

The Artist's World

September, Tuesday 14th
- Friday 17th, 1999

WITHIN easy commuting distance of New York City, East Hampton and Old Lyme became thriving colonies for artists in the late 19th century. Eager to escape their studios during the summer, artists found East Hampton with its picturesque houses and the wild ruggedness of the sea shore a near to perfect environment. At a later date, when artists discovered the charms of Old Lyme in Connecticut it soon evolved into a thriving art colony.

Led by **Professor William Gerdts**, Emeritus Professor of Art History, The Graduate Center, The City University of New York as well as author of premier scholarly works on American Art, we will visit Southampton, East Hampton, New London and Old Lyme. We will trace the work of artists such as *William Merit Chase*, *Thomas Moran*, *Childe Hassam* and *William Chadwick*. Against a backdrop of windmills and beach, salt marshes and colonial houses we will look at paintings inspired by the terrain. We will also explore the studios of the artists of the avant-garde such as *Jackson Pollack*, as well as those of contemporary artists, *Larry Rivers* and *Ross Bleckner*. In Old Lyme we will immerse ourselves



in the rolling hills, woodland and river landscape which were the subject matter for the 19th-century artists of this region.

As Professor Gerdts will show, the painters associated with these colonies took as their model the great art colony formed at Barbizon, South of Paris on the edge of the forest of Fontainebleau. The American painters in the summer art colonies were all plein-air painters. Amongst early painters drawn to the area was **Thomas Moran**, painter of the western wilds, who built his home and studio on Main Street in East Hampton. In Shinnecock, *William Merit Chase* established the Shinnecock School of Art espousing a method of plein-air painting where "*You must be right under the sky. You must try to match your colors as nearly as*

you can to those you see before you, and you must study the effects of light and shade on nature's own hues and tints." Chase would search the windy plains of the area and in the scrubby hills he executed a series of paintings that are pure celebrations of place and light..

Hassam's work in Old Lyme and East Hampton is clearly distinguishable as are all the paintings produced by artists in the two communities. Crossing by ferry from Orient Point to New London we make our way to Old Lyme where we examine the distinguishing features of paintings from this colony. As we will see the early artists in Old Lyme were inspired by Barbizon masters such as Millet. They stressed rather than the ocean seascape the hard toil of farm laborers, the domestic or communal scene - homes, gardens and the landmarks of Old Lyme, which still stand today. The most outstanding architectural feature was Florence Griswold's boarding house, now a museum. The Barbizon inspired colony under the influence of Childe Hassam later became "*the most famous Impressionist-orientated art colony in America*".

Accommodation is in the luxurious **1708 House** in Southampton and at the **Inn at Mystic**, perched above the Sound in New London. With dinners at private homes and lunches overlooking the beach or hills we will see why these areas were so compelling and why the artists who worked here captured forever the essence of each place.

Tuesday, September 14th

Morning departure by bus from New York City. Lunch in Shinnecock and visit to **The Art Village**, once home to the Shinnecock School of Art where William Merit Chase worked. Visit Southampton where we stop at **The Parish Museum** for a study with Professor Gerdts and *curator Alicia Longwell* on the paintings of William Merit Chase, Childe Hassam and other artists of the summer colony. We also address the museum's collection of artists of the avant-garde who moved to East Hampton in the 50's. Check into the **1708 House** situated in central Southampton with period furnishings in the federal style.

Cocktails in the studio of **Larry Rivers** with discussion between Mr. Rivers and *Christine Strassfield*, former curator *The Guildhall Museum East Hampton* and lecturer, followed by restaurant dinner.

Wednesday, September 15th

Drive through the potato fields and past shingled windmills to the village of East Hampton. Here we visit the **Guildhall Library** for an in-depth study of archival material containing the early drawings and watercolors of Thomas Moran as well as his sketchbooks and photos. We then visit, by invitation of the present owner, his former house and studio which retain their original architectural design and interior features.

After lunch we explore the studio of Jackson Pollack and **The Guildhall Museum** art collection. *Ross Bleckner* welcomes us to his studio. Dinner at the private residence of artist Mark Sabin and visit to his studio.

Thursday, September 16th

Early morning departure to cross by ferry from Orient Point to the whaling port of New London. On board box lunch. Upon arrival, we are met by *Patricia Shippee*, curator of the **Roger Dennis Memorial Garden**, which we visit. She will focus on his work and life, as he was the last link to American Impressionism. Visit to the **Lyman Allyn Museum** designed by *Charles Platt*, architect of the *Freer Gallery in Washington*. We are greeted by the museum's director, *Charles Shepherd*, for a study with Professor Gerdts of the museum's superb collection of Barbizon and Impressionist paintings predominantly from the Old Lyme Art Colony.

Check into the **Inn at Mystic**. Dinner at a private house on the water.

Friday, September 17th

Morning bus departure for Old Lyme where we will see the houses and variety of landscapes that inspired the Impressionist movement. We enjoy a dialogue between Professor Gerdts

and *Jeffrey W. Andersen*, director of the **Florence Griswold Museum**. As we study paintings of the Old Lyme colony we will see the famous dining room panels painted for Miss Florence, the innkeeper, by the early 20th-century colony artists often in lieu of board. Luncheon and lecture at the Old Lyme Inn by *Michael Lloyd*, local art historian, in conjunction with Professor Gerdts on the founding of **The Lyme Art Association**. Visit to the Association, which dates from 1921 and was the first gallery ever to be financed by a summer art colony in America. Bus departure for New York at 4.00pm. Arrival at 6.30pm.

Fee and Registration

The fee for the program is \$2,200 for double accommodation with a \$300 single supplement. This includes luxury hotel accommodation, English breakfasts, bus and ferry transportation, restaurant meals and private dinners, wine at each meal, entrance fees, cocktail receptions, lectures and studies. A \$1,500 fee is due upon registration with full payment due on August 1st, 1999. Cancellations will be accepted up to August 1st with a \$150 cancellation fee. No cancellations will be accepted after August 1st. Registration is limited to 18 participants. As several places on this program have already been taken we advise early registration.

NEW YORK

PROGRAMS

Mothers and Daughters

June, Monday 21st
- Tuesday 22nd, 1999

IN this two day program we address those things that every mother and daughter talk about – how to decorate from scratch and what to do with antique furniture that needs repair. What are New York's secret resources, jealously guarded, that one can get to on one's own? We take you into pockets of the city where European trained craftsmen have been carrying out their trade for decades. Private visits to mother-daughter sets of homes are included and we visit some of the city's most outstanding dwellings encompassing both period interiors as well as slick contemporary approaches. If you have wondered about those show-rooms where only decorators can shop, join us as we go behind the



scenes at **Clarence House, Carlton V** and other vendors. As for mother-daughter passions that don't relate to the home, we visit a private apartment to show one-of-a-kind jewelry. *Of course all of this is not just for mother-daughter teams.* We hope everyone will join us to meet