



THE HOUSTON SEMINAR
FALL 2011



THE HOUSTON SEMINAR

THE HOUSTON SEMINAR WAS FOUNDED IN 1977 FOR THE PURPOSE OF STIMULATING LEARNING AND CULTURAL AWARENESS. EACH SPRING AND FALL, THE NONPROFIT GROUP OFFERS LECTURES AND STUDY TOURS FOCUSED ON VARIED TOPICS THAT MAY INCLUDE ART, ARCHITECTURE, LITERATURE, MUSIC, THEATER, HISTORY, POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY, RELIGION, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND CURRENT TRENDS AND EVENTS.

We mourn the death of our beloved friend.

MARION KNOX BARTHELME

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1988–2005
ADVISORY BOARD 2005–2011



... the effect of her being on those around
her was incalculably diffusive ...

George Eliot, *Middlemarch*

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COVER:
François de Menil during the Installation of *Inside the Sight*
February, 1973
Hickey-Robertson
Courtesy of Menil Archives, The Menil Collection, Houston
Inside the Sight was presented at The Rice Museum, Rice University in February 1973.
The painting pictured in the background is Portrait of Dominique, 1934 by Max Ernst.

fall 2011 COURSES

PAGE

DAYTIME

7

TROUBLE IN THE BORDERLANDS

EVENING

5

MURRAY ON THE "OFF-YEAR" ELECTIONS

6

THE PIANO

8

WHY FOLK ART MATTERS

9

HANGING MAX ERNST

4

ENCOUNTER CUBAN STYLE

STUDY TOURS

4

CUBA

fall 2011 calendar

SEPTEMBER	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
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OCTOBER	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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30	31						

NOVEMBER	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
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27	28	29	30				

DECEMBER	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

STUDY TOUR

2ND STUDY TOUR

THE PIANO

WHY FOLK ART MATTERS

TROUBLE IN BORDERLANDS

MURRAY "OFF-YEAR" ELECTIONS

ENCOUNTER CUBAN STYLE

HANGING MAX ERNST

Continental Airlines



The Houston Seminar is grateful for the support of Continental Airlines, which generously provides transportation for many of our distinguished speakers.

courses for fall 2011



CUBA

A HUMANITARIAN STUDY TOUR

NOVEMBER 11-18, 2011 AND NOVEMBER 14 – 21, 2011.

The Houston Seminar is pleased to offer a humanitarian study tour to Havana, Trinidad and Cienfuegos in November 2011, with two travel dates: November 11-18 and November 14-21. At the time of printing, both groups are fully subscribed due to pre-reservation information in our previous brochure.

However, if you would like more information and/or to be put on the wait list, please contact Machele Anderson at 713-666-9000 or via our website, www.houstonseminar.org.



ENCOUNTER CUBAN STYLE

TWO THURSDAYS, NOVEMBER 3 AND DECEMBER 1, 6:00-7:30 P.M.

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 5601 Main Street at Binz American General Conference Room, Mezzanine Level, Audrey Jones Beck Building

Paid parking in the MFAH Parking Garage (\$6; entrance on Binz between Fannin and San Jacinto)

Free parking in lot shared with First Presbyterian Church (corner Main and Bissonnet)

This course will “bookend” the Cuba Study Tour, enlightening and energizing those who will be traveling as well as those who will vicariously visit Cuba.

NOVEMBER 3: The Architecture of Havana with *STEPHEN FOX*

As one of the oldest cities in the western hemisphere, Havana possesses an extraordinary legacy of architecture. Habana Vieja (Old Havana), on the west shore of the harbor, is the colonial core, noted for its narrow streets and arcaded stone buildings. Centro Habana stretches to the west, followed by Vedado and Miramar, the upscale and increasingly suburban sectors of the 20th century. Colonial churches, grandly scaled classical buildings dating from the time of Cuban independence; exuberant Art Deco landmarks, and daring mid-twentieth-century modern architecture represent the eras of Havana’s growth.

STEPHEN FOX is an acclaimed architectural historian and a Fellow of the Anchorage Foundation of Texas.



DECEMBER 1: Cuban American architect and historian **HERMES MALLEA** takes us inside the greatest residences of Havana via his new book, *Great Houses of Havana: A Century of Cuban Style* (The Monacelli Press, 2011).

The book traces the evolution of the Cuban home from the classic Spanish colonial courtyard house to the “Tropical Modernist” villas of the 1950s, celebrating 100 years of creativity, design and a singular Cuban style. With **HERMES MALLEA**, we will be introduced to the larger-than-life personalities and patrons who made Havana the “Paris of the Caribbean.”

HERMES MALLEA is a partner in M(Group), an interiors and architecture firm based in New York. His work has been featured in such publications as *The New York Times*, *Architectural Digest*, *House & Garden*, *Town and Country*, *Arte e Decoracao* (Brazil) and *World of Interiors* (Great Britain). He and his business partner, Carey Maloney, have lectured on interior design and historic architecture in New York, Houston, Mexico City, Istanbul and aboard the Queen Mary 2.



MURRAY ON THE “OFF-YEAR” ELECTIONS: MAYORAL MUSINGS AND PREPARATION FOR PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

THREE TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 20, OCTOBER 18, NOVEMBER 29, 6:00-7:30 P.M.

St. Luke’s United Methodist Church, The Rotunda, 3471 Westheimer Road. Please park in lot behind the church; signs will indicate the way to The Rotunda.

As the 2012 election year begins to heat up, pollster, pundit and political science professor **RICHARD MURRAY** will again delight and enlighten The Houston Seminar audience on who will rise, who will wait and why we care.

