

Rena Tobey

Catalog of Talks – Women Artists



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 Southern Connecticut State University. Rena provides talks for New York Adventure Club and many community organizations. She conducts lively, interactive tours of museum collections, now via Zoom. Just for fun, Rena created Artventures!® Game--a cheeky party game on the adventures of art and art history.

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Rena Tobey

Talks – Women Artists

Women Artists from the Renaissance to the Pre-Raphaelites



Elisabetta Sirani
Self-Portrait
1658

Art history often focuses on the celebrity genius—exceptional men who mark an era. Too often, extraordinary women artists have been overlooked despite their inventiveness, popularity, and resounding triumphs in their era.

Why are works by women artists often overshadowed and even forgotten? This course considers how women had to navigate societal expectations with their drive to be recognized as professionals. Often, they faced difficult choices, sacrificing in their personal lives or career options. Others battled societal and professional restrictions, with mixed results. Even the most admired and accomplished fell into obscurity upon their death, no matter the successes they achieved while living. Together, we will resuscitate and celebrate the art careers of historical women, including:

- Sophonisba Anguissola
- The Gifts of Renaissance Bologna
- Fierce and Fabulous Artemisia Gentileschi
- The Golden Age of Dutch and Flemish Masters
- 18th-century British Academicians Mary Moser and Angelica Kauffmann
- The Revolution of Élizabeth Vigée-Lebrun and Adélaïde Labille-Guiard
- Rosa Bonheur Taking Charge
- British PreRaphaelites and Marie Spartali Stillman

Each session can also serve as a stand-alone talk. Descriptions follow.

Rena Tobey

Talks – Women Artists



Sophonisba Anguissola



Sophonisba. Anguissola. *The Chess Game*. 1555.

“The Queen’s Gambit” has nothing on this first international superstar woman artist. Linking Michelangelo, the Medici, the Court of Spain, and Anthony van Dyke, Sophonisba Anguissola was the first woman to become an international celebrity artist. She cleverly used societal restrictions to shape her own image, then leveraged her prodigious skill with witty, warm, and gentle-warrior energy. Come learn about this Italian Renaissance painter who broke all the rules for noble women and was celebrated for her daring, in turn generously mentoring new generations of nobles and artists alike.

In this image-rich talk, we will learn about:

- how artistic styles of the Renaissance migrated from artist to artist, place to place
- the role of self-portraits in Anguissola’s portfolio
- how Anguissola used intimate family images to reveal everyday life for women in the 1500s
- the complications of a woman artist’s life at court
- her career success that brought the art world to her

Come revel in the beautiful glories of Anguissola’s work and delight in her life stories, more wondrous than fiction.

Rena Tobey

Talks – Women Artists

The Gifts of Renaissance Bologna



Lavinia Fontana
Isabella Ruini as Venus
1592



Elisabetta Sirani
Virgin and Child
1663-1664

Properzia de' Rossi, Lavinia Fontana, and Elisabetta Sirani are just three of the over 15 active women artists working in Bologna in the 1500s and 1600s. What made Bologna both fertile ground and hospitable to women artists?

This talk demonstrates the influence of the university and a liberal arts education on attitudes toward women's achievements. Properzia de' Rossi could carve the marble doors of a church or the tiny seed from a cherry, remarkable in specificity and dynamism. Lavinia Fontana took conventions and manners that might hamper a less formidable woman and used that knowledge to forge lucrative relations with the local power families and reveal the complexity of women's characters. Elisabetta Sirani, in her terribly shortened life, supported her extended family with her career success, painting loveliness in her religious and mythological scenes.

These women reveal how important not only talent is in furthering success, but also the value of a supportive environment like their city of Bologna. The results are treasures.

Rena Tobey

Talks – Women Artists



Fierce and Fabulous Artemisia Gentileschi



Artemisia Gentileschi
Self-Portrait as the Allegory of Painting
1630

Celebrating the fiery genius of Artemisia Gentileschi, who broke the rules and wore her battle scars with determination

Art history often focuses on the celebrity genius—exceptional men who mark an era. Too often, extraordinary women artists have been overlooked despite their inventiveness, popularity, and resounding triumphs in their era—certainly true of women making art in the 1600s.

