

# La Muse

## DOCENT DATES

**December 6**  
Melinda Gandara, *Portrait of Mexico Today*

**December 11**  
Holiday Party 4—6 (see p 2)

**January 17**  
Keith Mayerson, *Someday we'll find it, the Rainbow Connection, the lovers, the dreamers and me.*

**January 22**  
Book Club 10:30 FRC

**January 31**  
The Broad and MOCA

**February 7**

**February 21**

**March 6**

**March 20**

**April 14-18**  
Docent D.C Trip



Keith Mayerson has been entralling us for over 30 years with his contemporized Pop art dream images, and in our Museum visitors are returning with friends and children to view his 2023 *Someday we'll find it, the Rainbow Connection, the lovers, the dreamers and me.*

His *Green Boy* echoes Gainsborough's 1770 *Blue Boy*, reinventing the elegant boy as a jaunty Kermit the Frog, eliciting our delight and *presence* in a new moment: *Green Boy*, 2021, oil on canvas. Submitted by Ricki Morse



Greetings to all,

As we approach the holidays and end of 2023, I thank you all—docents, Provisionals and our fabulous Education Department, for your generous gift of time and commitment to excellence. While this is the end of our calendar year, keep in mind the amended by-laws extension of the service year to June 30th. So those of you who are touring this summer will still be reporting public and research hours to Mary Ellen Alden.

Thanks to our Education Department, lectures so far have been enriching, and we're not done yet—we still have the highly anticipated December 6th lecture by Melinda Gandara who will speak on our "Portrait of Mexico Today" mural. Melinda always brings fascinating insights that help boost our tours of this mural, a very important resource, especially for students.

2024 looks no less exciting and includes; "The Light of Line: Drawings and Prints by Henri Matisse (2/4-6/2) and "Janna Ireland: True Story Index (2/11-6/2).

We have wholeheartedly welcomed new Director, Amada Cruz Perez, who has already shown herself to be open, forward thinking and a strong leader. I can't wait to see what she brings to the Museum. If you missed her address on 11/1, check it out on our docent website.

The future looks bright for our council, thanks to you!

And to all, wishing you  
Happy, and Healthy Holidays,  
Teda



Teda Pilcher  
Docent Council  
President

From our **Vice President**

*Pattie Firestone*



**Mark your calendars!**

**Monday December 11, 2023 – (\*note change in time and venue)**

**Holiday Party from 4-6pm\* at Ridley-Tree Education Center at McCormick House\* - 1600 Santa Barbara Street**

All docents with last names A-L will bring SAVORY and all docents with last names M-Z will bring SWEETS for 8-10 people.

Please Sign up for Set-Up, Clean during event or Clean-Up with me directly [Pattie.Firestone@gmail.com](mailto:Pattie.Firestone@gmail.com) or on Wednesday Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at the Docent Council Meeting.



**January 31 – [The Broad](#) & [MOCA](#)**– 8am – 6pm. SB Air Bus is reserved with a bathroom, at about \$100/person. I do not have a price for a docent-led tour yet. Check the sign-up sheet at the Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**February & March - MEET & GREET Provisionals and Actives** – Traditionally, Active Docents host Provisional and Active Docents with Meet & Greet events in the early spring. Active Docents who want to host an event, please contact me. Thanks!

**April 14 – 18 – Washington, DC Docent Trip**

Make your airline reservations and room reservations soon! We have 10 people signed up for this trip and 5 rooms taken out of 11 rooms reserved at the Cosmos Club. Activities are planned for Monday April 14 through Thursday April 18. You are on your own before and after those dates. I will send information via group emails to those who sign up or email me. Thanks!

[Pattie.Firestone@gmail.com](mailto:Pattie.Firestone@gmail.com).

From our **Membership Chair**

*Mary Ellen Alden*



Dear Docents,

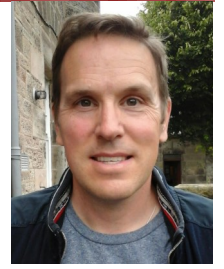
Please remember to sign the attendance sheet for Docent Council Meetings and to record your monthly hours for Tours and for Research/Other. If you miss or plan to miss more than **four** Docent Council Meetings due to illness or travel, please drop a note to me at [mea.mnlaw@gmail.com](mailto:mea.mnlaw@gmail.com).

