

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SCHEDULE OF EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

April, May, June 2010

### Norton Simon Museum

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*NOTE: All information is subject to change. Please confirm before publishing.*

## SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

### OPENING

#### **Plants, Flowers and Fruits: Ellsworth Kelly Lithographs**

**April 23, 2010 - August 23, 2010**

The Norton Simon Museum presents an exhibition of twenty lithographs of botanical subjects by American artist Ellsworth Kelly (b. 1923). Though Kelly is best known for his large-scale, color field paintings, *Plants, Flowers and Fruits* showcases his equally compelling efforts in the print medium. Executed on paper like a drawing and then transferred to a lithography stone, these prints present simple black lines that delineate pears, cyclamen and magnolia petals, among other subjects. All of the specimens have been enlarged to allow for close scrutiny, but the artist has depicted them without any distracting scientific details. Part botanical renderings, part abstract drawings, Kelly's simplified, confident depictions of plants reflect how strongly the artist's minimalism is rooted in the natural world.

#### **Hiroshige: Visions of Japan**

**June 4, 2010—January 17, 2011**

The Norton Simon Museum presents *Hiroshige: Visions of Japan*, an exhibition of nearly 200 prints by Utagawa Hiroshige (Japanese, 1797–1858), one of the most celebrated and prolific artists of his time. Drawn from the Museum's extensive collection of Japanese woodblock-prints, the exhibition features works from Hiroshige's seminal series *Fifty-Three Stations of the Tōkaidō Road*, *One Hundred Famous Views of Edo* and *Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji*, among others. All together, the images offer visitors a glimpse into everyday life in 19th-century Japan, with its festivals, rituals, and sublime natural beauty.

### CLOSING

#### **Gaze: Portraiture after Ingres**

**October 30, 2009–April 5, 2010**

The Norton Simon Museum presents *Gaze: Portraiture after Ingres*. This exhibition of close to 150 paintings, sculpture and photographs from the Norton Simon collections traces artistic engagements with portraiture following Ingres's influence in the early to mid-19th century through to the present day, and examines why this genre appealed to some of the greatest avant-garde painters in the history of art. The exhibition includes works by Gustave Courbet, Edgar Degas, Vincent van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, and Andy Warhol, among many others.

#### **Divine Demons: Wrathful Deities of Buddhist Art**

**August 14, 2009—Extended through June 2010**

The Norton Simon Museum presents *Divine Demons: Wrathful Deities of Buddhist Art*, a striking exhibition of Buddhist artworks depicting fearsome gods. A stark contrast to the smiling Buddhas and serene bodhisattvas in the Museum's collection, these formidable figures—many of them baring fangs, drinking blood, or wearing garlands of severed heads—are embodiments of the “demonic divine” and serve as protectors and guardians of the Buddhist faith. Eighteen paintings, sculptures and ceremonial objects from the Museum's permanent collection are presented in this small but fascinating exhibition.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

Unless otherwise stated, all events are free with Museum admission, no reservations are necessary and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$4 for seniors and FREE for members, students with ID and everyone age 18 and under. **The first Friday of every month from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. is FREE for all visitors.**

### LECTURES

#### ***Sam Francis: The 1950s and the Basel Mural Paintings in Context***

**Debra Burchett-Lere, Director, Sam Francis Foundation**

**Saturday, April 10, 4:00 p.m.**

The Museum recently welcomed two important paintings into its collection: American Abstract Expressionist painter Sam Francis's *Basel Mural III, Fragments 1 and 2* were donated by the Sam Francis Foundation and now hang next to their companion *Basel Mural I*. Francis (1923–1994) began his exploration of painting and color in the San Francisco Bay Area in the late 1940s, and his artistic career developed during important stints in France, Switzerland, New York, Japan and Southern California. The Basel Mural paintings (1956–58) reflect Francis's interest in painting, literature and poetry as well as his philosophical and spiritual influences. Debra Burchett-Lere discusses how the Basel Mural paintings relate to Francis's life in the 1950s and provides a brief biography of the artist.

#### ***How to Look at Art Without Feeling Inferior***

**Milton Esterow, Editor and Publisher, ARTnews**

**Saturday, May 8, 4:00 p.m.**

Don't miss this opportunity to hear ARTnews Editor and Publisher Milton Esterow discuss the international art scene, the art market, arts journalism, art criticism and changes in taste and fashion. Following his 40-minute lecture, Esterow will invite questions from the audience.

#### ***Wagner, Cézanne and Early Modernist Painting in France***

**André Dombrowski, Assistant Professor, Department of the History of Art, University of Pennsylvania**

**Saturday, June 12, 4:00 p.m.**

In a lecture held in conjunction with Ring Festival LA, André Dombrowski addresses the popularization of Wagner's operas in France in the 1860s and 1870s, especially the aesthetic and political implications of his influence on French avant-garde painting, such as *Cézanne's Girl at the Piano (Overture to Tannhäuser)*, 1868, painted just before the Franco-Prussian War.