Artemisia Gentileschi was not going to take this lying down! Instead, she challenged every societal rule that put women in their place. And she upped the ante in the art world. Unheard of in her day, she worked in her father's art workshop, then outshone everyone around her and rose to the top of the art scene in Rome and Florence. In this image-rich talk, we will learn about:

- the artistic style of the Baroque—art made in the 1600s
- how Artemisia used her own image to tell the stories of heroines and saints
- paintings depicting familiar scenes that open our eyes when shown from a woman's point of view
- the complications of considering an artist's life story when analyzing her work
- her career success that prompted changes in her painting subjects and style

Come revel in Artemisia's heroic depictions of eternal heroines—and leave a little braver yourself.

Note: the images in this presentation include scenes of nudity and Biblical violence

Rena Tobey Talks – Women Artists

The Golden Age of Dutch and Flemish Masters



Judith Leyster. *Self-Portrait*. c1633.



Clara Peeters. *Still Life with Cheeses, Almonds, and Pretzels*. c1615.

Following tremendous political and economic turmoil, The Golden Age of the Netherlands in the 1600s generated new global connections and sophistication, the birth of the art market, and opportunities for women artists.

In Holland, Judith Leyster joined 'merry company' through her joyful paintings of plenty and became a star. Clara Peeters is considered one of the first still life painters anywhere, and she helped establish the breakfast picture and the banquet picture. You'll leave hungry.

Michaelina Wautier, in Flanders, today's Belgium, depicted everyday life and religious scenes with equal naturalism and bravura. Working with a 'manly' brush, she accomplished huge scale commissions and parlor-sized paintings of great tenderness.

These artists typify the exuberantly cosmopolitan art world of this newly prosperous region, and we rejoice in equal pleasure today.

Rena Tobey Talks – Women Artists

18th-century British Academicians Mary Moser and Angelica Kauffmann



Mary Moser
Summer
c1780



Angelica Kauffmann
Design
1778-1780

Two women artists were part of the founding of the influential Royal Academy—part school, part social club, part exhibition salon. They certainly didn't have an easy time achieving universal respect. Their stories, filled with self-assurance and resilience, serve as models for anyone facing gender restrictions.

Mary Moser benefited from her father's connections, as he also was an Academy founder. But it was her own moxie that led to her court commissions with particular favor by the Queen. Swiss-born Angelica Kauffmann chose to make her career in London. Prodigiously talented and working in the high style of Neoclassicism, Kauffman became a favorite with London's society. Ultimately, scandal and gossip led Kauffman to move to Rome where her talents were embraced more openly.

Come consider the broader culture of England during this Enlightenment period, and how these women rose above unenlightened attitudes and behaviors to succeed.

Rena Tobey

Talks – Women Artists

The Academie Royale and Superstars Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun and Adélaïde Labille-Guiard



Élisabeth Vigée Lebrun
Self-Portrait with the Artist's Daughter
1789



Adélaïde Labille-Guiard
Self-Portrait with Two Pupils
1785

We may expect the French art world to be liberal and accepting of those who push boundaries, but the reality is usually quite different. The Revolutionary era was no exception. Come learn about this turbulent moment in French history through the eyes of two of its most accomplished women artists—Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun and Adélaïde Labille-Guiard. Pitted against each other by the reactionary press, the two artists moved through the late 1700s with very different strategies--and survived to tell the tale!

In this image-rich talk, we will learn about:

- how art changed before, during, and after the French Revolution
- the role of women artists in The Academie Royale
- how Vigée Le Brun became a success at court and the repercussions with the Revolution
- marketing strategies that built Labille-Guiard's reputation and the resulting effects during the Revolution
- how career success was defined and used by each of these artists for her lasting legacy

Immerse in the beauty of these women artists' paintings, while learning about their often surprising lives during this time of crisis.

Rena Tobey Talks – Women Artists



Rosa Bonheur Taking Charge



Rosa Bonheur. *The Horse Fair*. 1852-1855.

Art history often focuses on the celebrity genius—exceptional men who mark an era. Too often, extraordinary women artists have been overlooked despite their inventiveness, popularity, and resounding triumphs in their era—certainly true of women making art in France in the 1800s.

But nothing was going to stop Rosa Bonheur from her calling—as an artist and unprecedented, as a woman depicting animals in paint and bronze. She challenged societal rules that restricted where women could go and what they could learn. From the slaughterhouse to public auctions, from the Highlands of Scotland to the forests of Fontainebleau, Bonheur surged forward on her quest to show animals with regal splendor, in all their metaphorical glory.