*Mary Ellen*

From our **Student Teams Co-chairs**  
Nicola Ghersen and Andrew Baker



November was a fun, challenging and successful time for the Student Touring teams as you can see by the number of students toured. Docents brought their enthusiasm and expertise to tour a total of 527 students, with a wide range of ages, from kindergarten, junior high, high school and college!



Some among us have expressed concern about touring older students, feeling out of their comfort zone. I am pleased to share an anecdote from a fellow docent, which is also a touring tip about working with this age group. She reports the following: *I was scheduled for my first high school tour. I was anxious as I had never toured that age group and that feeling increased when I realized there would be 10 students. At first, they were the most serious and quiet group I had ever encountered. In desperation, I asked them to choose art that reflected their personality and I shared my personal choice first to put them at ease. They became very animated and enthusiastic to share their choices. The experience really made them really look at the art. We were all really disappointed when the tour was over. They were inspired by what they saw. And their response inspired me. I hope this anecdote is encouraging and that you all feel inspired by your student tours this year.*

A while ago Adult Teams Leader Denise Klassen discovered this inspiring article, a refresher on how to tour students. I have kept it in my archives and now want to share it with you. Even the most seasoned among us appreciate an occasional review. You are sure to enjoy the article and will probably find some new approaches!

Check it out here <https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-talk-kids-art>  
Happy Holidays to all!

*Nicola and Andrew*



Altered Postcard project



Photos by Loree Gold show a student working in the FRC during a *Fridays in Focus: Thematic Tours for Junior and High School Students*, here inspired by the Ellsworth Kelly exhibition.

Table set-up for *Artful Making for the Tuesday/Wednesday student tours*, here inspired by the Kylix.

From our **Adult Teams Co-chairs**  
Denise Klassen and Susan Lowe



Denise Klassen

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and again thank you to you all for your flexibility in the touring team changes to accommodate all of our new and wonderful touring docents.

On that note a very important reminder. Please check the monthly calendar each time it comes out and note your own tours. With all of the changes, tours have changed occasionally and it's important that each docent check they're individual touring days and times.



Susan Lowe

Please allow yourself time to **sweep** so that you can start your tour on time as to not interfere with another tour that is might be going out, scheduled or special request which are not on the calendar. Also do take time at the end of your tour to fill out the Red Book.

Happy Touring,  
*Susan & Denise*

From our **Community Speakers Team Leader**  
Lori Mohr



Dear Docents,

The new team members—Doug McElwain, Belle Michael (New Active) and Sarajum Quazi continued doing an outstanding job in November. I am exceedingly grateful for their diligent efforts in honing their talks, and for bringing the usual SBMA docent standard of excellence to audiences at every venue.

The warmest of holiday wishes, *Lori*

ADULT TEAMS  
**CSP**

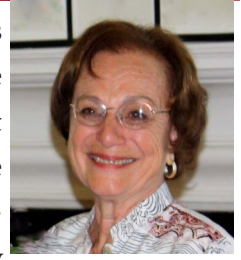
VENUE	PRESENTATION	ATTENDANCE
Santa Barbara Club	The Human Body in Art History (Belle)	20
	(Belle followed up her talk with a gallery tour for the group)	20
Alexander Gardens	Ellsworth Kelly (Doug)	13
Maravilla Assisted	Ellsworth Kelly (Doug)	21
Visat del Monte	Delacroix (Sarajum)	36
Yacht Club	Van Gogh's Masterpieces	40
<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>Average Attendance: 25</b>

## From our Evaluations Co-chairs

Christine Holland and Irene Stone



We are pleased that all regular evaluations for student and adult tours are proceeding smoothly, as scheduled. The Provisional Class has gone through the first tour requirement of the year, and the team of Docent Evaluators completed all the 3-Minute Tours on November 29<sup>th</sup>. The Provisional Class is on its way to their next tours and we are happy to see them progress. Many thanks to the team of Evaluator Docents and to Patty



Santiago for her work, including scheduling the evaluations.

