

# MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ST. PETE

THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG (MFA) ANNOUNCES NEW WINTER-SPRING PROGRAMMING LINEUP WITH IMPRESSIVE ROSTER OF DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS AND DYNAMIC TOPICS

*Award-winning journalists, best-selling authors, renowned artists, art historians, and art critics convene at the Museum of Fine Arts for engaging and enlightening community programs.*



**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (February 7, 2023)** – [The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg](#) (MFA), is thrilled to announce the Winter-Spring season of educational programs featuring a stellar lineup of engaging, inspiring, and entertaining speakers. We introduce several new series this season, including ***In Conversation***, ***The Story of Art***, ***Museum Studies Institute***, ***Art Now and By Design***. Each program will allow audiences to delve deeper into the MFA Collection, garner different perspectives from experts, and reflect on how current issues impact the art museum space, and each of our lives.

All programs will take place at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg in the Marly Room, on Thursday evenings or weekends.

"We are thrilled and honored to welcome these luminaries from the global world of art and culture to the MFA" said Anne-Marie Russell, Interim Executive Director. "Joining our own experts, the world-renowned and respected MFA curatorial team, we will spark conversation and stimulate curiosity in the context of an encyclopedic art museum."

The diverse offering of new programs will feature distinguished speakers and compelling topics. The lineup for the Winter/Spring season includes the following:

### ***The Story of Art***

This series will focus on the story of human history, one that is continually being retold as we discover new things and look afresh at the familiar. The series will kick off on February 16 as we examine some of the earliest known examples of art in the MFA Collection. Join MFA curators on a journey to learn more about our collection, contextualized with other objects from around the world, as we take a grand tour through the story of art.

- ***The Grand Narrative***  
Interim Executive Director Anne-Marie Russell  
Thursday, February 16, 2023, from 6–7 pm
- ***Art Until Rome: 2700 B.C.–A.D. 300***  
Senior Curator of Ancient Art Dr. Michael Bennett  
Thursday, February 23, 2023, from 6–7 pm
- ***Searching for the Middle Ages: 1000–1500***  
Senior Curator of Collections & Exhibitions Dr. Stanton Thomas  
Thursday, March 9, 2023, from 6–7 pm
- ***Crossing Boundaries: 1500–1850***  
Associate Curator Erin Wilson  
Thursday, April 6, 2023, from 6–7 pm
- ***When Modern Got Real: 1850–1950***  
Senior Curator of Collections & Exhibitions Dr. Stanton Thomas  
Thursday, April 13, 2023, from 6–7 pm
- ***Fixing an Image: Photography***  
Senior Curator of Photography Dr. Jane Aspinwall  
Thursday, April 20, 2023, from 6–7 pm
- ***Art Now 1950–Today***  
Curator of Contemporary Art Katherine Pill  
Thursday, May 4, 2023, from 6–7 pm

### ***Museum Studies Institute***

The Museum Studies Institute is the MFA St. Pete's internal "think tank" that encompasses all of the intellectual and creative imaginings generated from, and orbiting around, an encyclopedic art museum. Art museums preserve things—art objects that represent the highest aspirations of human kind—in perpetuity. Yet we do so amid the reality of a complex and ever-changing world. Lectures by renowned experts on the history of art museums, conversations on engaging topics, symposia examining current challenges—from climate change to inclusivity to new media—allow us to open up our internal discussions to engage our community in the conversation.

- **The Encyclopedic Museum**  
**Dr. Lowery Stokes Sims**  
**Thursday, March 2, 2023, from 6–7 pm**

*Join Dr. Sims, one of the most renowned art historians/curators of our day, as she recounts a life in art museums, beginning with her nearly three decade tenure at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.*

**Lowery Stokes Sims** is a specialist in modern and contemporary art, craft and design and is known for her particular interest in creating a diverse and inclusive global art world. Sims served on the education and curatorial staff of The Metropolitan Museum of Art (1972-1999) and as executive director, president and adjunct curator at The Studio Museum in Harlem (2000-2007). She retired as Curator Emerita from the Museum of Arts and Design in 2015, and has since served as a guest curator for exhibitions at countless museums around the country. She was the 2018 Kurt Varnedoe Visiting Professor at the Institute of Fine Arts, Adjunct Professor at the IFA in 2019 and 2020, and the 2021-22 Kress Beinecke Professor at The Center, National Gallery of Art. She was a founding board member of ArtTable, the organization that promotes networking for women in the art world, and was recently elected as an honorary fellow of the American Craft Council.

- **Women Build Museums**  
**Dr. Paul Ivey**  
**Sunday, April 16, 2023, from 11 am–12 pm**

Dr. Paul Ivey, a renowned expert on theological architecture and institutional theory, will present a fascinating talk exploring the hidden histories behind many of the most well-known art museums. At a time when women were not permitted to hold positions of power in the public sphere, they were quietly building some of the most important institutions in the country.

### **Art Now**

These programs feature a wide range of people who comprise the ecosystem of the global contemporary art world—artists, thinkers, curators, writers, critics, collectors, visionaries—to inspire audiences and to connect our local community to the world, and to expose global luminaries to the cultural riches and local talents of the Tampa Bay area.