In this image-rich talk, we will learn about:

- the artistic style of Realism in France
- the limitations on how most women lived in Paris in the 1800s
- Bonheur's determined boldness and dedication to being an artist, blasting through considerable societal obstacles
- her tremendous career success, both in the conventional art world and with the public, in the male-dominated world of the animalier - a portrayer of animals
- the story of how her greatest masterpiece, and one of the all-time great French paintings, ended up in an American museum
- the unusual friendships Bonheur cultivated, including with Buffalo Bill Cody
- Bonheur's cloaked personal life, including two devoted lesbian love relationships

Come revel in Rosa Bonheur's heroic depictions of powerful animals, symbols for her strength, human harmony with the natural world, and the raw transcendence of the nation itself. No doubt, her majestic work will leave you feeling bolder yourself.

Rena Tobey

Talks – Women Artists



The Pre-Raphaelites and Marie Spartali Stillman



Marie Spartali Stillman
Love's Messenger
1885

How did historical women navigate the art world? Stepping into the public sphere of business, marketing, and meeting and shaping taste, Spartali Stillman had to carefully navigate her conventional world to ultimately achieve success.

The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood (PRBs) rebelled against an art world that evaluated quality based on conventional techniques established in the Renaissance. Spurred by cultural critic John Ruskin, these young British artists sought a return to more 'natural' expression, as created before the artist Raphael. Their late 19th century work frequently depicted women, revealing surprisingly traditional ideas given their revolutionary creators. Come learn how these artists told stories through their art, both literary and about their contemporary world. See also how one woman, Marie Spartali Stillman, established herself, working both within the group and through her own voice.

Rena Tobey

Talks – Women Artists

American Women's History, 1845-1945



Violet Oakley. *Three Women (The Red Rose Girls)*. 1903.

The American experiment has allowed for many forms of societal rule-breaking, but historically, women artists often found themselves bound by old-world conventions. In this course, we take a deep look at the artworks of extraordinary American women artists, some familiar and most less so. You'll get a better understanding of the strategies these artists employed to become professionals, a reflection of the challenges urban women faced overall.

Most of these artists have fallen into obscurity upon death, regardless of the successes they achieved while living. Together, we will resuscitate and celebrate the art careers of notable women working over 100 years. Descriptions for each follow:

- Finding Her Way: American Women Artists Rise to Professionalism, 1845-1945
- Shaking Hands with Lilly Martin Spencer
- Subversive Beauty of Mary Cassatt
- The Gilded Age: When Beauty and Modernity Collide
- The Red Rose Girls Illustrating Women's Lives
- Elizabeth Okie Paxton: Beauty Pushes the Story
- Theresa Bernstein Exuberantly Describes the City
- Isabel Bishop and Peggy Bacon: Change During the Great Depression
- Georgia O'Keeffe: Invention and Reinvention

Rena Tobey

Talks – Women Artists



Finding Her Way: American Women Artists Rise to Professionalism, 1845-1945



Isabel Bishop. *At the Noon Hour*. 1939.

The American experiment has allowed for many forms of societal rule-breaking, but historically, women have been bound by tradition. Women artists often found themselves in gender-busting struggles to be taken seriously as professionals, while juggling the demands of their domestic lives. In this talk, we take a close look at their artwork that not only tells the eye-opening, funny, and even sexy stories of historical American women, but also are surprisingly relevant today.

Most of these artists have fallen into obscurity with their death, no matter their success while living. Together we will resuscitate and celebrate the art careers of historical women working over a 100 year period. Join American art historian Rena Tobey for this engaging talk that mirrors American women's history through the lens of unforgettable art works.

Artists include: Lilly Martin Spencer, Alice Barber Stephens, Marie Danforth Page, Elizabeth Okie Paxton, Theresa Bernstein, and Isabel Bishop. Tailored for your group and specific interests.

Rena Tobey Talks – Women Artists

Shaking Hands with Lilly Martin Spencer



Lilly Martin Spencer. *Shake Hands?* 1854.

The American experiment has allowed for many forms of societal rule-breaking, but historically, women artists often found themselves bound by old-world conventions. Even so, Lilly Martin Spencer broke the chains.

