

Modfest

, celebrating its tenth anniversary, is Vassar College's exploration of the arts of the 20th and 21st centuries. Painting, sculpture, dance, drama, film, literature, poetry, and music are highlighted in a series of events taking place across campus during the last weeks of January and first week of February. Vassar students and faculty are joined by guest artists in the various fields of creative accomplishment.

The exciting young JACK Quartet will offer a program of modernist works. Another event will feature faculty member Mary Nessinger in Salvatore Sciarrino's avant-garde chamber opera *Vanitas*. Paula Vogel's *The Baltimore Waltz* will receive a dramatic reading.

Once again, an event will be devoted to poetry in translation, with readings in nine languages followed in each case by newly-created translations by Vassar students.

Vassar's prestigious W. K. Rose Fellowship in the Creative Arts will for the third year be the focus of an event in which four past winners will be on hand to share their recent work.

An evening devoted to cabaret and another to short films by current students are features new in 2012.

Participants in Modfest 2012 include Vassar students, faculty, alumnae/i, and guest artists as well as students from the Poughkeepsie area schools. All events are free and open to the public, except as noted.

Adene Wilson '69, serves as Modfest coordinator.



Festival Venues

1. Skinner Hall of Music
2. Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center
3. Chicago Hall
4. Main Building
5. Vogelstein Center for Drama and Film
6. Kenyon Hall
7. Ely Hall (Aula)

This Modfest is the 10th annual festival of the contemporary arts at Vassar College – celebrating the visual arts, dance, drama, film, literature, poetry, and music of the 20th and 21st centuries.

January 18 – February 4, 2012

Vassar College is a highly selective, coeducational, independent, residential liberal arts college founded in 1861. Consistently ranked as one of the country's best liberal arts colleges, Vassar is renowned for its long history of curricular innovation, and for the natural beauty and architectural distinction of its campus. More than 50 academic departments and degree programs – from Africana Studies to Biochemistry to Religion to Urban Studies – encompass the arts, foreign languages, natural sciences, and social sciences, and combine to offer a curriculum of more than 1,000 courses, including numerous interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary subjects.

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Directions to the Vassar campus in Poughkeepsie, New York, are available at www.vassar.edu/directions.

For a full schedule of arts related events, see arts.vassar.edu



Vassar



modfest
10th
Anniversary
2012

2012

January 18 – February 4
Vassar College

All events are free and open to the public without charge. No reservations are necessary, unless otherwise noted. All seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note that all events are subject to change.

People with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact the Office of Campus Activities at (845) 437-5370.

Directions to the Vassar campus in Poughkeepsie, New York, are available at www.vassar.edu/directions.

For additional information, call (845) 437-5370 or visit: arts.vassar.edu.

January

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

Thompson Library Exhibition.

Exhibition of Artists' Books from the Women's Studio Workshop. On view through March 9. On February 1, art professor Lisa G. Collins discusses WSW at 5:30pm in the Class of 1951 Reading Room.

Thompson Memorial Library

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

9:00am-5:00pm

Music Library Display.

The Vassar College Music Library presents a display highlighting Modfest activities and musicians, curated by Sarah Canino, music librarian. On view through February 4. Open daily.

Skinner Hall of Music, 1st floor

5:00pm and 7:00pm

James W. Palmer Gallery Exhibition and Presentation: *Teen Visions '12, Words, Dance, and Sounds*.

Opening reception of an exhibit of original artwork, followed by performances at 7:00pm of music, dance, and original poetry by high school students from the Mill Street Loft's Art Institute and girls empowerment programs, as well as the Stringendo ensemble, the Cappella Festiva Treble Choir, and dancers from the New York Academy of Ballet (with music by Joseph Bertolozzi '81). The exhibition features a wide variety of paintings, drawings, mixed-media, photography, and sculpture by students of The Art Institute of Mill Street Loft and is on view through February 9.

Exhibition: James W. Palmer III Gallery

Performance: Villard Room, Main Building, College Center

5:00pm – 9:00pm

Late Night at the Lehman Loeb.

Presentation of work by Vassar W.K. Rose Fellow, photographer Serge J-F. Levy '95. Enjoy extended gallery hours in an enlivened atmosphere, with creative happenings every week. Late Night at the Lehman Loeb is made possible by the generous support of the Jane W. Nuhn Charitable Trust.

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

5:30pm

Exhibition Opening Lecture and Reception.

Marco Maggi: Lentissimo is an exhibition of 14 colorful new works made expressly for this occasion. Lecture by Linda Weintraub, educator, author, artist, curator: "Gently Subversive – The Artistry of Marco Maggi." Reception to follow in Art Center Atrium. On view through April 1.