- **Artist Talk | Christian Sampson**  
**Saturday, March 18, 11 am–12 pm**  
Christian Sampson is a multimedia artist whose practice is anchored largely by philosophies related to the Light and Space movement that originated in California in the 1960s, particularly ideas of ephemerality and optical perception. Join artist Christian Sampson and Curator of Contemporary Art Katherine Pill to learn more about his upcoming four-part installation series at the MFA, *Tempus volat, hora fugit*, which translates from Latin to “time flies, hours flee.”
- **Art is Life**  
**Jerry Saltz**  
**Saturday, April 1, 2023, from 11 am–12 pm**  
The MFA is pleased to welcome Jerry Saltz, Pulitzer Prize winner and senior art critic at *New York Magazine*, for an engaging talk about art, artists, and his new book, *Art is Life*. Saltz has been one of the most influential writers about art and artists for more than a quarter of a century. In his new book, *Art is Life*, Saltz draws on two decades of work to offer a real-time survey of contemporary art as a barometer of our times.
- **Artist Talk**  
**Odili Donald Odita**  
**Saturday, April 22, 2023, from 11 am–12 pm**  
Odili Donald Odita was born in Enugu, Nigeria and lives and works in Philadelphia, where he is Professor in Painting, Drawing & Sculpture at the Tyler School of Art at Temple University. His abstract—and often site-responsive—paintings, explore the power of color in an emotional, historical and socio-political context.

### **In Conversation**

This lively series will showcase various artists, thinkers, and creatives in conversation with each other, often around the debut of a new book or project. 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.

- **Maira Kalman & Bob Morris**

**Thursday, February 9, 2023, from 6–7 pm**

Join best-selling illustrator, humorist, and author Maira Kalman *in conversation* with *New York Times* journalist Bob Morris. After the program, there will also be a book signing for Kalman's newest book, *Women Holding Things*, as well as hard to find copies of her perennial favorites like her illustrated version of Strunk & White's *The Elements of Style*.

- **Billy Collins & Bob Morris**

**Thursday, March 23, 2023, from 6–7 pm**

The next talk in our In Conversation series is an engaging discussion between former United States Poet Laureate and *New York Times* best-selling author Billy Collins and *New York Times* journalist and author Bob Morris. The two will talk about Collins's latest book, *Musical Tables*, and his distinct ability to connect with readers.

### **Picture of Health**

*Picture of Health* is a multifaceted program examining integrated concepts of various concepts of health across space and time, using our collection as a point of departure. The program cultivates an integrated exploration of health—cognitive, physical, physiological, emotional, civic, intellectual and spiritual with the goal of fostering wellbeing in our community.

- **Why We Sing**

**Bob Morris & Jon Arterton**

**Saturday, March 25, 2023, from 1–2 pm**

Why do we sing? To comfort ourselves and our loved ones? To seduce? To heal? To unite groups and inspire revolutions? Join author and *New York Times* journalist Bob Morris and One City Chorus Director Jon Arterton as they discuss collaboration, community, personal expression, the fear of singing, and why it's okay to sing even when you can't always hit the right notes. Chorus members will sing, audience participation will be encouraged, and voices and spirits will be lifted.

- **Still Striking: Creativity & Aging**

**Dr. Doug Dreishpoon**

**Saturday, April 29, 2023, from 11 am–12 pm**

How does creativity accommodate the changes that come as we age? For artists (painters, sculptors, musicians, poets, dancers), what are the benefits of growing old, when your body and mind begin to occupy alternate spaces? How does one adapt to these changes by adjusting methods and expectations? How does one's place in the cycle of life affect what one can do and how one does it? How does a creative individual—in a word—persist? Dreishpoon's series on Creativity & Aging is another opportunity to revisit what has become an expanding interdisciplinary study.

### **By Design**

We sometimes take for granted that everything around us, if not part of nature, has been “designed,” from the phone in your hand to the road you drive on to the workspace you may spend a third of your life in. The By Design series will look at the world around us and the impact design has on the way we live.

- **Office Space**

**Florian Idenburg and Aaron Betsky**

**Sunday, March 26, 2023, from 2–3 pm**

Most people today spend a third of their lives sleeping, a third of their lives living, and a third of their lives working. Our work environments significantly impact our lives. For centuries, designers, philosophers, and management experts have debated how best to design our workspaces. The recent pandemic has also considerably shaped our ideas about how to work. In his new book, *The Office of Good Intentions: Human(s) Work* architect Florian Idenburg examines this history and offers some design thoughts of his own. Idenburg is an internationally recognized Dutch architect and founder, along with Jing Lui, of SO-IL, a firm globally renowned for its art museum designs and innovative approaches to living. A critic of art, architecture, and design, Aaron Betsky is the author of

over 20 books on those subjects, including *Fifty Lessons to Learn* from Frank Lloyd Wright (2021) and the forthcoming books *The Monster Leviathan: Anarchitecture*, *Re-Imagining Buildings* and *Re:Assemble*. Betsky recently reviewed Idenburg's book, and the two will continue the conversation in this captivating program at the MFA.

To learn more about each of these programs, visit <https://mfastpete.org/programs/adult-programs/>

## IMAGES

*From left to right, top to bottom*

Dr. Lowery Stokes Sims (Photo © Grace Roselli); Dr. Paul Eli Ivey (Photo © Dr. Paul Eli Ivey); Odili Donald Odita (Photo © Jide Alakija); Billy Collins (Photo © Bill Hayes); Doug Dreishpoon (Photo © Dr. Doug Dreishpoon); Aaron Betsky (Photo © Aaron Betsky); Florian Idenburg (Photo © Lelanie Foster); Jerry Saltz (Photo © Celeste Sloman); Maira Kalman (Photo © Jeffrey MacMillan); Bob Morris (Photo © Bob Morris)

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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.

## MEDIA CONTACT

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