



Release Date: June 1, 2016

Alexander Nemerov of Stanford University Presents the 66th Annual A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts in 2017 at the National Gallery of Art, Washington



Alexander Nemerov, department chair and Carl and Marilyn Thoma Provostial Professor in the Arts and Humanities, Stanford University, presents the 66th A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts on Sundays, March 26, April 2, 9, 23, 30, and May 7, 2017, at the National Gallery of Art. Photo by Huey Ning Tan

Updated: January 12, 2017

Washington, DC—The Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA) at the National Gallery of Art has announced that Alexander Nemerov, department chair and Carl and Marilyn Thoma Provostial Professor in the Arts and Humanities, Stanford University, will give the 66th annual A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts, entitled *The Forest: America in the 1830s*.

The preeminent lecture series will be held in the East Building Auditorium at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, on March 26, April 2, 9, 23, and 30, and May 7, 2017, at 2:00 p.m.

In his six-part series, Nemerov will explore the Hudson River School painters and their contemporaries, focusing on what their art did and did not show of the teeming world around them. The forest serves as a metaphor for the unruly and wooded realms of lived experience to which art can only gesture. The lectures will present a fundamentally new account of Thomas Cole (1801–1848), John Quidor (1801–1881), James Fenimore Cooper (1789–1851), and other artists and writers of that time and are the first A. W. Mellon lectures to be dedicated to American painting and literature in the 19th century.

March 26: *Herodotus among the Trees*

April 2: *The Tavern to the Traveler: On the Appearance of John Quidor's Art*

April 9: *The Aesthetics of Superstition*

April 23: *Animals Are Where They Are*

April 30: *Emerson, Raphael, and Light Filtering through the Woods*

May 7: *The Forest of Thought: On the Roof with Robert Montgomery Bird*

About the A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts

Since 1949, the A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts have presented the best in contemporary thought and scholarship on the subject of the fine arts to the people of the United States. The program itself is named for Andrew W. Mellon, founder of the National Gallery of Art, who gave the nation his art collection and funds to build the West Building, which opened to the public in 1941.

Past speakers have included Sir Kenneth Clark, T. J. Clark, Thomas Crow, E. H. Gombrich, Michael Fried, Mary Miller, Helen Vendler, Irene Winter, and, most recently, Vidya Dehejia. For a full list, visit www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/research/casva/meetings/mellon-lectures-in-the-fine-arts.html.

About Alexander Nemerov

A scholar of American art, Nemerov writes about the presence of art, the recollection of the past, and the importance of the humanities in our lives today. Committed to teaching the history of art more broadly as well as topics in American visual culture—the history of American photography, for example—he is a noted writer and speaker on the arts. His most recent books are *Soulmaker: The Times of Lewis Hine* (2016), *Silent Dialogues: Diane Arbus and Howard Nemerov* (2015), *Wartime Kiss: Visions of the Moment in the 1940s* (2013), and *Acting in the Night: Macbeth and the Places of the Civil War* (2010). In 2011 he published *To Make a World: George Ault and 1940s America* (2011), the catalog of an exhibition he curated at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Among his recent essays are meditations on Winslow Homer, Jacob Lawrence, Richard Diebenkorn, Carleton Watkins, Thomas Cole, Joe Rosenthal, Gregory Crewdson, Charles Burchfield, Danny Lyon, and Grandma Moses.

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General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets at Constitution Avenue NW, and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. For information call (202) 737-4215 or visit the Gallery's Web site at www.nga.gov. Follow the Gallery on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt, Twitter at www.twitter.com/ngadc, and Instagram at <http://instagram.com/ngadc>.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

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