

For Immediate Release: March 18, 2009

Contact: Terry Murphy
Ludington Area Center for the Arts
Phone: 231-845-2787
Email: terry@ludingtonartscouncil.org

ART HISTORY SERIES COMING TO LUDINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

LUDINGTON—Area residents and visitors have an opportunity in downtown Ludington to learn about art history from an expert when Dr. Dan Connolly visits the Ludington Area Center for the Arts to talk about the subject he loves for four Thursday evenings this spring.

The former assistant professor in the Department of Art at Western Michigan University will talk about art history from Realism and Impressionism to American Modernism and Abstract Impressionism.

“These will be illustrated art talks, with plenty of slides of these important paintings,” Dr. Connolly said. “As well, there will be opportunities for questions and discussions.”

Every talk begins at 7 pm on a Thursday, starting with March 26, and running April 9, April 23, and May 7. The art history talks will skip Thursday, April 30, so that another a regional presentation, “Art and the Environment” can be shown.

Dr. Connolly’s first talk, “Realism and Impressionism,” will take place on March 26 at 7 pm in the center.

“We’ll begin by talking about some paintings by Gustav Courbet, who is considered by some to be the first modern artist for his independent gallery and his political and social commentaries,” Dr. Connolly said. “We’ll also talk about the work of Manet, Monet, Degas and Renoir.”

The next lecture, on April 9, will be about “Post-Impressionism and Cubism.”

“Beginning with the painting of Cezanne and van Gogh, we will explore how artists started to paint their sensations of the world around them, searching for a deeper truth in reality.” Dr. Connolly said. “In the Cubist works of Picasso and Braque, these investigations became increasingly limited to the world of painting itself.”

The April 23 talk introduces “American Modernists.” The period started in 1913 with “The Armory Show,” an exhibit of European modern paintings in the New York Armory.

“The show was controversial to the American public, who were used to viewing realistic art,” Dr. Connolly said. “However, it opened the eyes of American painters to a new way of looking at the world. We’ll discuss paintings by Max Weber, Arthur Dove, Aaron Douglas and Ludington’s own Manierre Dawson.”

The fourth and final talk, on Thursday, May 7, will go deep into the mysterious realm of “Abstract Impressionism,” which Dr. Connolly calls “the first truly innovative and original movement of American artists. It made New York the art capital of the world.”

“We’ll look at paintings by De Kooning, Gorky, Pollock, Rothko and Kline,” he said.

Dr. Connolly has his PhD in Art History from the University of Chicago, II, with a specialty in Gothic Manuscripts, and minors in Classical art and the theory of historical interpretation.

He originally comes from Texas but now lives in Ludington, married to artist and art professor Rebecca Mott. In addition to writing non-fiction and some fiction, he is teaching the first half of Western Civilization at West Shore Community College this summer, and again in the fall.

Dr. Connolly is generously donating his time and expertise for this series of lectures. The Ludington Area Arts Council is asking for a \$5 donation per person for each lecture, which will go towards continued operations and programming at the Center for the Arts.

Calendar of Art History Lectures:

Thursday, March 26, 7 pm—Realism and Impressionism

Thursday, April 9, 7 pm---Post-Impressionism and Cubism

Thursday, April 23, 7 pm—American Modernists

Thursday, May 7, 7 pm---Abstract Impressionism

##