

## Join Us for a Lively *Adventure* of the *Mind*!

Dear Friends:

In 1997, we founded The Shakespeare Society, which is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year.

In 2009, we formed **ROUNDTABLE CULTURAL SEMINARS**, a *non-profit* organization whose mission is to engage your intellectual curiosity and enrich your life. Our participants have found the Seminars to be a rewarding experience and continue to join us.

**ROUNDTABLE CULTURAL SEMINARS** is unique in that we limit the number of individuals to an intimate group. Each Seminar is moderated by a Professional of the highest credentials.

The **six 1 hour-15 minute** sessions meet in our Townhouse 5th floor space, 45 East 78th Street.

### FALL 2017 **ROUNDTABLE CULTURAL SEMINARS** ARE AS FOLLOWS:

EXPLORING FASHION CULTURE

AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARIES

GREAT MEMOIRS

LANGUAGE OF OPERA

RUSSIA: A POLITICAL SURVEY

WATCHING DANCE

BOB FOSSE & COMPANY

SIX-DAY WAR

ART & ARCHITECTURE OF TODAY

*\* \* Join Us for Several of these Seminars \* \**

*Nancy Becker    Adriana Mnuchin*

For detailed Seminar descriptions with dates and times,

**PLEASE REVIEW THIS 12-PAGE PDF.**

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**REQUEST YOUR SELECTED SEMINARS BY EMAIL:**

**AMnuchin-NBecker@RoundTableCulturalSeminars.org**

**YOUR SEMINAR CONFIRMATION**

**MAY TAKE UP TO 8 BUSINESS DAYS.**

**UPON RECEIPT, SEND YOUR CHECK (\$450 PER SEMINAR) TO:**

**ROUNDTABLE CULTURAL SEMINARS**

**45 East 78<sup>th</sup> Street**

**New York, NY 10075**

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**Please note our Cancellation Policy:**

**No refund for cancellations after June 26, 2017.**

**★ Important:** Your membership is “non-transferable.” If you are unable to attend a session, please do not send anyone by “proxy.”

# EXPLORING FASHION CULTURE

Colleen Hill, Moderator

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Fashion is one of the most accessible and immediate forms of visual art – and like art, its deeper meanings are worthy of exploration. This Seminar will demonstrate that fashion is more than a mere reflection of its time, highlighting its inextricable links to cultural, social, and technological changes. These concepts will be revealed through an examination of fashion trendsetters – including important clients and designers – as well as the cycles of the trends themselves. **(With images.)**

**Session 1 Fashion Icons**

From Marie Antoinette to Kate Middleton.

**Session 2 Great Designers**

Beginning with the first couturier, Charles Frederick Worth

**Session 3 The Evolution of Fashion**

Focusing on changes in style from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century to the present.

★ **Please note: This seminar contains only THREE sessions.**

**MONDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

**SEPT 18**

**OCT 2**

**OCT 16**

**Cost \$250 (3 sessions)**

\* tax deductible portion is \$125



**COLLEEN HILL** – Curator of Costume and Accessories at The Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology (MFIT). She holds an MA in Fashion and Textile Studies: History, Theory, Museum Practice from FIT. Since joining MFIT in 2006, Colleen has curated or co-curated more than ten exhibitions, including *Paris Refashioned, 1957-1968* (2017), *Fairy Tale Fashion* (2016), *Exposed: A History of Lingerie* (2014), and *Shoe Obsession* (2013). Hill has published a book on sustainable fashion with Bloomsbury Academic, and four more books on fashion with Yale University Press.

# AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARIES

Heather Winters, Moderator

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Everyone loves a good story. And everyone is affected by a great documentary in different ways. This Seminar will celebrate critically-acclaimed documentaries on a wide array of subjects with themes chosen to promote post-screen conversation and opinions. **Please Note:** Although viewing of the chosen documentaries is recommended, each participant has the OPTION of not watching all the films chosen as clips will be shown during the six sessions. **Video will be used.**

## Session 1 Introduction to Documentary and The Portrait Documentary

- *Jiro Dreams of Sushi*, DAVID GELB (USA, 2011)
- *Man on Wire*, JAMES MARSH (UK, 2008)

## Session 2 The Family and Inspirational Documentary

- *Twinsters*, SAMANTHA FUTERMAN, RYAN MIYAMOTO (USA, 2015)
- *Two: The Story of Roman & Nyro*, HEATHER WINTERS (USA, 2013)

## Session 3 The Art, Language and Competition Documentary

- *Wordplay*, PATRICK CREADON (USA, 2006)
- *Tim's Vermeer*, TELLER (USA, 2013)

