

Museum School Classes Fall 2021

To the Glory of the Divine... To the Folly of Mankind with Dr. Simon Sibelman

October 13 – Enshrining the Gods ... Erasing Gods: Pharaonic Art

For four millennia, Pharaonic Egypt created a remarkable civilization. Its architecture and art sought to recall the blessings of their pantheon of gods and to promote a vision of the living god, the pharaoh. This lecture will offer an introduction to Egyptian art highlighting how they dealt with their reality and, in the case of two "living gods," efforts were undertaken to erase them in order to re-create history.

October 20 – Medieval Jewels: The Bayeux Tapestry & Chartres Cathedral

Far from meriting the designation of "the Dark Ages," the medieval period produced marvels of art and architecture celebrating religious beliefs and memorializing human history. This lecture will focus on two remarkable medieval jewels: the Bayeux Tapestry depicting the 1066 Norman Invasion of England, and the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Chartres, France.

October 27 – What is the Old Dominion?

What exactly is it? Where is it? This happens to be one of names referring to the Commonwealth of Virginia. This lecture will explore Virginia's varied topography, its long and frequently violent history, as well as its astonishing architectural and artist heritage.

November 3 – The Merrie Monarche & The Restoration

Charles II, the Merrie Monarche, returned to England in 1660 thereby restoring the monarchy that had toppled in 1649 with the execution of his father, Charles I. Having spent eleven years in exile, Charles's return marked an explosion in artistic creativity throughout his kingdom, together with a scandalously libidinous court.

November 10 – Fabergé's Glitz & Glamour

In 1882, goldsmith and jeweler Peter Carl Fabergé came to the attention of Tsar Alexander III who engaged him to create a special Easter gift for the Empress Maria Feodorovna. Thus began a tradition of expertly crafted Imperial Easter Eggs, each encrusted with precious gems and containing a unique surprise. This lecture will explore the history of these extraordinary creations as well as others by the House of Fabergé.

November 17 – Mayer July Remembers

The Holocaust eradicated a millennial old Jewish civilization in Central and Eastern Europe. Prior to its destruction, Roman Vishniac had traveled through that unique landscape capturing in photographs a world that would vanish. Holocaust survivor, Mayer July, felt an obligation to remember that world in his own manner, so he began to paint what he had lived, what he remembered. In a primitive artistic style reminiscent of Grandma Moses, July offers the richness of that Jewish culture tragically lost.