

MARCH LUNCHEON PROGRAM

ART CONSERVATION AT THE RINGLING MUSEUM

Have you ever wondered about the painstaking process of restoring an old painting? Can you imagine the pressure you'd feel cleaning and applying paint to a priceless masterpiece? This, and much more, is the life's work of our March luncheon speaker, The Ringling Museum's Chief Conservator Barbara A. Ramsay.

The John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art inspires visitors from Sarasota and around the world with its art, architecture, and antiquities. One of the museum's key responsibilities is the preservation of its historic architecture and collections. Art conservators identify potential risks and aim to prevent damage to works of art so that restoration treatment will not be required. When intervention is necessary, conservators carry out detailed analyses, careful testing, and delicate treatments to help stabilize the structure of the pieces and improve their appearance in keeping with the artists' intentions. These specialists adhere to a professional code of ethics in all aspects of their work.

Barbara earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from University of Toronto and a Master of Art Conservation degree from Queen's University, Canada. She worked for 18 years at The National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, where she became senior conservator of fine art. Barbara then became director of the private ARTEX Conservation Laboratory in Washington, D.C. She and her staff conserved art for museums, art galleries, private and corporate collections, and the U.S. Capitol. In addition, Barbara has served as CEO of both the Canadian Association of Professional Conservators and the International Institute for Conservation – Canadian Group. She has been chief conservator at The Ringling Museum since 2014.

In her presentation, Barbara will outline the role of the art conservator at The Ringling and reveal details of some recent painting conservation studies and treatments. Sign up now for this fascinating program!



Top: Barbara A. Ramsay. Above left: Part of the "inpainting" process. Above right: Watermelon Regatta (SN657) before treatment (left) and after treatment (right).

Date: Thursday, March 20
11 am - 1 pm

Place: Sarasota Yacht Club

Cost: \$45 for members/\$50 non-members

[REGISTER HERE.](#) 

Luncheons at the Sarasota Yacht Club are sponsored by Observer Media Group.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Arts Advocates Members and Friends,

Here is a synopsis of the many wonderful events Arts Advocates held in February:

Member artist Susan Klein's exhibition of magnificent landscape paintings, "♥ PLACES," opened to a full house on February 1 and her talk was enjoyed by all those attending.

Rick Sanders' art talk, "Robert Chase, Sarasota Legacy Artist and Icon," was held in the gallery on February 4. His talk, centering on the artistic life of Robert Chase, was attended by 50 people.

Our February luncheon was held at the gallery on February 20. The speaker, Greg Rumpf, assistant principal at Booker High School, spoke about his journey as an artist. Also attending were two of his senior students who spoke very eloquently about their teachers, their artwork, and their futures in art.

Arts Advocates held a well-attended private tour of the Sarasota Opera House on February 21.

The Van Wezel tour was February 24. From the Observer's February 4 Best Things to Do list: "One of the best things about the reopening of the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall in January is the revival of tours by Arts Advocates."

Looking forward to March 2025:

Our member artist for March is Libby Hawk. Her show, "Revise Assumptions/Libby Hawk Paintings," opens Saturday, March 1 from 2-4 pm in the Arts Advocates Gallery.

An art talk by Judy Levine, "Late Bloomers – Contemporary Women Artists Who Achieved Fame in Their Senior Years," will be held in the gallery on March 4 from 4-6 pm.

Our March 20 luncheon will be held at the Sarasota Yacht Club from 11 am-1 pm. The featured speaker is Barbara A. Ramsay, chief conservator of The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art. She will talk about how old paintings are restored to their original splendor.

Stay informed by checking our weekly eblasts and monthly newsletters, and remember to visit our website, www.artsadvocates.org, to register for events aligned with your interests.

Warmly,
Bill Rusling
President, Arts Advocates



Bill Rusling, President

Ask the President

Questions? Comments?
Suggestions for luncheon speakers, art talk subjects, or other ideas for next season?