Taylor Hall Room 203 and the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center

9:00pm

Vassar Jazz Combos and the Body Electric Afrofunk Band.

The ensembles showcase a colorful variety of sub-genres of jazz and rock music. James Osborn, director for the jazz groups, and Luke Leavitt '12, band leader.

Villard Room, Main Building

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

10:00am-1:00pm

Music Workshop.

Basic Instruction in Sibelius Music Notation Software, beginner to low intermediate. Presented by Thomas E. Rudolph, music education technology pioneer. Participants must bring their own laptops but do not need to own Sibelius software. Space is limited. Reservations are required and may be made by contacting adene.s.wilson@gmail.com.

Kenyon Hall, Room 216

1:30pm-4:30pm

Music Workshop.

Basic Instruction in Sibelius Music Notation Software, intermediate to advanced. For description, see 10:00am-1:00pm listing above.

Kenyon Hall, Room 216

5:30pm

Vassar & New York Stage and Film's Powerhouse Theater Reading.

A reading of a new play to help beat the mid-winter blues. Informal reception to follow. For information email powerhouse@vassar.edu.

Martel Theater, Vogelstein Center for Drama and Film

8:00pm

JACK String Quartet.

One of the most vibrant young groups on the New York new music scene performs hard-core modernism by Xenakis, Scelsi and Ligeti.

Skinner Hall of Music

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

4:00pm

Vassar Faculty Composers Concert.

Music of Jonathan Chenette, Peter McCulloch, Harold Meltzer, and Richard Wilson. Performed by music faculty members Thomas Sauer and Peter McCulloch, as well as guest artists Paul Appleby, Moran Katz, Sooyun Kim, and James Austin Smith.

Skinner Hall of Music

MONDAY, JANUARY 23

5:00pm

Alumnae/i Music, Art, and Writing.

Features the work of W. K. Rose Fellowship winners: composer Alexandra Gardner '90; photographer Serge J-F. Levy '95; and writers Carol Ann Davis '92 and Andrew Porter '94. This combined concert, reading, discussion, and presentation of artwork spotlights past winners of the W.K. Rose Fellowship, awarded annually to a Vassar graduate in the creative arts since 1970.

Villard Room, Main Building



February

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

8:00pm
Foreign Film Screening.

Singapore GaGa (2005), Tan Pin Pin, director. This documentary celebrates the vibrant soundscapes of Singapore. Presented with commentary by Sophia Siddique Harvey, assistant professor of film.
Foreign Language Resource Center, Chicago Hall

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

5:00pm
Readings: Translation As An Art.
 Readings of Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish poems in their original tongue and of their translations by Vassar students. Translations and performances have been prepared with the help of the language fellows from the participating departments. Includes performance of music by the Mahagonny Choral Ensemble, a student-run contemporary group, Naomi Dubin, '12, conductor. Presented by the departments and programs of foreign language study at Vassar.
Villard Room, Main Building



1/22

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

5:00pm – 9:00pm
Late Night at the Lehman Loeb.
 Enjoy extended gallery hours in an enlivened atmosphere with creative happenings every week. Late Night at the Lehman Loeb is made possible by the generous support of the Jane W. Nuhn Charitable Trust.

6:00pm
 Chamber music and readings of original fairy tales by Vassar students from classes of Eduardo Navega, lecturer in music and director of the Chamber Music Program, and Nancy Willard, lecturer in English.
Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

5:00pm, 6:30pm, 8:00pm
Cabaret Night.
 A sampling of the Great American Songbook—Gershwin, Kern, Porter, Berlin, Rodgers, Sondheim, and others. Featuring singers from the Vassar College choirs as well as the music department. At the piano is David Alpher, Vassar music department staff accompanist. A fundraiser in support of the Vassar College Choral Ensembles' spring 2012 tour to England and France. Performances will begin at 5:00pm, 6:30pm, and 8:00pm. Tickets may be purchased in advance by emailing vassarcollegechoir@gmail.com, or by visiting the College Center North Atrium, Main Building, at lunchtime beginning January 18th. Students: \$5 in advance, or \$7 at the door; adults: \$10 in advance, or \$15 at the door. Food and beverages will be provided by the Vassar College choral ensembles.
Aula, Ely Hall



1/28, 2/4

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

11:00am
Open Rehearsal: Mahagonny Ensemble.
 Alumnus composer Evan James '07 coaches the student-run contemporary group in the preparation of his new work, *You're Unreal*. Following the rehearsal, there is a lunch with an opportunity to speak with the composer.
Skinner Hall of Music

8:00pm
Orchestral and Chamber Ensembles Concert.
 The Vassar College Orchestra and Mahagonny Ensembles perform works by Arvo Pärt, Gerald Finzi, and Almeida Prado in addition to *You're Unreal* by Evan James '07. Conducted by Eduardo Navega, director of the Chamber Music Program, William Healy '12, and Naomi Dubin '12.
Skinner Hall of Music