Also in conjunction with Ring Festival LA, the Norton Simon Museum presents "Form and Emotion in Rodin and Wagner," a self-guided tour of the eight sculptures by Auguste Rodin in the Museum's gardens. The tour draws interesting parallels between the two great 19th-century artists: Richard Wagner, the preeminent composer of Romantic music, and Rodin, the first sculptor of the modern age. Pick up a free brochure of the tour at the Museum's Information Desk.

***Hiroshige: Master of the Printed Landscape***

**Meher McArthur, Author and Independent Curator**

**Friday, June 25, 7:00 p.m.**

Japanese artist Utagawa Hiroshige (1797–1858) is best known for his woodblock prints depicting sites of great beauty and interest throughout Japan. A painter and designer of considerable skill, he traveled around Japan documenting natural landscapes, travelers along Japan's highways and life in the country's towns and villages. His many designs were translated into highly successful woodblock-printed landscapes. Hiroshige's captivating choice of subject matter, imaginative composition and ability to capture the climate of the various locales have ensured that his landscape prints are still appreciated and collected internationally today. Meher McArthur explores Hiroshige's role in the development of woodblock printing in Japan and presents images of the artist's works in the Norton Simon collections to explain his enduring appeal and importance in the history of art.

**MUSICAL PERFORMANCE**

***Cosmic Dance of Shiva: Art, Science and Dance Perspectives on Nataraja***

**Dr. Sharada Srinivasan, Associate Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, India**

**Friday, April 30, 7:00 p.m.**

The Chola bronze icons of Tamil Nadu, created during the 10th to 13th centuries, represent one of the world's great statuary traditions. The imagery of Nataraja in which Shiva performs the cosmic dance of destruction has drawn diverse responses, from celebrated scientists such as Carl Sagan to renowned artists such as Auguste Rodin. Dr. Sharada Srinivasan's studies of bronze casting traditions trace this imagery to the 8th- and 9th- century Pallava period. An archaeometallurgist, art historian and exponent of the classical south Indian temple dance tradition of Bharata Natyam, Dr. Srinivasan presents a scholarly illustrated lecture and dance performance that richly elucidates these ideas.

***Padre Antonio Soler: The Master of Early Music in Spain; His Influence on Later Spanish Composers***

**Two-Piano Music from Spain, Elena Martin and José Meliton**

**Friday, May 21, 7:00 p.m.**

Spanish pianists Elena Martin and José Meliton present a two-piano performance focusing on Padre Antonio Soler, the most prominent 18th-century Spanish composer. The duo performs four of his concertos for two keyboards, followed by works by Isaac Albéniz and Enrique Granados, two masters of 19th-century Spain. The pieces by these two composers show the influence of Soler in terms of compositional style.

**ADULT DRAWING CLASSES**

***A World of Figures***

Join artist Peter Zokosky in exploring how European and Asian art expresses the human form. Participants draw from paintings and sculptures as well as from live models. Each class provides the opportunity to learn fundamental drawing techniques in a variety of media and to explore different modes of seeing.

### ***India and Southeast Asia***

**Friday, June 4, 6:30–8:30 p.m.**

This class concentrates on line, the most elemental aspect of drawing, as participants practice observational skills with an emphasis on slowing down and noticing the many nuances in a form's contour. Strategies for suggesting the overlapping of shapes and achieving depth are explored. Participants draw from idealized figures of gods and goddesses represented in temple sculptures and miniature paintings.

### ***Japan***

**Friday, June 11, 6:30–8:30 p.m.**

This class investigates shape, pattern, rhythm and the interaction of organic and geometric forms through objective observation and subjective expression. Participants learn how complex shapes are composed of multiple simple shapes as they draw from a live model dressed in an antique kimono.

### ***Holland and Flanders***

**Friday, June 18, 6:30–8:30 p.m.**

This class introduces the concept of tone and the expressive interplay of light and dark, as participants replicate the techniques employed by Rembrandt and other 17th-century figure painters. Working with white and black pencils on mid-toned paper enables participants to achieve the dramatic tonal range of the Old Masters.

### ***France***

**Friday, June 25, 6:30–8:30 p.m.**

This class experiments with the ever-changing effects of color and light. Participants use colored pastel pencils to draw a live model *en plein air*, in the tradition of the Impressionists. As night descends upon the Sculpture Garden, participants explore methods for capturing the fleeting effects of light.

All levels of experience are welcome. Each class is \$20 and is limited to 18 participants. Materials are provided. Online registration is required. For further information, contact the Education Department at (626) 844-6980.