[CONTACT BILL HERE](#)



The Arts Advocates Gallery is located inside the Crossings at Siesta Key mall, 3501 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Enter the mall through the doors next to Connors Steak & Seafood and turn left.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

March Luncheon	1	April Survey	5
From Your President	2	April Luncheon	6
March/April Exhibit	3	April Art Talk	6
March Art Talk	4	February Events Recap	7
Van Wezel Tours	4	Local Arts	8
Volunteer With Us	5	Save the Dates	8

MARCH/APRIL MEMBER ARTIST EXHIBIT

Revise Assumptions/ Libby Hawk Paintings

SATURDAYS, MARCH 1 - APRIL 26 | 2-4 PM
Arts Advocates Gallery

“Revise Assumptions/Libby Hawk Paintings” challenges norms about two- and three-dimensional art daring viewers to engage differently with works on canvas and paper. Libby Hawk’s provocative abstracts on paper and canvas vibrate with color and texture, at once subtle and bold.

“I’m drawn to the challenges posed by working with diverse media – changing it up is essential to realize innovative ideas. I’m so pleased visitors can view the show in March and April and experience this innovative collection.”

Libby will give presentations about her art on
March 1, March 15, and April 5 at 3 pm.



Left: Libby Hawk. Top: My Hometown by Libby Hawk. Above: Baroque Light by Libby Hawk.



About the Artist

Libby, a multi-disciplinary artist, explores various mediums – paper, clay, canvas – marrying form to color in contemporary works that claim and may move in space. Her work encourages viewers to explore multiple points of view, altering and slowing down the visual experience. Libby has been included in national and regional shows, receiving multiple awards including the Halo Arts Fellowship in 2021.

A graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Libby Hawk studied at the Ruskin School of Art in Oxford, England and earned an M.F.A. from the City University of New York. She teaches ceramics at Suncoast Technical College and is a member of Women Contemporary Artists (WCA).

After a career in New York advancing human rights and women’s equality, including at the United Nations Women’s Fund, she resumed her art practice in 2017. Currently, she makes her studio home at SPAACES (2051 Princeton Street in Sarasota), a nonprofit artist and cultural organization that promotes contemporary and social practice art.

This exhibit is sponsored by Observer Media Group.

ART TALK

LATE BLOOMERS: Contemporary Women Artists Who Achieved Fame in Their Senior Years

When we consider late bloomers we immediately think of Grandma Moses, who achieved artistic greatness in her 80s. Creativity does not turn off later in life! Judy Levine will present influential women artists still working into their 80s, 90s, and 100s, and discuss what keeps them creating and what are the impediments that stalled their artistic recognition.

Date: Tuesday, March 4 | 4-6 pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery

Cost: Free for members/\$5 nonmembers



REGISTER HERE



Behind the Curtain: Exploring the Van Wezel from the Art to the Stage

“One of the best things about the reopening of the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall in January is the revival of tours by Arts Advocates.” –Observer Media Group

These interesting, guided tours provide a closer look at the paintings and sculptures owned by Arts Advocates on display at the Van Wezel, and provide a peek behind the curtain along with stories and anecdotes about the colorful world of show business!

Tours are April 21, and May 19 from 1:30 to 3 pm.

Tours begin in the main lobby and cost \$15 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the Van Wezel box office or by calling (941) 263-6799. Private group tours can be arranged by calling Justin Gomlak, Van Wezel's director of education and community engagement, at (941) 263-6754.



Proceeds benefit Arts Advocates and the Van Wezel's education/engagement programs.

Are You A Leader? We're Seeking Volunteers!

There are many opportunities to become involved with Arts Advocates as a volunteer. From a few hours each month, to taking the lead on a season-long program or committee, or doing research as your time permits, we have opportunities to fit everyone's time and talents. To learn more or volunteer, please contact Carol Darling by [clicking here](#).

Art Docent: Are you passionate about art and eager to share your enthusiasm with others? We have opportunities at our gallery and at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall. Training provided.

Art Talk Interviewer: This is a unique opportunity to engage in thoughtful, insightful conversations with visual and performing artists. This role requires an understanding of the arts and strong interpersonal skills. Interviewers research each guest's background, work, and contributions, and create an open and inviting atmosphere during interviews.