## Session 4 The Social Issue and Political Documentary

- *Waltz with Bashir*, ARI FOLMAN (Israel, 2008)

## Session 5 The Nature and Global Climate Documentary

- *March of the Penguins*, LUC JACQUET (France, 2005)
- *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*, JUDY IRVING (USA, 2003)

## Session 6 The Music Documentary

- *Orchestra of Exiles*, JOSH ARONSON (USA, 2012)
- *Searching for Sugar Man*, MALIK BENDJELLOUL (Sweden, UK 2012)

**TUESDAYS, 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

**SEPT 5, 19**  
**OCT 3, 17, 31**  
**NOV 14**

**Cost \$450 (6 sessions)**

\* tax deductible portion is \$225



**HEATHER WINTERS** – Film Producer, Director, Writer and a two-time Sundance winning Executive Producer. She is a Film Professor at Sarah Lawrence College.

Winters executive produced Morgan Spurlock's Academy Award®-nominated and Sundance-winning documentary, *Super Size Me*, and Anthony Haney-Jardine's Sundance-winning dramatic feature, *Anywhere, u.s.a.* Heather's films include AJ Schnack's documentary, *Convention*, (IFC/Sundance Selects) and *Class Act* (Morgan Spurlock Presents) Jim Killeen's, *Google Me*, and her directorial debut, *TWO: The Story of Roman & Nyro* (Virgil Films/Morgan Spurlock Presents.)

Projects include the upcoming elevated sci-fi TV series, *Atom*, feature films *The Castle* and *Transcon*, and documentaries *Borrowed Village* and *The Rest I Make Up*. Winters is author of the upcoming books, *I Want To Be A Producer: A Film Student's Guide to Producing*, the memoirist essay collection *Hangers for \$27: Thrills, Agonies and Hang Ups of Life in the Shadows of An Intellectually Disabled Sibling*, the photographic retrospective, *Inside My Father's Studio*, and the humorous novel, *How My Cleaning Lady Organized My Life*.

# GREAT MEMOIRS

## A COLLECTION OF MEMORIES

Professor Susan Barile, Moderator

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Vladimir Nabokov said that one must put quotation marks around the words “autobiography” and “memoir.” Wherein lies the truth of an experience that at first glance may seem alien to the reader? This Seminar begins with Nabokov’s highly-influential memoir, *Speak, Memory*. We will then travel some fifty years ahead to accompany several recent fascinating memoirs as they take us on an exploration of individual truth and identity. **(With images.)**

- Session 1 *Speak, Memory: An Autobiography Revisited*, VLADIMIR NABOKOV
- Session 2 *Are You Somebody? The Accidental Memoir of a Dublin Woman*, NUALA O’FAOLAIN
- Session 3 *Out of Egypt: A Memoir*, ANDRÉ ACIMAN
- Session 4 *Where I Was From*, JOAN DIDION
- Session 5 *Nothing to be Frightened Of*, JULIAN BARNES
- Session 6 *Travels in Vermeer: A Memoir*, MICHAEL WHITE

**MONDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

SEPT 11, 25

OCT 9, 23

NOV 6, 20

**Cost \$450 (6 sessions)**

\* tax deductible portion is \$225



**SUSAN BARILE** – Assistant Professor, English Department, Hunter College. A graduate of Georgetown University, Dr. Barile holds a Master’s Degree from Hunter and a Ph.D. in Literature from The Graduate Center, NYC. She completed her dissertation on the letters of Edith Wharton written to Italian Renaissance art historian Bernard Berenson. She is also the author of *The Bookworm’s Big Apple: A Guide to Manhattan’s Booksellers*, published by Columbia University Press.



# LEARN TO SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF OPERA

Neal Goren, Moderator

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A Seminar for the novice as well as the aficionado, this seminar will increase your connoisseurship – and your enjoyment – of the world's most passionate art form. With its syllabus tied to the current Metropolitan Opera season, this Seminar will turn you into an opera insider. **Video will be used.**

- Session 1 ***Norma and the Art of Bel Canto***
- Session 2 **The Art of Renée Fleming**
- Session 3 **Pinning Down the Ineffable: How to Describe Voices**
- Session 4 **Verismo Opera: Puccini's *La Bohème, Turandot, Madama Butterfly***
- Session 5 **What Makes a Verdi Voice? (*Requiem*)**
- Session 6 **What Makes a Great Mozartian Singer? (*Le Nozze di Figaro, The Magic Flute*)**

**TUESDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

SEPT 19  
OCT 3, 17, 31  
NOV 14  
DEC 5

**Cost \$450 (6 sessions)**

\* tax deductible portion is \$225



**NEAL GOREN** – Conductor, Founding Artistic Director of Gotham Chamber Opera. Goren has conducted throughout the U.S. and in Europe. He was the resident conductor of the 2015 Casalmaggiore Music Festival in Italy.