We are grateful for the docents volunteering to complete all of the evaluations and heartened by the comments of many docents who look forward to the feedback to improve their tours. Our Docent Council continues to be proud of its high standards and dedication to providing the best tours for the visiting. All best wishes for a happy holiday season and for peace and joy in the new year.

*Christine and Irene*

## From our Provisional Instructor, Patty Santiago



A very big thank you goes to the team of evaluators for the provisional's 3-Minute Talks: Christine Holland, Irene Stone, Teda Pilcher, Ann Hammond, Susan Lowe, and Mary Ellen Alden. I am grateful also to the mentors who helped in preparing these new docents. They will now turn their attention to student touring and will begin observing classes in December. They are now finishing their study of mediums with sculpture and will begin the study of art history in January. *Patty*

## From our Research Chair, Barbara Ross



What a wonderful transformation has occurred in Ludington Court, with paintings hung Louvre-style up the wall. As a traditional starting point for docent-led *Highlights Tours*, the magnificent *Lansdown Hermes* captures everyone's attention as he greets visitors. While *Hermes* reigns, works high up the wall are often ignored. Perhaps a fresh focus on these will encourage docents to take a second look at them, adding new life to tours. Several members of our provisional class have chosen to do just that, works that include *Dorothy in Pink* by

William Merritt Chase; *Still Life with Pumpkin* by Andre Derain; and *Peplophoros, Unknown, Roman* (see next page).

Please review the list on the page 6 for art needing research in Ludington Court and consider writing a paper for 2024.

-All my best for the New Year! *Barbara Ross*



## Research, continued



L: William Merritt Chase  
(American, 1849-1916)  
*Dorothy in Pink*, ca. 1910, oil  
on canvas. 42 1/2 x 38 1/4 in



R: André Derain (French,  
1880-1954). *Still Life with  
Pumpkin*, 1939, oil on can-  
vas. 40 x 52 in.

1.	Self Portrait in Studio	F. Luis Mora
2.	The Ecstasy of St. Francis	Juan de Valdes Leal
3.	Portrait of Mrs. Grafton Minot and Her Son	Fulop Laszlo
4.	Lamentation	Follower of Hans Memling
5.	Self Portrait	Mary Grace
6.	Portrait of Edmund Rouvert	James Peale, Sr.
7.	Portrait of Jane Rouvert	James Peale Sr.
8.	The Embarcation of Regulus	Unknown
9.	Jeanne Cartier	F. Luis Mora
10.	La Plaza de Toros: Sunday Morning in Monterrey	Charles Christian Nahl
11.	The Sun Shower	George Inness, Sr.
12.	Still Life	Gaspar Peeter Verbruggen
13.	Autumn Landscape	Soren Emil Carlsen
14.	Reclining Nude	Jean-Jacques Henner
15.	Portrait of Henry Ainslie	George Romney
16.	The Best Children	Thomas Lawrence
17.	July	Joos de Mumper, the younger
18.	August	Joos de Mumper, the younger
19.	Mirror	Unknown
20.	Apollo Kitharista	Unknown Roman



Unknown Roman,  
*Peplophoros*, 1st century  
BCE or 1st cen CE,  
marble. 40 1/2 x 10 1/4 x  
11 1/4 in.

## DOCENT BOOK CLUB NEWS

By Gail Stichler



Our next book club meeting will be **Monday, January 22 at 10:30 am** in the FRC. The selected book is “Lady Tan’s Circle of Women: a Novel” by Lisa See. The story was inspired by the writings of a 15th century female physician named Tan Yunxian during the Ming dynasty who wrote, “Miscellaneous Records of a Female Doctor”, translated by Lorraine Wilcox with Yue Lu. This document constitutes the earliest known writings by a female doctor in China.

