



# GREENWICH *Decorative Arts* SOCIETY

September 2018

Dear Members,

I hope you had a good summer. We are looking forward to another outstanding season at GDAS.

The Bruce Museum will not be starting major construction this year. Managing Director Suzanne Lio informed me that the building project is pushed back indefinitely and they are still actively raising funds and working on permits.

This October they will start with "Phase 1" - the new parking lot, which is projected to be finished in December. The Bruce also announced that Peter Sutton, Executive Director for 17 years, is moving towards his retirement. The Board of Trustees has formed a Transition Committee to steer the Museum through its leadership succession and to conduct a national search for a new Executive Director.

**Our Board confirmed that we will continue as planned to meet in November and December 2018 at the First Congregational Church in Old Greenwich.**

**After the new parking lot is completed, GDAS plans to move back to the Bruce Museum into our usual space from February 2019 through June 2019.**



*Lunch with Casanova*

We are very excited about our opening lecture at Riverside Yacht Club on October 1. We will explore the splendor and sophistication of the 18th century through the eyes of one of its most colorful characters, Giacomo Casanova

Casanova was much more than the lothario of popular legend. He was one of the most charming, intelligent and magnetic personalities of his day. He traveled throughout Europe mingling with royalty, popes and intellectuals. He wrote one of the wittiest autobiographies known to survive.



Canaletto (Giovanni Antonio Canal), *Bacino di San Marco, Venice*, c. 1738

Casanova offers a glimpse into daily life 250 years ago from his birthplace of Venice to the cultural capitals of Paris and London to more remote outposts in Eastern Europe.



We are thrilled to welcome speaker Thomas S. Michie, Senior Curator, The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and co-curator of the fabulous MFA exhibit, "Casanova's Europe." Thomas Michie is the co-author of *Casanova, The Seduction of Europe*, which accompanied the first major art exhibition outside Europe to lavishly recreate Casanova's visual world.

theaters, masked balls, boudoirs, gambling halls and dining rooms he frequented, it provides a survey of important works of 18th-century European art by masters such as Canaletto, Fragonard, Boucher, Houdon and Hogarth, along with exquisite decorative arts objects.



Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo, *The Charlatan*, 1756

Dr. Michie writes " Some of the themes addressed are travel, courtship and power, theatricality and identity, and the pleasures of fine dining and lively conversation."

**So "Lunch with Casanova" is the perfect fall celebration of art, dining and lively conversation as we gather together and begin our 33rd season.**

**Monday, October 1, 2018**

**10:30 a.m.          Arrival**

**11:00 a.m. sharp    Lecture**

**12:15 a.m.          Lunch**

Riverside Yacht Club  
102 Club Road  
Riverside

Join us in our not-to-be-missed lecture as we explore the rich visual world of Casanova and the splendor of 18th century Europe with its paintings, sculptures, ceramics, decorative arts, costumes and musical instruments. Guests are welcome.

**Make your reservations immediately if you have not already.**

**You may simply mail your check for \$65.00 made out to GDAS:  
Greenwich Decorative Arts Society  
P O Box 5095,  
Greenwich, CT 06831**





Statue of Thomas Chippendale in Yorkshire

This year we will be celebrating the 300th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Chippendale Senior (1718-1779). "The Shakespeare of English Furniture Makers" is without question Britain's greatest cabinet-maker. His reputation spread far beyond the shores of his homeland, and his genius is reflected in the number of beautifully designed and executed pieces of furniture that survive in excellent condition nearly 250 years after his death.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art is currently celebrating the tercentenary of Chippendale's birth with an engaging exhibition, "Chippendale's Director: The Designs and Legacy of a Furniture Maker." Organized by our speaker **Femke Speelberg** and Alyce Englund, curators respectively in the museum's drawings and prints and American departments, it features important examples of British and American Chippendale-style furniture, deftly placed in historical context through paintings, books and related works on paper from the Met collections.



Side chair (from a set of 14) London, England, c.  
1772 PHOTO: METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

"One of the show's themes is the new importance accorded to drawing in 18th-century England, where recently established drawing academies were open not just to painters but also to decorative artists like Chippendale...No wonder a palpable sense of curatorial exuberance pervades this show."

*WSJ*, Sept. 6, 2018.



Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown's #662 'Chippendale' Chair  
(1984) PHOTO:METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

Join us at the First Congregational Church on November 5 as we hear  
Femke Speelberg of the MET speak on  
Thomas Chippendale as Draftsman and Cabinetmaker.



Brooch, ca 1929 Raymond Yard, New York, NY; Courtesy of Vartanian and Sons, Photo: Matt Flynn, Smithsonian Institution

What better way to celebrate the holiday season than a lecture on "Facets of Art Deco," the development of jewelry design in the 1920's and 1930's by Sarah Coffin of Cooper Hewitt.

Our December 3 gathering will wrap up our 2018 year with a sparkling lecture and a festive holiday tea.



Bracelet, 1925, Boucheron, Paris


Our society promotes the study and appreciation of the decorative arts and we treasure our gatherings of like-minded spirits.


Our Board and Program Committee appreciate your enthusiasm and look forward to a special 2018-2019 season.

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Be the flame, not the moth.  
~ Giacomo Casanova

See you at "Lunch with Casanova" !  
Karen Handal, President  
Greenwich Decorative Arts Society

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