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 Nasser 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, alumni, 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. Eliot Hall (Auxa)

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.

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.
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 Modest Music activities and musicians, curated by Sarah Canino, music librarian. On view from 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 and 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.

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 elevated 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, 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
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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22
4:00pm
Vassar Faculty Composers Concert.
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
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24 5:00pm
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 prepared with the help of the language fellows from the participating departments. Includes performance of music by the Mahagnony Choral Ensemle, a student-run contemporary group, Naomi Dubin, '12, conductor. Presented by the departments and programs of foreign language study at Vassar. Wilard Room, Main Building

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. Nuth 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 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 Alpern. Vassar music department staff accompanies. 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 vassarcabaret@gmail.com, or by visiting the College Center-North Atrium, Main Building. (Simples time 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 ensemble. Avila Ely Hall

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28 11:00am
Open Rehearsal: Mahagnony 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
Orchstral and Chamber Ensembles Concert. The Vassar College Orchestra and Mahagnony Ensembles perform works by Arvo Pärt, Gerald Finzi, and Amelia 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 Hessinger, music faculty member, with Akiva Cahn-Lyman, cello, and Judith Gordon, piano, in a presentation of Salvatore Sciarrino’s unattainable chamber opera landata. Skinner Hall of Music

MONDAY, JANUARY 30 7:00pm
Dramatic Reading. The Balloonists Waltz, a play by Paula Vogel. is “a crazy, quick-pitch hypertensting language, erotic jokes, movie kitch and medical nightmares... that spurs before the audience in Viennese waltz time, replete with a dizzying fall.” (New York Times). Presented by the Vassar Drama Department’s Experimental Theater, Shena Tucker, assistant professor of drama and advisor to the Experimental Theater. Seating is very limited and reservations are required in advance. Contact the Box Office at boxoffice@vassar.edu or (845) 437-5099.
Shepley Aiding Studio, Room 110, Vogelstein Center for Drama and Film

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31 5:00pm
Vassar Bookstore Author Series. Professor Emeritus of English Frank Bergian discusses his recent novel, Jesse’s Gospel, and how he turned a true story into a novel. Vassar 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: Tom O’Connor ’12, co-president. Filmmakers Club: Cassie Gomes ’12, co-chair. Film Major’s Committee. Rockefeller Hall, Room 200

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1 9:00pm
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 Chennette, dean of the faculty and professor of music. Wilard Room, Main Building

8:00pm
Foreign Film Screening. Russian filmспб The Restless (1988), Rashid Nutmanov, director. The founding test of the Kazakh New Wave movement, The Needle is an experimental visual kaleidoscope of gospels, joining together elements of a stylized mob drama, a sea-side love story, and an anti-war 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 Safarinova, 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 at Lehman. 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. Nuth Charitable Trust. Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center.
7:30pm

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3 8:00pm
Dance Performance. Vassar Repertory Dance Theatre performance works selected from their current repertoire. This performance is presented under the auspices of the Department of Dance. For information please call the Dance Office at (845) 437-7470.
Shepley Aiding Studio, Room 110, Vogelstein Center for Drama and Film

9:00pm
Dramatic reading of a Senior Project. The inerception of Alightnings, a new play by Isabela 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 Pawel 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) 437-5099.
Shepley Aiding Studio, Room 110, Vogelstein Center for Drama and Film

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4 11:00am
Open Rehearsal: Mahagnony Ensemble. Features new work by student composers Connor Mulham ’14, and Jeremy Bloom ’12. William Healy ’13, conductor. Following the rehearsal, there is a lunch with an opportunity to speak with the composer. Thelma Hall, Skinner Hall of Music