Best-selling author Lisa See’s website ([lisasee.com](http://lisasee.com)) is filled with history and

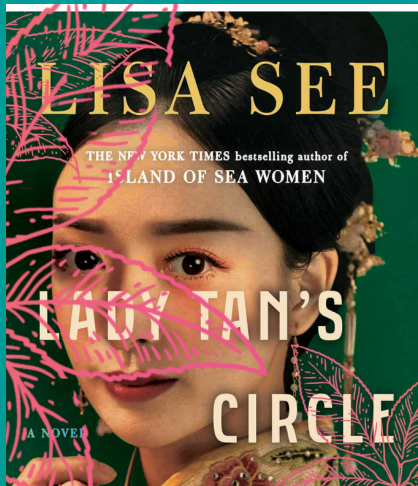


Author Lisa See to join the Docent Book Club meeting in January via ZOOM!

insights into the Ming Dynasty, and we are invited to “delve into the captivating realm of the Ming Dynasty, a time of opulence, intrigue, and cultural transformation. Discover the vibrant city streets, majestic palaces, and hidden courtyards that served as the backdrop for Lady Tan’s remarkable journey. Immerse yourself in the sights, sounds, and scents of this captivating era, as we peel back the layers of history and shed light on the remarkable lives of women during this period.”

Pattie Firestone is a friend of Lisa’s and recommended this book. We are excited to announce that Lisa will join us for our book club meeting via Zoom when we gather in the Family Resource Center.

**Thank you, Pattie,** for this wonderful opportunity to talk to the author of a book that is considered one of the best works of historical fiction in 2023.



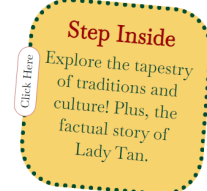
### ABOUT THE BOOK

## Lady Tan’s Circle Of Women

- ★ *New York Times* Top 10 Bestseller
- ★ *USA Today* Bestseller
- ★ Amazon Editors’ Best Books of 2023 So Far
- ★ Target August 2023 Book Club Pick

The latest historical novel from *New York Times* bestselling author Lisa See, inspired by the true story of a woman physician from 15th-century China—perfect for fans of See’s classic *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* and *The Island of Sea Women*.

According to Confucius, “an educated woman is a worthless woman,” but Tan Yunxian—born into an elite family, yet haunted by death.



# Keith Mayerson Reimagines Our World

By Ricki Morse

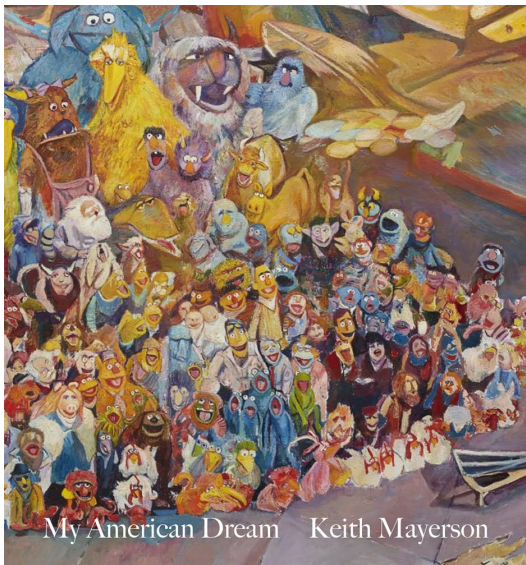


Keith Mayerson was born in 1966 into an unusual family in Cincinnati, Ohio, the creators of a foundation dedicated to community support and Judaism. His buoyant optimism, humor, even naiveté, is contagious and feels particularly welcome in our divided world of hate and war.

Today he is an art professor at the Roski School of Art and Design at the University of Southern California, lives in Riverside with his husband, has published a graphic novel, "Horror Hospital Unplugged" in 1997, and his epic volume, "My American Dream," in 2023—427 pages, with images of his paintings and monographs on each work. Selections were shown in the 2014 Whitney Biennial, *America Is Hard To See*. Broadly edu-



The artist, *Self Portrait*, before his 1997 "Large Iconscape." oil on linen.



cated, he studied semiotics and studio arts at Brown University, graduating in 1988, and after moving to the West coast, received his MFA at UC Irvine in 1993. His inherent artistic skills are enhanced by his desire to convey the emotional content of a scene, his ability to take you there, either to the horror of 9/11, the warmth of his boyhood home or the joyful rainbow world of Kermit the Frog. His childhood delight with the Muppets, Sesame Street puppets who taught children the alphabet, expanded into a frog who rode a bicycle, led us on a search for the rainbow and celebrated the moment, even painted as an 18th century dandy channeling Gainsborough. Mayerson's irreverent adoption of Kermit breaks down the barrier between serious art and cartoon, inviting us to open our boundaries.