Gallery Host: Welcome visitors during Saturday hours (2-4 pm), art talks, member exhibit openings (first Saturday of each month), and other Arts Advocates programs.

Luncheon Greeter: Greet monthly luncheon attendees (October-May)

Where Are They Now? Researcher/Writer: If your skills are researching and interviewing, consider helping us find our former scholarship winners and preparing write-ups about what they're doing now.



Please Tell Us What You Think

In April, you will receive a survey via email through which the board and team leaders would like to learn your thoughts and opinions about the activities of Arts Advocates. Your responses are very important and highly valued as we chart our future. You'll be asked about our programming, the timing of our events, and event topics. What do you want from Arts Advocates? What would make a membership more valuable and meaningful to you? This is your organization. Please complete the brief survey when you receive it so your feedback is included.

APRIL LUNCHEON PROGRAM

PETER ROTHSTEIN'S BOLD VISION FOR ASOLO REP

When Peter Rothstein became producing artistic director at Asolo Repertory Theatre in 2023, his vast experience gave him just the background he needed to guide AsoloRep, the largest Actors' Equity theatre in the Southeastern U.S., to exciting new heights.

Asolo Rep productions span a diverse repertoire of newly commissioned plays, bold reinterpretations of contemporary and classic works, and provocative musical theatre experiences. For 25 years, Rothstein served as the founding artistic director of Theater Latté Da, a Minneapolis-based company dedicated to new and adventurous music-theatre. He directed 92 mainstage productions, including 14 world premieres.

Peter is the creator of *All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*, which received a Drama Desk Award for its Off-Broadway debut. It has since been staged in more than 50 cities. Its broadcast version has been seen around the globe, airing on PBS.

Now in his second season here, Rothstein will share his vision for Asolo's future at our April 17 luncheon. Join us and get to know the talented and charming leader of one of the cornerstones of Sarasota's arts community!

Date: Thursday, April 17 | 11 am-1 pm

Place: Sarasota Yacht Club

Cost: \$45 for members/\$50 non-members

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Luncheons at the Sarasota Yacht Club are sponsored by Observer Media Group.



asolorep

ART TALK

PORTRAITS THEN AND NOW

Suzanne Havens is a painter and photographer passionate about studying art and art history. She provides insights from both the artists' and critics' perspectives, offering a fast-paced journey through Western art. Suzanne's presentation is filled with captivating visual images aimed at engaging all audiences.

Date: Thursday, April 29 | 4-6 pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery

Cost: Free for members/\$5 non-members

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Freedom by Suzanne Havens

HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST MONTH



Stephenie Frasher interviewed Rick Sanders for his art talk, “Robert Chase, Sarasota Legacy Artist and Icon.”



The Arts Advocates Gallery was beautifully set up for our February luncheon.



Susan Klein’s stunning February exhibit, “♥ PLACES.”



As a core element of its mission, Arts Advocates helps raise awareness of local arts organizations. Please support ongoing and upcoming programs in our community. Click on the links for more information about these events:

Embracing Our Differences
[A Celebration of Kindness](#)

Guitar Sarasota
[Los Angeles Guitar Quartet](#)

Manatee Performing Arts Center
[The Sound of Music](#)

The Ringling
[Rennie Harris](#)

Venice Art Center
[Venice Art Walk](#)

Special thanks to the Observer Media Group for their media sponsorship of our 2024-2025 season!



save the dates

+ March 1

Reception: Libby Hawk
"Revise Assumptions/Libby Hawk
Paintings" Exhibit
2-4 pm

+ March 4

Art Talk: Late Bloomers – Contemporary
Women Artists Who Achieved Fame in
Their Senior Years
4-6 pm

+ March 20

Luncheon: Barbara A. Ramsay,
The John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art
11 am-1 pm

+ April 17

Luncheon: Peter Rothstein,
Asolo Repertory Theatre
11 am-1 pm

+ April 21

Behind the Curtain:
Exploring the Van Wezel from the Art
to the Stage
1:30-3 pm

+ April 29

Art Talk: Portraits Then and Now
4-6 pm