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

3:00pm
Chamber Music Concert.
 Mezzo-soprano Mary Nessinger, music faculty member, with Akiva Cahn-Lipman, cello, and Judith Gordon, piano, in a presentation of Salvatore Sciarrino's avant-garde chamber opera *Vanitas*.
Skinner Hall of Music



2/3

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

7:00pm
Dramatic Reading.
The Baltimore Waltz, a play by Paula Vogel, is "a crazy-quilt patchwork of hyperventilating language, erotic jokes, movie kitsch and medical nightmare...that spins before the audience in Viennese waltz time, replete with a dizzying fall." (*New York Times*) Presented by the Vassar Drama Department's Experimental Theater, Shona Tucker, assistant professor of drama and adviser to the Experimental Theater. Seating is very limited and reservations are required in advance. Contact the Box Office at boxoffice@vassar.edu or (845) 437-5599.
Streep Acting Studio, Room 110, Vogelstein Center for Drama and Film

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

5:00pm
Vassar Bookstore Author Series.
 Professor Emeritus of English Frank Bergon discusses his recent novel, *Jesse's Ghost*, and how he turned a true story into a novel.
Vassar College Bookstore, Main Building, College Center

8:00pm
Film Screening: Original Shorts.
 Vassar Filmmakers Club and the Film Majors' Committee present a selection of student short films from the Vassar film community. Student filmmakers are present for Q&A afterward. Hosted by Patty Cruz '12, vice-president, Filmmakers Club; Eric Schuman '12, co-president, Filmmakers Club; Tim O'Connor '12, co-president, Filmmakers Club; Cassie Gomes '12, co-chair, Film Major's Committee.
Rockefeller Hall, Room 200



1/27

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

3:30pm
Presentation: Art, Dance, Music, and Words.
 Chamber music, dance, art, and original poetry and prose by students of the music, dance, art, and English departments. Hosted by Jonathan Chenette, dean of the faculty and professor of music.
Villard Room, Main Building

8:00pm
Foreign Film Screening.
 Russian film *Igla/The Needle* (1988), Rashid Nugmanov, director. The founding text of the Kazakh New Wave movement, *The Needle* is an experimental visual kaleidoscope of genres, joining together elements of a stylized mob drama, a sea-side love story, and an anti-drug film set to the soundtrack of late Soviet post-punk. *The Needle* was one of the highest grossing Soviet blockbusters, winning a special jury prize at the 1988 Golden Duke Film Festival in Odessa as well as first prize at the 1990 Nuremberg Film Festival. Presented with commentary by Rita Safariants, visiting instructor in the Russian Studies Department.
Rockefeller Hall, Room 200

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

5:00pm – 9:00pm
Late Night at the Lehman Loeb.
 Fifth Anniversary of Late Night. Celebrate five years of enjoying extended gallery hours in an enlivened atmosphere with creative happenings every week. Late Night at the Lehman Loeb is made possible by the generous support of the Jane W. Nuhn Charitable Trust.
Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center

7:30pm
Performance: Poetry and Dance.
Grandmother Talks, Grandmother Dances. A collaborative piece weaving dance and poetry, this performance narrates Indigenous continuance through bloodlines, resistance, and creativity. Molly S. McGlennen, assistant professor of English and Native American Studies, and Kathy Wildberger, senior lecturer in the departments of Dance and Drama.
Aula, Ely Hall

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

8:00pm
Dance Performance.
 Vassar Repertory Dance Theatre performs works selected from their current repertoire. This performance is presented under the auspices of the Department of Dance. For Modfest tickets please write to dancetix@vassar.edu; put Modfest in the subject window. For information please call the Dance Office at (845) 437-7470.
Frances Daly Fergusson Dance Theater, Kenyon Hall

8:00pm
Dramatic reading of a Senior Project.
The Inheritance of Nightdreams, a new play by Isabella Batts '12, is a dramatic comedy about the panic and joy of being completely lost. The story follows the middle-aged parents and young adult children of the Peel family as they navigate love, death, distance, and the secret landscapes of each other's dreams. Seating is very limited and reservations are required in advance. Contact the Box Office at boxoffice@vassar.edu or (845) 437-5599.
Streep Acting Studio, Room 110, Vogelstein Center for Drama and Film

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

11:00am
Open Rehearsal: Mahagonny Ensemble.
 Features new works by student composers Connor Mulhern '14, and Jeremy Bloom '12. William Healy '12, conductor. Following the rehearsal, there is a lunch with an opportunity to speak with the composer.
Thekla Hall, Skinner Hall of Music



1/19, 1/23