As a recital accompanist, Goren has performed with Leontyne Price (as her exclusive musical collaborator), Kathleen Battle, Hei-Kyung Hong, Harolyn Blackwell, Haken Hagegard, Thomas Hampson, Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, Aprile Millo, Hermann Prey, and others. He is an Associate Professor in the Graduate Opera Department of the Mannes College of Music.

# RUSSIA

## A POLITICAL SURVEY FROM GORBACHEV TO PUTIN

Professor Anne O'Donnell, Moderator

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This Seminar will explore Russia's recent history, from the sudden collapse of the Soviet Union under Mikhail Gorbachev to the enduring power of Vladimir Putin. Why did Gorbachev decide to "reform" the Soviet system, and why did reform lead to collapse? After decades locked in Cold War with the United States, why did collapse, in the end, come about so peacefully? How was Russia ruled in the 1990s under Boris Yeltsin? What was Russia in the process of becoming – a democracy? dictatorship? – and what was the experience of ordinary people through this tumultuous transition? Why has Russia ended up, in 2017, once again in the hands of a lone powerful ruler? **Video will be used.**

- Session 1** Gorbachev Comes to Power, The Quest for Socialist Reform (Perestroika), The Late Soviet Union
- Session 2** The Soviet Collapse, Yeltsin's rise, and "the End of History"
- Session 3** The Yeltsin Era, Gangster Capitalism, the Devaluation Crisis (1998)
- Session 4** Putin's Accession (2000), a Democratic Path? Khodorkovsky, Kleptocracy, and the 'Siloviki'
- Session 5** Putin-Medvedev, the Roots of Nationalist Resurgence
- Session 6** Putin in the Present

**THURSDAYS, 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

**SEPT 7, 28**  
**OCT 12, 26**  
**NOV 9, 30**

**Cost \$450 (6 sessions)**

\* tax deductible portion is \$225



**ANNE O'DONNELL** – Assistant Professor of History and Russian and Slavic Studies at New York University. She comes to NYU from Harvard University, where she was a Prize Fellow at the University's Center for History and Economics. Professor O'Donnell received her A.B. and Ph.D. from Princeton University. Her writing has been published in academic journals as well as *The New York Times* and *The New Republic*. She is currently preparing a book manuscript dealing with the history of the Russian Revolution for publication.



# WATCHING DANCE

Heather Watts, Moderator

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Guided by renowned New York City Ballet ballerina-turned-arts educator Heather Watts, this discussion based Seminar will look at dance through many lenses. Each week we will examine ballets, choreographers, and dancers past and present to further our understanding of dance today, delving into movement, music, and historical context, accompanied by Watts' commentary and personal insights. Included will be important ballets made in the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as selected contemporary works and educational materials. **Video will be used.**

- Session 1**    **Tendus and Ballet Class:** How We Prepare to Dance
- Session 2**    **Looking at the Varying Uses and Types of Arabesques in Ballets We Love**
- Session 3**    **The Great Tchaikovsky Ballets and Their Relationships to Each Other**
- Session 4**    **The Balanchine Military Ballets:** *Stars and Stripes* and *Union Jack*
- Session 5**    **Virtuoso Female Roles in Dance**
- Session 6**    **Finale:** Class Selections

**THURSDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

**SEPT    7, 28**

**OCT     12, 26**

**NOV    9, 30**

**Cost \$450 (6 sessions)**

\* tax deductible portion is \$225



**HEATHER WATTS** joined New York City Ballet in 1970 and was one of the last of the famed Balanchine Ballerinas. Watts worked closely with George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins at NYCB, and was an acclaimed international ballet star retiring from the stage in 1995. Watts is a contributing editor at *Vanity Fair* magazine. She has created academic courses on Balanchine's life and work at Harvard University, was the Visiting Lecturer in Dance at Princeton University in 2012. She was an inaugural fellow at the Institute of Ballet, NYU in 2014. Watts received a Doctorate in Fine Arts *honoris causa* from Hunter College.