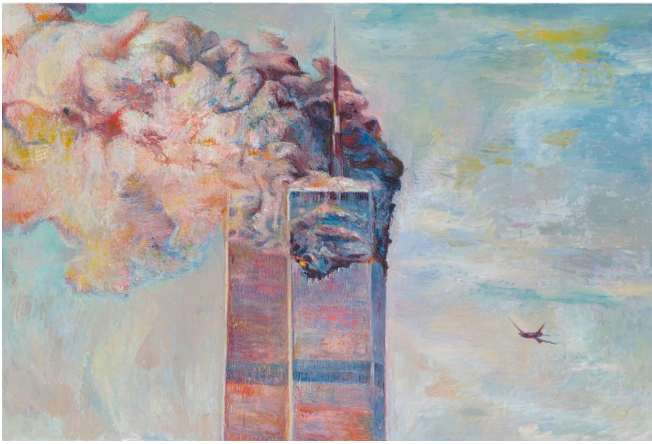
At the same time his tiny brush strokes, meticulously applied, reflect the work of the old masters, bringing Gainsborough's formal protocols to Kermit, strumming his banjo, his image reflected in the pool at his feet. In 2007 Mayerson was living in Soho and heard planes flying overhead as he prepared to give his drawing class at New York University. Shortly the television was showing pictures of the first Trade Tower hit by a



plane. By the time he got to his class, the second plane had hit, and he led his students to Washington Park, watching as bodies dropped from the towers. His father was in New York, and they spent the rest of the day together, his father gathering newspaper pictures of the burning towers, telling his son that he should paint what they were witnessing. At the time it felt inappropriate to paint the scene of so much death and

Keith Mayerson, *It's Not Easy Being Green*, 2022, oil on linen, conveys the power of the moment he is creating, the tiny brush strokes, the broader human relevance.





Keith Mayerson, *9-11*, 2007, oil on linen, Whitney Museum.



Keith Mayerson, *My Family*, 2013, oil on linen, Whitney Museum.



Keith Mayerson, *Drum Majors*, 2008, oil on linen, Whitney Museum.

suffering. But then the dreams began. Being the son of a psychoanalyst, he took dreams seriously, and after one particularly vivid nightmare, he retrieved the newspapers his father had collected and began to paint. There were no more nightmares.

Mayerson shares celebrating his love of his family and of his husband, insisting on every person's right to be himself or herself. He painted this family portrait as an 80th birthday present for his father, picturing himself at four years old, his husband Andrew, his mother tickling his sister to get her to smile for a picture taken by a cousin commemorating the family watching a new television given them by their grandmother. That photograph, saved by his father, inspired this painting. He remembers listening to his parents' favorite records while painting the scene, *West Side Story* and *The Sound of Music*, feeling the way their world felt then.

Mayerson's loving family and love for his family informed his view of the people he admired, particularly Martin Luther King, Jr., and Barack Obama, individualizing his American Dream. Just as the intricate, colorful, interwoven design of the bed-spread reflects the woven togetherness of his family, the interwovenness of the wallpaper design behind the King family conveys that intricate togetherness, and centers King's innovative power in the unity of family. Mayerson was at first loathe to use the NY Times front page inaugural photograph of Obama and his family as the subject of his painting, but as he thought about it, the appropriateness became apparent. What better way to express the American Dream—"Anyone could grow up to be president!" Mayerson's ebullient, optimistic view of our world echoes the title of his work in our collection as Kermit the Frog peddles his bicycle down the road, "*Someday we'll find it, the Rainbow Connection, the lovers, the dreamers and me.*"



Keith Mayerson, *Obama's Night*, 2017 oil on linen, Cleveland Museum

The Last Page  
*Docents inside and outside the Museum*



Shirley Waxman in Antarctica,  
November 2023

Denise Klassen in action on a tour.  
SBMA Instagram post 11/20/23



18 likes  
sbmuseart Learn more about the artwork on view at SBMA with a docent-led gallery tour!

Lori Mohr, Editor , 2009—

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