

Rena Tobey

Catalog of Talks and Keynotes



About Rena

Rena's greatest passion is making art accessible, invigorating, insightful, and fun. She has taught art history at NYU's School for Professional Studies and conducts lively, interactive tours of museum collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Jewish Museum, now via Zoom. She also provides online talks on American art and historical women artists for a variety of community organizations such as New York Public Library, New York Adventure Club, and Shady Ladies Tours. Just for fun, she has created Artventures!® Game--a cheeky party game on the adventures of art and art history.

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Talks and Keynotes

Corporate Talks – Art of Work (and Play) in America

Want something fresh and different for your next Corporate event? **Think art!**



John Sloan. *Six O'Clock Winter*. 1912.

Speaking engagements (45 minutes to 1 hour)

- Keynotes
- New Employee Orientations
- Prevention of Burnout
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
- Retreats and Strategic Planning
- Brainstorming, Creativity, and Innovation sessions
- Organizational Culture
- Work-Life Balance

Results

- Increase productivity
- Boost creativity and innovation
- Release stress
- Spark inspiration
- Refresh and recharge

Rena Tobey

Talks and Keynotes

Finding Her Way: American Women on the Professional Track, 1840-1940

Relevant talk about American women's history through the eyes of women artists



Theresa Bernstein. *In the Elevated*. 1916.

Is work-life balance an issue for you? Take a break from today's pressures, and come look at how women artists from the past wrestled with the very same thing--as seen in the art itself! Our interactive exploration shows their gender-busting struggle to be taken seriously as professionals, laying the groundwork for our own successes.

We'll explore the relevant, eye-opening, funny, and even sexy stories of everyday life for women artists juggling the demands of their personal lives with their professional goals.

Are you a New Woman? Join us to find out!

Perfect for:

- Work-Life Balance
- Burnout Relief
- Creative Leadership
- Problem Solving
- Women's History Month

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Talks and Keynotes

Edward Hopper's Office

Captivating talk about American work life from the unusual perspective of a superstar artist



Edward Hopper. *Office at Night*. 1940.

In the early 20th century, America bustled its way to become a global powerhouse through its optimism, technological innovations, and moxie. But not everyone experienced this same exuberance. The art of Edward Hopper revealed the city—its workplaces and restaurants—as off-kilter, even otherworldly. As we look through the fresh eyes of a boundary-pushing artist, we explore times not so different from our own and find new ways to consider old problems.

Perfect for:

- Organizational Culture
- Burnout Relief
- Brainstorming, Creativity, and Innovation
- Problem Solving
- Creative Leadership

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Talks and Keynotes

Thomas Eakins and the Art of Men at Work, 1870-1900

Fascinating talk about American work forever marked by this era of radical change.



Thomas Eakins. *The Agnew Clinic*. 1889.

After the Civil War, with rapid urbanization and a booming industrial revolution, the world of work for men changed forever. The very nature of work changed. Working class men now lived life according to the alarm clock and factory bell, rather than the farmer's cycle of the sun. A new middle-class emerged, solidified with respect for professions like medicine, law, architecture, and science.

Artist Thomas Eakins mirrored back the newness, excitement, confusion, and anxiety of these rapid societal changes. Come celebrate the art of technological innovations in modern work and its secondary effects on leisure time. Do you love sports? Here's where the American obsession began!

Perfect for:

- Work-Life Balance
- Burnout Relief
- Creative Leadership
- Organizational Culture
- Retreats and Strategic Planning

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Talks and Keynotes

Colonial Dress Codes

Insightful, often funny, talk about radical change read in the clothing of painted portraits.



John Singleton Copley. *Nicholas Boylston*. c1769.

Casual Friday? Business casual everyday? What goes in your workplace? If you lived in the American colonial era, what you wore said everything not only about who you were and your values, but also your politics, aspirations, and work successes. By looking closely at the clothing and accessories in portraits, we discover how paintings reflect the shaping of our unique American culture, and through rapid change and great innovation, a new nation emerged.

Perfect for:

- Burnout Relief
- Conflict Resolution
- Organizational Culture
- Refresh and Recharge
- Brainstorming, Creativity, and Innovation

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Talks and Keynotes

Thomas Cole: The Original Climate Change Activist

Eye-opening talk about the Hudson River School and how landscape art swayed the nation.



Thomas Cole. *Kaaterskill Falls*. 1826.

Like any good hike, landscape paintings open up the vast world of nature. But more than a pretty picture, Thomas Cole's paintings are coded with a plea for preserving wilderness while creating developments that coexist in harmony with the land. Influential today, Cole became our first conservationist. This talk will leave you refreshed, with renewed vigor for our natural world and all its meaning.

Perfect for:

- Work-Life Balance
- Burnout Relief
- Leadership
- Problem Solving
- Strategic Planning

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Talks and Keynotes

Mythmaking in American Art: The Stories We Tell Ourselves

Invigorating talk about historical myths in art that live with us today.



Frederic Remington. *A Dash for the Timber*. 1889.

Just what you've been looking for—thrillers, action, adventure! No, not at the movies, but in American art. Join Rena for this image-filled talk on mythmaking and American art.