Perhaps no artist better captures the experience of day-to-day life of American women in the mid-1800s than Spencer. Come learn how one of the first American professional women artists balanced her chaotic home life with her career aspirations. See how the American Art Union both liberated and bound Spencer to a particular aesthetic, while also making her famous in her day.

Laugh with her distinctively wry and witty 'kitchen' paintings that satirize gender roles, what it meant to be a middle-class woman, the anxieties of a rapidly changing modern world, and how the growing women's movement complicated it all.

You'll come away with a fresh appreciation for this relevant artist, and who knows, maybe a little flour on your hand.

Rena Tobey

Talks – Women Artists



The Subversive Beauty of Mary Cassatt



Mary Cassatt. *In the Loge*. 1877.

American women artists often get dismissed for depicting traditional scenes of domestic life — but is there more to that picture than meets the eye? Mary Cassatt did just that — she built her career showcasing the subjects women were 'expected' to depict, while layering in complex themes and aesthetics that challenged convention. It's time to appreciating the subtle ingenuity of Cassatt's work, while reveling in the beauty.

Come explore the artworks of American women artists of the Gilded Age and their style and techniques that subverted the status quo and broke the rules. Our artistic deep dive will include:

- An analytical look at Mary Cassatt's paintings, an art of subversive beauty
- Understanding the careful life and career strategies Cassatt used to navigate conventional Paris society
- An appreciation of techniques Cassatt used that were distinctly modern
- Renewed pleasure in seemingly mundane moments of everyday life

Rena Tobey Talks – Women Artists



The Gilded Age: Where Beauty and Modernity Collide



Cecilia Beaux. *A Little Girl*. 1887.



Frances Benjamin Johnston.
Self-Portrait (as "New Woman"). c1896.

From the 1880s to outbreak of World War I, opportunities for women artists blossomed. To avoid upsetting the conventions of gender roles supported by more conservative art patrons, these artists often favored traditional subjects of domestic life, while innovating in style, technique, and medium.

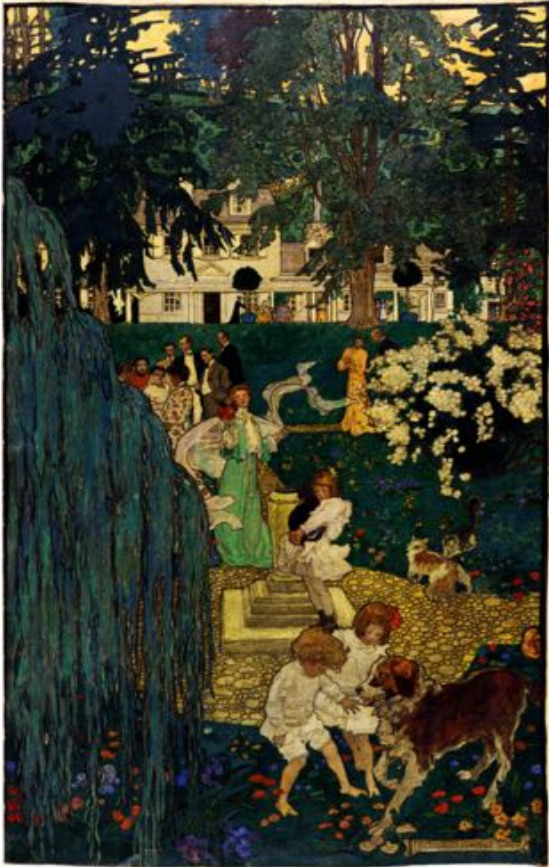
Even in an era known for excess, these Gilded Age's expressions of beauty in art can get overlooked, particularly works by women. With this image-packed session, we will take a deep dive into New Woman artists working in a variety of media ranging from Lila Cabot Perry, who brought Impressionism and Japanese aesthetics into full voice in her paintings, to the eye-popping photography of Frances Benjamin Johnston.

Together these women used the aesthetic appeal of beauty and grace so favored in the Gilded Age to contribute their voices to the rise of modernity, revealing deeper meanings beneath the beautiful surface.

