

Providence Art Club

11 Thomas St Providence Rhode Island 02903, phone: 401.331.1114, www.providenceartclub.org

Press Release

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**March 25, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Making Her Mark Symposium
Sponsored by the Providence Art Club
at the Historic First Baptist Church Providence, RI
Symposium is Free but registration is advised. Space is limited.
providenceartclub.org/making-her-mark/**

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of Women’s History Month the Providence Art Club is sponsoring a day-long scholarly public symposium to coincide with the exhibition, *Making Her Mark: Women Artists of the Providence Art Club, 1880*. The *Making Her Mark* Symposium is organized by Anna Dempsey, Ph.D., UMass Dartmouth Associate Professor and Chair of the Art History Department, who teaches and researches on the topic of women artists 1880 – 1930. Dr. Dempsey is currently working on a publication “Building Communities: Working Women Artists, Designers and Modern American Culture, 1880-1930”

Making Her Mark: The Women of the Providence Art Club 1880, in the Maxwell Mays Gallery at 11 Thomas Street during the month of March, traces the role of women artists at the Providence Art Club in its early years. The focus is on the emergence of women as professional artists and art educators in 1880; the exhibition is curated by Catherine Little Bert of Bert Gallery and Nancy Whipple Grinnell, Curator Emerita of the Newport Art Museum.

Anna Dempsey, Ph.D., will moderate the symposium and introduce scholars throughout the day, as speakers present on the topic of professional women artists and American visual culture during the late 19th century. The *Making Her Mark* Symposium runs from 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., with a lunch break. Tours of the Providence Art Club exhibition run complementary to the symposium and require registration.

Several important scholars are participating in the *Making Her Mark* Symposium, including Kirsten Swinth, Ph.D., Director of American Studies and Chair of the Department of History at Fordham University. Swinth authored the seminal publication *Painting Professionals: Women Artists & the Development of Modern American Art, 1870 – 1930*.

Amanda C. Burdan, Ph.D., Associate Curator at the Brandywine River Museum of Art, will present her pioneering research on Providence Art Club founding member and Paris-trained

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artist, Rosa Peckham. Burdan's 2006 Brown University dissertation ***Americaines in Paris: Women Artists in the Formation of America's Cultural Identity 1865 – 1880*** is the foundation of her presentation.

Nancy Austin, Ph.D., will highlight Providence's 19th century cultural institutions in her talk *Leadership and Women Founders: Rhode Island School of Design, 1877 & the Providence Art Club 1880*. Dr. Austin's presentation is based upon her research in the publication ***Infinite Radius: Founding Rhode Island School of Design, 2008***.

Laura Prieto, Ph.D., Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Department Chair of History, Simmons College, and author of *At Home in the Studio: The Professionalization of Women Artists in America*, will present her latest cultural history research.

Two notable professors from the UMass Dartmouth College of Visual and Performing Arts, Memory Holloway, Ph.D. and Laura Franz will speak on the specific artwork in the exhibition and the context of women's artist communities.

To round out the day-long event, Nancy Whipple Grinnell, Newport Art Museum Curator Emerita, will moderate a Collectors' Panel featuring four panelists who are passionate about their collecting interests. They are: Sheila Robbins, Newton, MA, a collector of 19th century American art;; Kenneth Woodcock, of Washington, D.C. and Matunuck, RI, a collector of Hale family art that includes work by Ellen Day Hale and Lillian Westcott Hale; Dan Mechnig, of Providence, RI, a collector of 19th Century Rhode Island art; and John G. Hagan, Wellesley, MA, private art consultant and dealer with a specialty in 19th century American women artists.

For more information, contact Symposium coordinator, Angel Dean at the Providence Art Club, 401 331 1114. To find detailed information on the *Making Her Mark* Symposium go to <https://www.providenceartclub.org/making-her-mark/>

About the Providence Art Club



Founded in 1880 to stimulate the appreciation of art in the community, the Club has long been a place for artists and art patrons to congregate, create, display and circulate works of art. Located along Thomas Street, in the shadow of the First Baptist Church, the Providence Art Club is a picturesque procession of historic houses, home to studios, galleries and the clubhouse. Through its public programs, its art instruction classes for members and its active exhibition schedule, the Providence Art Club continues a tradition of sponsoring and supporting the visual arts in Providence and throughout Rhode Island. All of the Club's exhibitions are free and open to the public.