Photo: Inez and Vinoodh

# BOB FOSSE & COMPANY

Edward Barnes, Moderator

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The distinctive style of multi-talented director, choreographer, dancer, actor, and screenwriter Bob Fosse helped define the American musical for decades. From early television appearances on shows like *Your Hit Parade* and the *Colgate Comedy Hour* to directing dozens of productions for stage and film including *Sweet Charity*, *Pippin*, *Chicago* and the Academy Award-winning, *Cabaret*, Fosse rose through the ranks of showbiz to become a leading director and innovator of Broadway and Hollywood musical hits. Through the lens of the now classic shows he brought to life, this Seminar will explore the realm of Fosse's talents, the stars he worked with, and his unique contribution to the canon of great American musicals. **Video will be used.**

- Session 1** EARLY YEARS *Call Me Mister to Pajama Game*
- Session 2** LATE 1950s *Damn Yankees to Redhead*
- Session 3** 1960s *Little Me to Sweet Charity*
- Session 4** EARLY 1970s *Cabaret, Pippin and Lenny*
- Session 5** LATE 1970s *Chicago to All That Jazz*
- Session 6** 1980s *Star 80 to Big Deal*

★ **Please note: BOTH SECTIONS OF THIS SEMINAR ARE FILLED.**

**THURSDAYS, 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**      **OR**      **THURSDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

**SEPT**    14  
**OCT**    5, 19  
**NOV**    2, 16  
**DEC**    7

**Cost \$450 (6 sessions)**

\* tax deductible portion is \$225



**EDWARD BARNES** - Composer/Lyricist. He has worked with theaters around the country including Lincoln Center Theater Company, Mark Taper Forum, San Francisco Mime Troupe, Houston Grand Opera, San Diego Opera, American Repertory Theater, Minnesota Opera, Williamstown Theater Festival and others. Barnes is the winner of a Guggenheim Fellowship and the Stephen Sondheim Award for "Outstanding Talent in Creating Innovative Musical Theater." He is a producer of theater and concerts in New York and Buenos Aires.

# SIX-DAY WAR

Professor Robert David “KC” Johnson, Moderator

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Fifty years have passed since the Six-Day War altered the political and ideological frontiers of the Middle East. Taking advantage of newly-released material from the war’s anniversary, this seminar will examine the background to the war, its short-term effects, and how the result of the conflict shapes the modern Middle East. The Seminar also will discuss how these events affect the contemporary world. The first 25-30 minutes of each session will be dedicated to current political affairs in the U.S. and around the world. [Video will be used.](#)

- Session 1 Foundations
- Session 2 Fighting
- Session 3 Diplomacy
- Session 4 Instability
- Session 5 Israel & the World
- Session 6 Legacies

★ [Please note: ALL SECTIONS OF THIS SEMINAR ARE FILLED.](#)

WEDNESDAYS, 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. OR WEDNESDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

SEPT 6, 20  
OCT 4, 18  
NOV 1, 15

OR

WEDNESDAYS, 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. OR WEDNESDAYS, 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

SEPT 13, 27  
OCT 11, 25  
NOV 8, 29

Cost \$450 (6 sessions)

\* tax deductible portion is \$225



**ROBERT DAVID “KC” JOHNSON** - History Professor at Brooklyn College and the City University of New York Graduate Center. In 2007-2008, he taught at Tel Aviv University as Fulbright Distinguished Chair in the Humanities.

Professor Johnson received his B.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard and his M.A. from the University of Chicago. He has written and edited numerous books about American history, and appears frequently as a pundit on the History Channel. His most recent publication is the edited *Asia Pacific in the Age of Globalization*, published by Palgrave/MacMillan; and he has been selected by Oxford University Press to edit its forthcoming *Oxford History Handbook of American Foreign Relations*.

# ART & ARCHITECTURE OF TODAY

Lowell Pettit, Moderator

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This Seminar offers a series of presentations on Contemporary Art and Architecture, highlighting the works of today's emerging talents.

The sessions, which are more conversational than didactic, honor a simple ethic: that one of the best ways to access today's art is to re-engage **Art History**. Specifically, we isolate influential artists and architects working in the 21st century and create a context for their respective practices, rooted in more familiar names and movements in the 20th century and earlier. **Video will be used.**

★ **Please note: BOTH SECTIONS OF THIS SEMINAR ARE FILLED.**

**TUESDAYS, 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.** OR **TUESDAYS, 1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**SEPT 12, 26**

**OCT 10, 24**

**NOV 7, 28**

**Cost \$450 (6 sessions)**

\* tax deductible portion is \$225



**LOWELL PETTIT** - Art Historian, Contemporary Art Advisor (Pettit Art Partners), educator, and independent curator. He has lectured on the history and business of art for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, Guggenheim Museum, New York University, Christie's Education and Sotheby's Institute of Art, on whose faculty he has served since 2001. Pettit has been featured in many publications including *The New York Times*, *New York Observer*, *Fortune*, *Forbes*, *Bloomberg*, and *ArtNews*. He graduated from Collegiate School and earned his BA with honors in Studio Art and Art History from Wesleyan University in 1995.