Rena Tobey

Talks – Women Artists

The Red Rose Girls Illustrating Women's Lives



Elizabeth Shippen Green
Life was made for love and cheer
1904

Influenced aesthetically by the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and American illustrator Howard Pyle, the Red Rose Girls broke their own glass ceilings in the art world. In the early 20th century, Elizabeth Shippen Green, Violet Oakley, and Jessie Wilcox Smith, dubbed the Red Rose Girls after the home they shared, took advantage of a publishing boom and helped establish the Golden Age of Illustration in the United States.

Together, they created successful careers with leading publishers, simultaneously supporting and subverting gender norms. Their individual and collective stories reveal their clever strategies, and their artwork continues to illustrate our world today.

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Talks – Women Artists

Elizabeth Okie Paxton: Beauty Pushes the Story

The Boston School was a loose affiliation of men and women artists devoted to depictions of beauty. Specializing in lovely interiors of wealthy Boston area homes and portraits of its society, these artists blended influences of the Aesthetic movement of art for art's sake, Impressionism, and the Dutch Golden Age of the 1600s with those careful, elegant depictions of everyday life.

Like several members of the Boston School, Elizabeth Okie Paxton made a companionate marriage with another artist, joining together as like minds, hearts and souls, whose children were their artworks. But this artist broke out when she exhibited her 'of-the-moment' paintings in New York City. Very much a 'New Woman' herself, Paxton provided intriguing glances into a world for women that was very modern, and even cage-rattling.

Negotiating the art world and her marriage, Paxton's career took more turns, making the kinds of compromises women artists have through the centuries. Now it's time to resuscitate the career of this charming and provocative artist.



Elizabeth Okie Paxton. *The Breakfast Tray*. c1910.

Rena Tobey

Talks – Women Artists

Theresa Bernstein Exuberantly Describing the City



Theresa Bernstein. *In the Elevated*. 1916.

Technological innovations affected every aspect of life in America's exploding cities in the early 20th century. The Urban Realists worked to capture and describe the rapid changes to the landscape of New York City.

Theresa Bernstein, in her unprecedented long career, showed the woman's experience of the new urban experience. Intimate, often deeply personal, her paintings also expressed the energy of the age with hot colors and animated brushwork. Attracted to the big events of her day like Suffrage parades, the mundane of unemployment offices, and cultural hubs such as the Metropolitan Opera and Carnegie Hall, Bernstein blends all elements, classes, and experiences of the modern city.

Her story and American women's lives intertwined through the decades, while also revealing the struggles she and her artist husband faced during the upheavals of the 20th century. Her works reveal the resilience and determination of the American spirit.

Rena Tobey

Talks – Women Artists

Isabel Bishop and Peggy Bacon: Change During the Great Depression



Peggy Bacon. *Frenzied Effort*. 1925.



Isabel Bishop. *Two Girls*. 1935.

American art tends toward Realism, an art movement focused on naturalistic depictions of the lives of ordinary people. Two artists working during the Great Depression into mid-20th-century used their very different styles to reveal the joys and stresses of the everyday.

Peggy Bacon banked on her ability to use line to tell a story, creating memorable commentary and caricatures of modern life. Reaching celebrity status, she depicted cultural mavens and the powerful with gentle satire and knowing wit.

During the Great Depression, artists of the Fourteenth Street School used their works to touch the hearts of viewers and evoke action to make change. Working from her Union Square studio in New York City, Isabel Bishop studied people in all their circumstances, as they worked, lived, and played the Depression in that one place. She particularly resonated with young women who worked in order to save their families during times of high unemployment, and both the opportunities and challenges they faced.

Articulate in her vision of the American Dream, Bishop painted the particular, but also a sweeping sociological expression of her vision for a positive future that could not be dragged down.

Rena Tobey

Talks – Women Artists

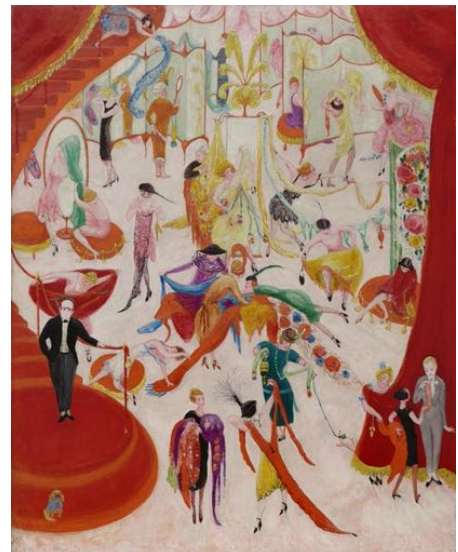
Florine Stettheimer: The 'New Woman' and Her Salon



Florine Stettheimer
Studio Party (Soirée)
1917-19

Coming from a wealthy family, Florine Stettheimer could afford to reject the demands of the art world, including showing her work publicly. But she was massively influential in developing the avant-garde art world in New York City in the 20th century. As European modernist artists, like Marcel Duchamp, escaped world wars in Europe, they flocked to New York and Stettheimer's discussion salon, collectively contributing to crafting modernism in America.

