

1991

Letters: Outgoing (1990-1994): Article 01

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STUDIOS ON THE HILL

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SANDY,
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Brown Learning Community

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Fall 1991

BROWN UNIVERSITY

Understanding the Cultural Environment

course is intended as an introduction to basic principles of art aesthetics. This is the second group of presentations in an on-going series of offerings, each of which focuses on a particular issue in art appreciation. They are designed to enhance your enjoyment of art by increasing your understanding and knowledge of basic principles and your exposure to major artists and their works. *It is not necessary to have taken any previous part of the series in order to enjoy and learn from the current offering.*

This term, our three-evening slide presentations will focus on the topic of composition. We will look at the works of artists from many periods and styles including Bernini, Degas, Velazquez, DeKooning, Mondrian, Vermeer, David Hockney, Jackson Pollock, Monet, Manet, David Salo, Frank Stella, Duccio, Da Vinci, and Piero Della Francesca. Our presentations will be given in clear, informative terms, and questions and discussion will be encouraged. The course will conclude with a Sunday afternoon visit to the Museum of Art at RISD.

ROBIN WISEMAN holds degrees in fine arts and architecture from RISD and a Masters in Fine Arts from Southeastern Massachusetts University. He has taught at a number of area colleges and universities and has exhibited his drawings and paintings throughout the region.

• Mondays, 7:00-9:00 pm, 3 sessions, October 21-November 4. Museum tour on Sunday 2:30-4:30 pm, November 10, \$65 (P-157-0)

Historic Lighthouses of Southern New England

The day will start with a slide talk based on *Kindly Lights*, Sarah Gleason's recently published history of the lighthouses of southern New England (i.e. Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts). Lighthouses, though romantic symbols today, were once viewed as a disgrace by progressive mariners. In 1817, a little-known episode in the struggle to improve navigational lighting took place at Rhode Island's Beavertail Lighthouse, when Newport's David Melville lit the beacon for one year with manufactured gas. Yet the powerful whale oil interests continued to defeat such efforts and obstructed navigational progress for thirty more years. Finally, in 1852, an investigation led to the founding of the up-to-date U.S. Lighthouse Establishment.

Following this lecture, the group will

drive 50 minutes to Beavertail Lighthouse, Beavertail State Park, Jamestown. Here they will enjoy a tour of the historic site of the third oldest lighthouse in the country, one of the state's most spectacular coastal sites. Included will be a visit to the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum, located in the Assistant Keeper's House, restored by the Parks Association of Rhode Island in 1989.

Participants should bring a lunch to finish the day with a picnic on the rocks of Beavertail Point.

SARAH GLEASON is the author of *Kindly Lights: A History of the Lighthouses of Southern New England*, published this year by Beacon Press. Her interest in lighthouses began when she directed an exhibit on Rhode Island's lighthouses and their keepers which is now part of the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum. She works as a tutor specializing in language-related subjects.

• Sunday, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, September 29, \$20 (individual), \$35 (family, 2-4 members) (P-159-0)

Descendants/350 and Hot City: A Focus on Rhode Island History

This course will introduce you to the photographic image as a document through presentation and discussion of two documentary projects that focus on Rhode Island history: *Descendants/350*—a coupling of images of today's Descendants of the First Settlers of Rhode Island with historical text about their respective ancestors to offer a unique study of the State's early history, and *Hot City*—images of Providence and its people, 1985 to 1989, from a unique perspective...within City Government and the Executive Office of the Mayor. This course will offer a study of the State's recent history as it applies to its Capital City Government and activities.

The course is supported with an extensive slide presentation of *Descendants/350*, which is housed as part of the Rhode Island State Archives' Permanent Collection and *Hot City* which is housed as a part of the Providence City Archives' Permanent Collection.

TOM R. CHAMBERS is a visual artist and documentary photographer. His documentary work is widely exhibited and published and his recent mixed-media work, *Mother's 45s* will be shown in the upcoming Parents exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio, Spring, 1992.

• Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00 pm, 4 sessions, October 23-November 13, \$65 (P-165-0)

I STILL HAVEN'T HEARD FROM THE SMITHSONIAN ... DO YOU THINK THAT THEY HAVE 'BLOWN ME OFF'?

Tom