## **ADULT ART HISTORY CLASS**

### ***Wagner: Seen and Heard***

**Michael Hackett, Professor and Chair, Department of Theater, UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television**

**Saturday, May 15, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**

Richard Wagner was one of the great geniuses of the 19th century. His idea of the Gesamtkunstwerk integrated the various elements of music, poetry, dance and visual arts into a work of art. Wagner achieved this concept with absolute control: he wrote his own librettos, composed the music, oversaw set design and built a new opera house at Bayreuth to accommodate his sweeping vision. In conjunction with the Los Angeles Opera's historic staging of Wagner's 17-hour Ring cycle, Dr. Hackett focuses on the complex

relationship between what is “seen” and what is “heard” in the staging of a Wagnerian opera. Reference to artworks in the Norton Simon Museum’s collection enhances a discussion of mood, atmosphere, emotional landscape and mise-en-scène as it is created for the stage.

The fee of \$15 includes admission to the galleries on the day of the class. Walk-in registration begins at 10:15 a.m. For further information and registration, call the Education Department at (626) 844-6980.

## AFTERNOON SALONS

Join a Museum educator on a Sunday afternoon each month for a dynamic and edifying conversation. The concept of time is the focus for this spring’s *Afternoon Salons* series. The course is free with admission and limited to 20 participants. Register at the Information Desk 15 minutes prior to the program.

### *Interpreting Time*

**Sunday, April 11, 2:00–3:00 p.m.**

Examine the compositional strategies artists use to give visual form to stories, from Guariento di Arpo’s *Coronation of the Virgin Altarpiece*, 1344, to Giambologna’s *Rape of Proserpina (Rape of the Sabine Woman)*, c. 1579.

### *Experiencing the 4th Dimension*

**Sunday, May 2, 2:00–3:00 p.m.**

Investigate the of 20th-century notion of simultaneity in cubist paintings by Pablo Picasso and George Braque.

### *The Cycle of Life*

**Sunday, June 6, 2:00–3:00 p.m.**

Explore Hindu beliefs about the creation, preservation and destruction of the world through an exploration of Indian and Southeast Asian sculpture.

## GUIDED TOURS & SPOTLIGHT TALKS

Please note that space is limited. Sign up at the Information Desk 15 minutes prior to the tour.

### *The Portrait*

**Friday, April 2, 6:00–7:00 p.m. and 7:00–8:00 p.m.**

Probe portraiture to understand how identity is constructed, from Giovanni Bellini’s objective portrayal of a youth in *Portrait of Joerg Fugger*, 1474, to Pablo Picasso’s evocation of the fictional Spanish temptress in *Portrait of Jacqueline as Carmen*, 1962.

### *Norton Simon the Collector*

**Sunday, April 25, 1:00–2:00 p.m.**

Delve into stories of how Norton Simon acquired some of the world’s finest artworks.

### *Highlights of the Collection*

Friday, May 7, 6:00–7:00 p.m. and 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Enjoy an introductory tour of the Museum's treasured European and Asian masterpieces.

### *Narrative in Indian and Southeast Asian Art*

Sunday, May 30, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Explore the stories and legends associated with the Buddha and Hindu gods and goddesses through sculpture and painting from Asia's many cultures.

### *Picturing the Landscape*

Friday, June 4, 6:00–7:00 p.m. and 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Observe the pictorial strategies artists employed to depict the landscape in European paintings and Japanese woodblock prints.

### *The Intersection of Art and Science*

Sunday, June 27, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Investigate the relationship between the visual arts and science, with a focus on the Renaissance, the Age of Enlightenment and the technological innovations of the 19th and 20th centuries.

### SPOTLIGHT TALKS

Join a Museum educator on Saturdays at 1:30 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. for a focused 20-minute discussion of artwork and exhibitions.

April 3: Peter Paul Rubens's *The Holy Women at the Sepulchre*, c. 1611–14

April 10: *Indra*, Nepal, 13th century

April 17: Pierre-Auguste Renoir's *The Pont des Arts, Paris*, 1867–68

April 24: Ellsworth Kelly's *Red Orange White Green Blue*, 1968

May 1: Sculpture Garden

May 8: Guido Reni's *Saint Cecilia*, 1606

May 15: Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot's *Site in Italy*, 1839

May 22: Quiringh Gerritsz. van Brekelenkam's *Shoemaker's Shop*, c. 1660

May 29: Francisco de Goya y Lucientes's *Martin Miguel de Goicoechea*, 1805

June 5: Isamu Noguchi's *The White Gunas (Abstract Sculpture)*, 1946

June 12: *Form and Emotion in Rodin and Wagner*

June 19: Giovanni Battista Gaulli, also known as Baciccio, *Saint Joseph and the Infant Christ*, c. 1670–85

June 26: *Hiroshige: Visions of Japan*

## FAMILY EVENTS

### FAMILY FESTIVAL

*Don't Be Afraid! It's Just Wagnerian Opera...and Art!*

**Saturday, May 22, 1:00–2:00 p.m.**

Join internationally acclaimed mezzo-soprano Suzanna Guzman for an afternoon of epic proportions as she performs “music-dramas” by the 19th-century German composer Richard Wagner. Be dazzled as Ms. Guzman sings Wagner’s awe-inspiring music and links the composer’s stirring compositions with artworks in the Norton Simon Museum’s collections. You will be transported to another world by this astonishing collaboration of powerful music and great art.