Myths emerge from the stories we tell ourselves—how we know ourselves as Americans. We'll look at historical myths and how they got embedded in our lives. We'll head west to discover what made it so wild. And we'll look at our first action heroes, dating from 150 years ago. Get ready to experience, and maybe even challenge, the great American myths, through the eyes of American artists.

Perfect for:

- Organizational Culture
- Burnout Relief
- Creativity
- Problem Solving
- Team Building
- Retreats and Strategic Planning

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Talks and Keynotes

Eating, Shopping, Dancing in the Big City: American Artists on the Town

Lively talk about New York City artists showing us a great time in the city, 1900-1950



John Sloan. *Chinese Restaurant*. 1909.

Joyful. Exuberant. Playful. Artists from the turn of the 20th century were excited by everything in New York City—all its inventions, all its pleasures. Come enjoy the simple pleasures in life we often take for granted—eating out, shopping, going to the movies, dancing the night away, joining crowds for urban playtime—that together create a vibrant city.

Our close looking will take us all around town through the eyes of its artists, as we marvel at inventions that have changed how we work and play, even today. All these small and larger moments of urban life provide just the refresher you've been waiting for!

Perfect for:

- New Employee Orientation
- Burnout Relief
- Managing Change

Rena Tobey

Talks and Keynotes

Entertaining the City: Art of the Cultural Capital

Vivid talk about New York City's theaters, movies, and world of entertainment, 1900-1950.

The Modern City: Art of New York City, 1900-1950



Everett Shinn. *The Orchestra Pit*. 1906-07.

Take a fresh look at New York City through the eyes of some of America's greatest artists who were endlessly inspired by the city. Ready for a night on the town? How about vaudeville? The movies? Or the spectacle of urban theater on the streets. It's all here in full color as these artists showcase the glamour, grandeur, and grit of New York. Be delighted by the new urban scene with its technological wonders, new palaces for entertainment, and everyday pleasures of a growing, bold, optimistic city.

Perfect for:

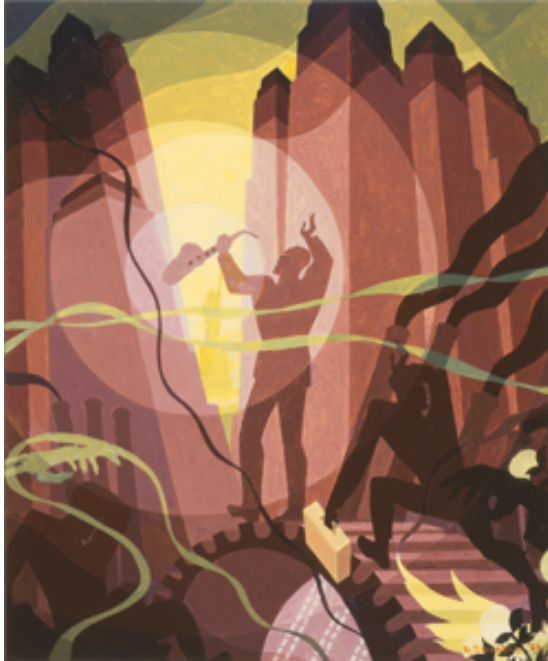
- New Employee Orientation
- Burnout Relief
- Brainstorming, Creativity, and Innovation
- Retreats and Strategic Planning

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Talks and Keynotes

The Harlem Renaissance

Powerful talk about emerging African-American artist voices so relevant today.



Aaron Douglas
Song of the Towers
1934

Harlem flourished in the 1920s, energized by the Great Migration of African Americans from the South who were looking for jobs in the urban north and west. The first generation of photographers, painters, sculptors, and muralists tapped into new calls for racial pride and optimism; the second worked through the Depression and World War II, carrying on this inspiration and deepening the world view. This is the story of the art of the Harlem Renaissance, still profoundly influencing artists today.

Perfect for:

- Brainstorming, Creativity, and Innovation
- Burnout Relief
- Leadership
- Problem Solving
- Black History Month

Rena Tobey

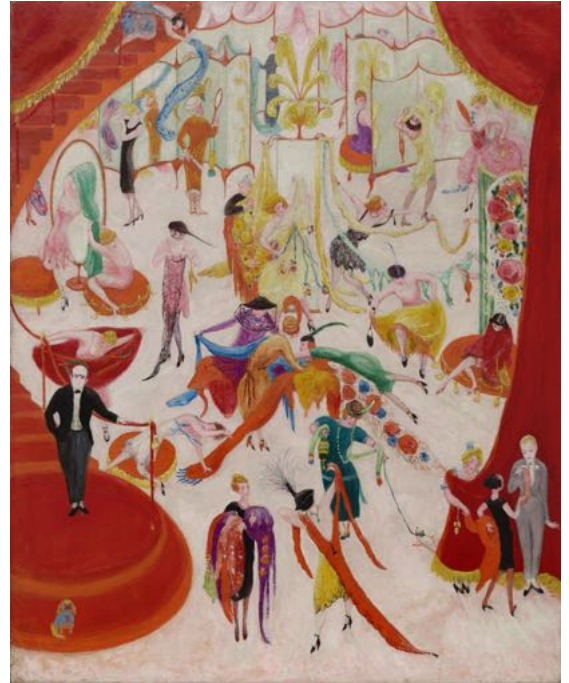
Talks and Keynotes

Women Artists Reinvent the New York Art Scene

Empowering talk about women artists who reinvented their lives, changing the art world forever.



Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney with her sculptures, including "Impressions of War," 1919.



Florine Stettheimer. *Spring Sale at Bendel's*. 1921.

While we take New York City's first-rate art scene for granted these days, it could have easily never existed. Had it not been for a handful of women who decided to rebel against traditional lives in the domestic sphere, NYC may not have become a center for artistic imagination. This is the story of wealthy women from the early 20th century who devoted their time, money, talent, and civil pride to making New York one of the premier locations of fine art in the world.

Perfect for:

- Work-Life Balance
- Burnout Relief
- Leadership and Team Building
- Brainstorming, Creativity, and Innovation
- Women's History Month

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Talks and Keynotes

Up, Down, and Around the City: Artist Views of New York Transit, 1850-1950

Fun talk about the development of urban life by looking at how people moved around.



William Schenck. *Third Avenue Railroad Depot*. c1859-60.

How do you get to work? This is the story of how New York's transit infrastructure has evoked pride, wonder, and imagination amongst artists for hundreds of years, and resulted in bold, optimistic art that captures a city in motion. From stage coaches and trolleys to bridges and subway tunnels, we explore how the transit network not only attracted riders, but also artists who were endlessly captivated by how people moved around the chaotic city. Hot air balloon ride, anyone?

Perfect for:

- Organizational Culture
- Work-Life Balance
- Burnout Relief
- Change Management
- Problem Solving

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Talks and Keynotes

Bonus!

Winslow Homer: Visions of a Changing America

Timely talk in conjunction with the Metropolitan Museum of Art exhibit April-July 2022



Winslow Homer. *The Life Line*. 1884.

Change is an essential part of our workplace, but can also be a huge challenge. Come explore the artwork of Winslow Homer to see how change, both radical and incremental, transformed American life in the late 1800s. With a subtle and clarion voice, Homer teased out the complexities of everyday life from the Civil War to the turn of a new century, including changing roles for men and women. Homer loved epic battles. Thought Superman was our first super hero? Look again. Homer opens our eyes to how heroes shape the American character and set the stage for the movies we enjoy today.

Perfect for:

- Change Management
- Problem Solving
- Dealing with Conflict
- Organizational Culture
- Burnout Relief



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Testimonials

“What a fabulous class and what an absolutely wonderful teacher you are! You have an amazing energy and enthusiasm, and a supremely delightful style. I cannot tell you how impressed I am and am so very, very glad to be in your class! The time flew by!” *Beth M., June 2021*

“I thoroughly enjoyed your course. Each lecture was rich with cultural, art historical and idiosyncratic information. I loved learning how, in fits and starts, women artists gained agency over their careers and personal lives. Thank you.” *Heather F., May 2021*

What a wonderful event!! I loved it. Rena Tobey is a gifted lecturer with enormous academic knowledge and a lively and interesting presentation. I loved her method of organizing biography with historical with art information. This is the second time I have “found” her and will be looking for more from Ms.Tobey. *Sincerely, Bonnie G., April 2021*

I really enjoyed your course—every class I not only discovered many interesting artists but also you moved us through all the feelings of every period. It was the perfect company for these times to understand more, but also it was comforting. I think I’ll never forget that class you closed with John Frederick Kensett’s *Sunset on the sea*, remembering us to find healing in nature. *Tere C., November 2020*

Her depth of scholarship was so impressive, and she presented it all with enthusiasm, humor, intelligence while engaging the “audience”. It left all of us wanting more. *Debra G., April 2020*

“Rena has a gift for bringing fine art alive, which is a true feat in the age of digital distractions. Audiences of all ages are captivated by her interactive presentations, and always leave with a far greater appreciation for still paintings, and the fascinating artists behind the brushstrokes.” *Corey William Schneider, CEO & Founder, New York Adventure Club, 2020*

“Very well organized, intelligently presented with an engaging and charming manner.”
“Rena’s passion and knowledge about subject. Very interesting topic. Excellent gripping presentation. Audience interaction stimulating.”
Webinar Participants, New York Adventure Club webinar, from evaluations, April 2020

“Rena Tobey gave five sessions on ‘Visions of New York’ at our non-profit school for people 55+ in Manhattan. The sessions were totally absorbing and, without flashiness, very exciting. Rena’s approach is to draw students out so they make their own discoveries.”
Judy Langer, Executive Director, The Center for Learning and Living, Inc, Fall 2018

“Rena’s ‘Painting Connecticut’ program was a big hit. On their way out the door attendees were already asking for her to make a return visit. The talk has a terrific blend of fascinating stories, beautiful artwork, and discussion of some artistic concepts and techniques. This program is accessible to art novices and experts alike. Highly recommended!” *Andy Northrup, Adult Services & Programs Librarian, Scranton Memorial Library, January 2018*