

April 17, 2007

GET TO KNOW THE UNKNOWN MONET THIS SUMMER AT THE CLARK

For Immediate Release

WILLIAMSTOWN, MA- Just when you thought you knew all there is to know about one of the world's most popular artists, look into the secret world of Claude Monet and discover his hidden life as a youthful caricaturist, masterful draftsman, and talented pastel artist, during the exhibition *The Unknown Monet: Pastels and Drawings*. Newly discovered documentation of Monet's formative years and the first comprehensive gathering of his rarely seen works on paper combine to make this a truly groundbreaking exhibition. *The Unknown Monet* will be on view at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute from June 24 through September 16.

Several special events are planned including:

Picnic by the Pond: *The Unknown Monet* Opening Party

June 23, 6:30 pm

Join us by the pond, share a French country picnic, and celebrate the opening of *The Unknown Monet*. Enjoy wine, hors d'oeuvres, and an authentic French picnic dinner along with a preview of *The Unknown Monet*, live music, artistic entertainment, and the pleasures of the French countryside. During the party you can purchase a Monet Mystery Basket and support the Clark's school bus program. Each basket is filled with distinctive gifts and services donated by local businesses. Your purchase helps fund the Clark's transportation reimbursement program, which brings thousands of students to the Clark each year. Rather not drive? Complimentary transportation is available from Great Barrington, Manchester, and Troy; call 413 458 0524 for information and to reserve. Tickets are \$100 (\$85 members). To reserve tickets, call 413 458 0524 or email events@clarkart.edu.

Getting to Know *The Unknown Monet*

June 24, 2 pm

Newly discovered documentation of Claude Monet's formative years and the first comprehensive gathering of his rarely seen works on paper combine to make *The Unknown Monet* a truly groundbreaking exhibition. How these documents and works were unearthed and what they reveal about Monet's personal and professional development is the subject of this free lecture by the exhibition co-curators James A. Ganz, Clark curator of drawings, prints, and photographs, and Richard Kendall, Clark curator at large.

Caricature Creations

Tuesdays in July and Saturdays in August, 2 pm

Oscar (as Claude was then known) Monet was an enterprising young man who made a living making caricatures, several of which are exhibited in *The Unknown Monet*. In celebration of these rarely seen drawings, caricature artists will be at the Clark throughout the summer, and for a fee of \$5 you may have a caricature of yourself done.

Summer Pastel Course

Thursdays, July 19 and 26, and August 2 and 9, 2 pm

Artists have used pastels for centuries to explore color theory and light and shading, and as a transition from drawing to painting. In this four-week *plein air* course held at the Clark, students will be inspired by *The Unknown Monet* as they learn the basics of pastels, including blending, shading, color, and composition. To facilitate exploration of pastels in the exhibition as well as the permanent collection, students receive two museum passes. Appropriate for all levels of experience; some prior drawing instruction is helpful. A materials list will be provided. Register by calling Northern Berkshire Creative Arts at 413 663 8338. Cost is \$80 (\$68 members).

Monet and the Pastel Tradition

August 12, 2 pm

This free lecture by curator of education Michael Cassin will look at some of the high points of the pastel tradition up to and including Monet and his contemporaries.

Monet at Giverny

August 19, 2 pm

The gardens of Monet's Giverny home became the inspiration for some of his most beloved paintings. In this free lecture, Sarah Lees, associate curator of European art, will take the audience on a visual tour of one of art's most famous backyards.

The Unknown Monet Revealed

August 20, 7:30 pm

Monet often expressed his most private thoughts on everything from his artistic process to financial woes to romantic yearnings in his personal correspondence. In a dramatic reading featuring Roger Rees of the Williamstown Theatre Festival, hear excerpts from a selection of letters that may reveal more of the unknown Monet. Tickets are \$20 (\$15 for Clark and WTF members; \$10 for students). To reserve, call 413 458 0524.

Monet's London

August 26, 2 pm

Assistant curator of education Danielle Steinmann will cut through the fog of time to expose Monet's visions of this great city. This lecture is free.

The Unknown Monet is organized by the Clark in association with the Royal Academy of Arts, London. It is curated by James A. Ganz, curator of prints, drawings, and photographs, and Richard Kendall, curator at large, both at the Clark. This exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities. The project is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. Lead sponsorship is provided by Bank of America. Additional support is provided by Faber-Castell.

The Clark is located at 225 South Street in Williamstown. The galleries are open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm (daily in July and August). Admission is free November through May. Admission June 1 through October 31 is \$12.50 for adults, free for children 18 and younger, members, and students with valid ID. For more information, call 413-458-2303 or visit www.clarkart.edu.

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