to Guayaquil, Ecuador, I was excited to see an artwork by Ronny Quevedo on the cover of the Denver Museum of Art's catalog of the ReVisión exhibition, which is now on view at Mia until September 17. Quevedo was born in 1981 and lived in Guayaquil until eight years of age when his parents moved to the United States. A talented artist, Quevedo received his MFA from the Yale School of Art in 2013. His works have been exhibited at numerous galleries and museums including the Denver Museum of Art and The Whitney Museum of Art.

Ronny Quevedo masterfully executes his 2018 artwork "Los Desaparecidos" (or The Arbiter or Time) with a gold-leafed paper sewing pattern for a man's jacket overlaid on unstretched muslin. The artist then draws three-quarters of a circle over the sewing pattern not only to indicate several jacket sizes, but also to resemble a *quipú*.

A *quipú* is a coded message—almost a form of visual Morse code—consisting of knots tied on lengths of yarn made from llama fur. Historically, the Inca empire was composed of many conquered peoples of the Andean region all of whom spoke different languages. With no written language, Incan rulers used these *quipú* to communicate, govern, and unify the people.

In addition to this fascinating history lesson, Quevedo also gives us his own personal history in "Los Desaparecidos." With the sewing pattern, he shows us that his mother was a seamstress, and with the overlaid lines of the *quipú*, he refers to the periods in a soccer game. His father was a professional referee.

With the title “Los Desaparecidos” (The Disappeared), Quevedo takes the symbolism in this work a step further. It brings to mind the violence in countries where the military dictatorships could arrest countless political dissidents and others without *habeas corpus* to imprison them, and in some cases, make them disappear and never to be seen again.

ReVisión is an exhibit much like the confluence of rivers that has created the majestic Amazon river. It includes art from three thousand years ago to the present that comes together to shape the rich diversity that is Latin America today. Don't miss this unique opportunity to see so many works of art in one place and to learn more about our neighbors to the south.