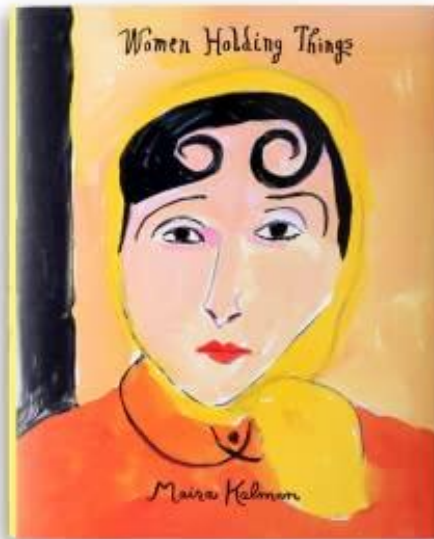


# MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ST. PETE

THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG (MFA) WELCOMES BEST-SELLING ILLUSTRATOR, HUMORIST, AND CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR MAIRA KALMAN FOR A LIVELY PRESENTATION AND CONVERSATION WITH *NEW YORK TIMES* JOURNALIST BOB MORRIS.

*This special event and book signing will be held at the MFA on Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 6 pm*



**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (January XX, 2023)** – [The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg](#) (MFA) is pleased to announce a new series, *In Conversation*, that will showcase various artists, authors, thinkers, and creators in conversation with each other. These casual conversations will surprise and delight the community and offer an opportunity to delve into current issues, best-selling books, and other topics of interest. The first of these talks will feature [Maira Kalman in Conversation with Bob Morris](#). This event will take place on Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg.

In these precarious times, it is often women who do the work of holding things together – home, family community, memories, love – while holding the hostile intrusions of the world at bay. In the midst of the pandemic, internationally acclaimed artist, designer, and bestselling author Maira Kalman addressed what she was seeing and feeling with a series of intimate, heartfelt drawings.

The result is her current book, *Women Holding Things*. In it, she employs humor and an eye for detail to show the countless things women hold, from the mundane – a cup, a whisk, a chicken, a hat—to the abstract—dreams and disappointments, regret and love. Virginia Woolf holds herself together. Louise Bourgeois holds the wolves at bay. Kalman's grandmother holds the weight of the world on her shoulders.

Kalman, who has illustrated over a dozen *New Yorker* covers, will discuss all this and more in her far reaching informal conversation with Morris, including her love of walking, reading obituaries, dogs, New York City, Alice B. Toklas, and the White House recipe for lemon cake.

Her books include *The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White, *The Principles of Uncertainty*, *Beloved Dog*, *And The Pursuit of Happiness*, *My Favorite Things*, and *Max in Hollywood*, which is one of her many treasured books for children. Her quirky *Sara Berman's Closet*, about her mother and made in collaboration with her son, Alex, was installed in 2017 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

In addition to her books, Kalman's quirky and playful watches, clocks (one a rubber ball alarm clock you can throw across the room), accessories, and paperweights have been featured at the Museum of Modern Art store. She lives in New York City, where she recently designed the theater curtain for David Byrne's *American Utopia on Broadway* and curated a 2014 show for the Smithsonian's Cooper Hewitt Museum. In 2011 The Jewish Museum featured her in a career-long retrospective.

"It is such an honor to have the extraordinarily witty and wise Maira Kalman join us for what is sure to be an entertaining and enlightening conversation," says Anne-Marie Russell, Interim Executive Director at the MFA. "Together with the exuberant Bob Morris, Kalman will share a little slice of her life with our community for a truly unforgettable evening."

Bob Morris is a frequent *New York Times* and *Town and Country* contributor and the author of several books, including *Assisted Loving: True Tales of Double Dating With My Dad* and *Bobby Wonderful*. He will be in conversation with several authors at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, this season.

Maira Kalman In Conversation With Bob Morris

Thursday, February 9, 2023

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg

255 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Free for MFA members; \$20 for not-yet members

Copies of *Women Holding Things* will be available for purchase and signing

[mfastpete.org/event/maira-kalman](https://mfastpete.org/event/maira-kalman)

## IMAGES

Maira Kalman in her studio. Photo by Kimisa H. Courtesy of Maira Kalman

*Women Holding Things*, Maira Kalman

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## ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

The MFA at 255 Beach Drive NE is one of the largest encyclopedic art museums in Florida. The collection includes works of art from ancient times to the present day and from around the world, including ancient Greek and Roman, Egyptian, Asian, African, pre-Columbian, Native American, European, American, and contemporary art. The photography collection is one of the largest and finest in the Southeast. For more information, please visit [mfastpete.org](https://mfastpete.org) and follow @mfastpete on social media.

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