### FAMILY DAY

*A Trip to Japan*

**Saturday, June 19, 1:00–2:30 p.m.**

Explore views of nature in the exhibition *Hiroshige: Visions of Japan*, and then create a miniature Japanese garden as a reminder of your visit to the Land of the Rising Sun.

### FAMILY ART NIGHTS

*Chardin and Guercino: Come, Sit, Down, Stay*

**Friday, April 9, 6:30–7:30 p.m.**

Be on the lookout for dogs of all kinds depicted in paintings, and then draw the breed you like the most, nametag and all.

*Rivera: Nature's Bounty*

**Friday, May 14, 6:30–7:30 p.m.**

Examine the colorful shapes in Diego Rivera’s *The Flower Vendor (Girl with Lilies)*, 1941, and then construct a collage with flowers, leaves and more.

*Rodin: Powerful Forms*

**Friday, June 11, 6:30–7:30 p.m.**

Stroll around the outdoor sculptures by Rodin, and then follow the artist’s path by practicing the motto of his career—draw, draw, draw.

### STORIES IN THE AFTERNOON

*Explore the Earth*

**Sunday, April 11, 2:00–3:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, April 25, 2:00–3:00 p.m.**

Listen to tales about our home planet in honor of Earth Day as you make a collage with recycled materials under the Moreton Bay fig tree in the Sculpture Garden (weather permitting).

### ***The Artist's Toolbox***

**Sunday, May 9, 2:00–3:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 23, 2:00–3:00 p.m.**

Hear stories about how artists use color, line, shape and more to make art as you experiment with the elements of art in front of Sam Francis's *Basel Mural I*, 1956–58.

### ***Happy Birthday to You, Paul Gauguin!***

**Sunday, June 13, 2:00–3:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, June 27, 2:00–3:00 p.m.**

Learn about the incredible life and art of French painter Paul Gauguin through books as you celebrate his June birthday by creating colorful drawings in front of his painting *Tahitian Woman and Boy*, 1899.

## **ONCE UPON A TIME**

### ***Mo Smells Green: A Scentsational Journey***

**Saturday, April 17, 2:00–3:30 p.m.**

Have you ever wondered what red smells like? Or yellow? What about blue? Join an adventurous dog named Mo on a scent-filled journey as he discovers the beauty and wonderment of the color green through his nose. *Mo Smells Green*, poetically penned by Margaret Hyde, invites us to use our senses as we follow this special canine on his hike through verdant bouquets of fresh mint, grassy meadows and more. In celebration of Earth Day, his eco-friendly “tail” inspires families to think about the relationship of color and the senses as they explore the garden on mini-tours with the author and Museum educators. An interactive workshop follows in which families create multi-sensory collages.

## **TEEN ARTS ACADEMY**

### ***Valkyries on Video***

**Saturday, May 1, 1:00–4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 2, 1:00–4:00 p.m.**

Asking the question, “How has Wagner’s Ring cycle influenced popular culture?” performance art group My Barbarian leads teens in a workshop about music videos as “total works of art” (known as Gesamtkunstwerk in German)—contemporary examples of the combination of song, costume, dance, theater and filmmaking. After a participatory seminar on Wagner’s operas, the history of the music video and contemporary examples of the form, the group guides teens through the production of an original music video shot at the Norton Simon Museum.

The course is free and limited to 18 participants. All materials are provided. Online registration is required. For further information, contact the Education Department at (626) 844-6980.

## GENERAL MUSEUM INFORMATION

- LOCATION:** 411 West Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena, California 91105  
Located on the corner of Orange Grove and Colorado Boulevards at the intersection of the Foothill 210 and Ventura 134 freeways. Parking is free.
- HOURS:** Open every day except Tuesday, from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Friday.
- ADMISSION:** \$8.00 for adults; \$4.00 for seniors; free for Museum members, students with ID, and patrons 18 and under. **The first Friday of every month from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. is free for all visitors.**
- CONTACT:** Call (626) 449-6840 or visit [www.nortonsimon.org](http://www.nortonsimon.org).

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