As a painter, Stettheimer used cotton-candy colors to portray a frisky world that often revealed deeper meaning and satire. It's her light touch that draws the viewer in—to play, to think, and to discover her world. The Great Depression perhaps was never so lively.



Florine Stettheimer
Spring Sale at Bendel's
1921

Rena Tobey

Talks – Women Artists

Georgia O'Keeffe: Invention and Reinvention



Georgia O'Keeffe. *Lake George Reflection*. c1921-22.

Georgia O'Keeffe was not swayed by fame, even as she carefully cultivated her image. Instead she lived life on her terms, seizing opportunities, driven by passion. O'Keeffe was also a master of reinventing herself – as a teacher, provocateur in the avant-garde, and into elderhood as a lyrical voice of place, space, and time.

Through the sweep of the artist's life and with close looking at her masterworks, we will see that the radical shifts she made personally are reflected in her paintings. You may find your own perspective shifting as a result.

Our close look at this long-lived artist includes:

- An understanding of what makes O'Keeffe's works so distinctive and radical
- A consideration of her lively life story and the aesthetic interweaving of her life and work
- Analysis of some of her less-known works, including those from her New York City period
- A meditation on the emotional and spiritual experience of O'Keeffe's vision

Rena Tobey

Talks – Women Artists

Artist Couples Paint the New Marriage

One of the best places to look not only for a quick fling, but also for a relationship partner has long been in art class. In this interactive, image-rich class, we will look at the story of 19th- and 20th-century art-making couples, using their artwork as a kind of dialogue providing intimate insights into their relationship.

We'll consider the power dynamics of teacher-student relationships, such as Thomas Eakins and Susan Macdowell Eakins and John Sloan and Helen Farr Sloan. Students who met in art class and coupled include Edward Hopper and Josephine Nivison Hopper, and William McGregor Paxton and Elizabeth Okie Paxton.

Come revel in the art works made by some of the country's most noted artists and then dig deeper to learn more about the creators as people in relationship.



Edward Hopper
Jo Sketching in Wyoming
1946

Presented as a single talk or series.

Rena Tobey

Talks – Women Artists

American Women Landscape Artists



Susie M. Barstow
Mountain Lake in Autumn
1873

From the first European encounters with Native Americans, American identity has been profoundly linked with the land. Landscape art may seem to be straightforward with beautiful depictions of nature, but by the 19th century, Hudson River School artists filled their work with philosophical and political meaning. While it took women landscape artists longer to receive recognition, they, too, tapped into cultural concerns and used their deep connection with the land to elevate these ideas and their status. It's time to dive into the paintings and photographs that tell the complex, coded stories of United States history.

This exploration ranges from artists embedded in the Hudson River School approach like Susie Barstow to those taking on new aesthetic styles and technology. We dive deep into the exquisite beauty of Fidelia Bridges' paintings, incorporating Japanese aesthetics and Tonalism, and the Garden Movement in Matilda Browne's works. Firmly in the 20th century, Laura Gilpin creative distinctive photography of the land of the West, combining Pictorialism with her empathetic documentary approach.

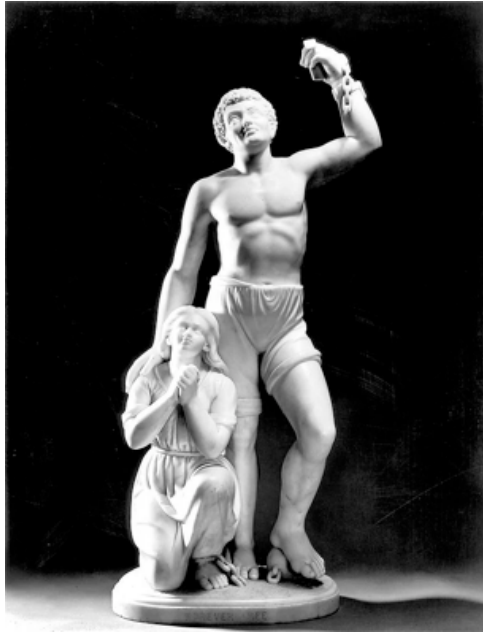
These women were well known during their careers, popular with critics, patrons, and the public, and are being resuscitated through recent exhibitions and scholarship. Join the movement and be swept away by their eye on the land.

Fidelia Bridges
Birds by the Shore
1873



Rena Tobey Talks – Women Artists

American Women Sculptors



Edmonia Lewis. *Forever Free*. 1867-68.



Bessie Potter Vonnoh. *A Young Mother*. 1896.

Sculpture has long been restricted by traditional art world conventions, making it the domain of men only. Several women artists refused to accept these restrictions and found clever ways to achieve success.

From the American sculptors congregated in Rome, for its ancient sculptural tradition and proximity to marble quarries, to those who navigated the American art scene, their works became the must-see, must-collect sculptures of their day. The art ranges from the monumental demonstrating civic pride to sharp critiques of societal ills. Others touch domestic sentiment, while innovating with the technology of sculpture. Several defied gender-restrictions, competing with men for and winning commissions.

In their quest for professionalism, these barrier-breaking artists helped establish American art as worthy of admiration throughout the western world.

Rena Tobey

Talks – Women Artists



American Women Textile Artists

In development: to feature Anni Albers, Miriam Shapiro, Lenore Tawney, Sheila Hicks, Eva Hesse, and Faith Ringgold.



Miriam Schapiro
Barcelona Fan
1979
Fabric and acrylic on canvas
Met Museum



Faith Ringgold
Tar Beach
1988
Acrylic, printed fabric,
ink, thread, canvas
Guggenheim Museum



Rena Tobey Testimonials

"Rena is a very knowledgeable, dynamic presenter. She speaks with clarity and nice pace. She also works to engage viewers and acknowledge their comments. She made interesting connections/comparisons and focused on a limited number of works."

David, New York Adventure Club

"The speaker - energetic, well-informed, interacted continually with the audience. One of the best I've seen."

Laurie, New York Adventure Club

"Very well organized, intelligently presented with an engaging and charming manner."

Sharon, New York Adventure Club

"You are not only helping us appreciate the artwork, but you are also giving us the history of the time."

DOROT participant

"Such a great and uplifting presentation."

DOROT participant

"Rena: another bombshell presentation! You are a talking history book, which gives your backgrounds such added depth."

Dorothy, New York Adventure Club

"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, Scarsdale Adult School

"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."

Tere, Scarsdale Adult School

"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

(continued next page)

Rena Tobey

Testimonials

“The sessions were totally absorbing and, without flashiness, very exciting. Rena’s approach is to draw students out so they make their own discoveries, literally seeing more in the paintings and photographs than they would have individually. By encouraging us to stop and explore the images, I think she will have a lasting effect on our appreciation of art.”

Judy Langer, Executive Director, The Center for Learning and Living, Inc

“Rena’s high energy, thoroughly engaging art lectures include high quality visuals that engage the audience. We’ve hosted her numerous times, and she remains a patron favorite!”

Tina Panik, Reference & Adult Services Manager, Avon Free Public Library

“Rena Tobey gave a marvelous presentation ‘Finding Her Way’ for the Middlesex Institute for Lifelong Education (MILE). I loved the way that she interacted with the audience, and was able to elicit so many great comments, observations, and questions from them ... as well as giving us a wealth of information. Our group learned so much from Rena, and we had such fun learning that we could have stayed well beyond the program’s time frame — in fact, several of us did just that!”

Nancy Jordan, MILE Advisory Board Member



Abbreviated bio:

Rena Tobey is an American art historian whose greatest passion is making art accessible, invigorating, insightful, and fun.

Thank you for reading through this catalog and for considering my programs for your audience.

Look forward to connecting at renatobey@gmail.com for your comments and questions, and to book a talk or class.

Please feel free to share the catalog with your colleagues in and beyond your organization.

Meantime, may art fill your life and lift your spirit!