Home in Houston, first-term mayor Annise Parker faces re-election; two City Council seats have been added; former State Representative Ellen Cohen has announced her candidacy for City Council.

What will happen when a Texas statehouse Republican supermajority with seats to defend gets hold of the 2010 Census data? Will a Democratic Department of Justice play as big a role as did Tom DeLay when he targeted every Texas Democrat in Congress in 2003? Or will the Texas GOP take its redistricting plan directly to the courts? Who will emerge as the Republican candidate for the Presidency?

Few people will have more information relevant to the 2011 and 2012 elections than Dr. Murray, and no one can pull that information into a coherent and entertaining lecture series better than he.

RICHARD MURRAY is the Bob Lanier Professor of Urban Public Policy and director of surveying for the Center for Public Policy at the University of Houston, where an endowed scholarship in his name was established in 2008.



THE PIANO

TWO WEDNESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 21 AND OCTOBER 5, 6:30–8:30 P.M.
ONE MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 6:30–8:30 P.M.

Private residences; addresses will be provided to subscribers.

Limited enrollment

In three evening programs, pianist **BRIAN CONNELLY** will play music from different eras – with a beautiful piano from each period – in the intimate and convivial atmosphere of private homes. Refreshments will be served.

SEPTEMBER 21: Drama

On the Cusp of the 19th Century

Great composers at the turn of the 19th century wrote to exploit the remarkable tonal and expressive variety of the perfected Viennese piano. Haydn composed sonatas of unprecedented grandeur and gaiety; Dussek and Weber created magical atmospheres of pathos and brilliance, and Beethoven shocked his listeners with an eerie and unforgettable tone poem. When you hear it played on an exquisite 6-pedal Rosenberger piano from the time, you'll understand why it's called "Moonlight."

OCTOBER 5: Romance

Robert and Clara and Johannes

In 1853, the 20-year-old Brahms met his idol, Robert Schumann, and lived with him and his wife Clara in a period of great creativity for all three artists. Their piano pieces from the time are deeply personal outpourings of affection, admiration and devotion. But Robert's sanity was tragically waning; within five months he was committed to an asylum. This program will feature a glorious 19th-century Bösendorfer piano of uncommon beauty and warmth.

OCTOBER 24: Vision

The Late Works of Claude Debussy

From early in his career, Debussy's music was startlingly original. In his last years, his work became ever more imaginative and innovative in color, form,



language, allusion and atmosphere. These mesmerizing and seductive works have influenced a century of composers. Indeed, we are still trying to catch up to him. This evening will focus on his last and perhaps greatest piano pieces of character, and vision: The Etudes of 1915, performed on a Steinway concert grand piano.

BRIAN CONNELLY's career embraces an unusually broad range of historical and modern repertoires and styles. He has premiered works by a host of contemporary composers, and is widely known for his performances of the music of modern master Olivier Messiaen. He is respected as a scholar and performer of historical instruments, appearing throughout the U.S. and Europe. He is Artistic Director of the renowned chamber ensemble, Context, and teaches piano performance and chamber music in the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University.



TROUBLE IN THE BORDERLANDS

TWO TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 27 AND OCTOBER 4, 12 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.
St. Luke's United Methodist Church, The Parlor, 3471 Westheimer.
You are welcome to bring a brown-bag lunch; we will provide bottled water and cookies.

Brutal violence has become a way of life in Mexico. Drug cartels are at war with one another and with the Mexican government. Public officials and journalists who oppose the cartels are under constant threat. Corruption is epidemic. Thousands of people have died: In 2010, in Ciudad Juarez alone, 3,200 were killed. The violence has repercussions on both sides of the border.

Our speakers will provide illuminating perspectives on the situation from two points of view. **TONY PAYAN**, an academic and foreign policy specialist who teaches on both sides of the border, will focus on Ciudad Juarez and the deterioration of that community. **JOAN SCHAAN**, the fellow in homeland security and terrorism at Rice University's Baker Institute, will discuss the security and terrorism aspects of Mexico's drug wars and their actual and potential effects on the United States.

SEPTEMBER 27: TONY PAYAN

"Ciudad Juarez and the U.S. Mexico Border: How a Community Destroyed Itself"

DR. PAYAN will discuss the complexities of the border and the cumulative effect of a series of social, cultural, political and economic decisions – made at the border and away from it – that have destroyed an entire community.

OCTOBER 4: JOAN NEUHAUS SCHAAN

"Security in the Borderlands: Understanding the Carnage"

Mexico's wave of drug trafficking, murders and corruption poses actual and potential problems for Texas and other border states. **Ms. SCHAAN**, who is actively involved in formulating responses to the danger, will discuss the historic evolution of Mexico's problems, the current situation and what policies she believes we need long-term to protect the United States.

TONY PAYAN earned his Ph.D. at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and experiences the border daily as a member of the Graduate Faculty at the University of Texas El Paso and at the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez.

JOAN NEUHAUS SCHAAN is the fellow in homeland security and terrorism at the Baker Institute at Rice University, and director of the Texas Security Forum. She served as executive director of the Houston-Harris County Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council from 2004 to 2009, and previously led an assessment of Houston's terrorism response mechanisms.

WHY FOLK ART MATTERS

THREE MONDAYS, OCTOBER 3, 10 AND 17, 6:30 P.M.

Limited enrollment

Folk art has moved from rural villages around the world into coveted private and museum collections. A distinguished folk art collector will introduce us to this amazing world of untrained artisans; two major collectors of folk art will share and discuss their renowned collections with us.

OCTOBER 3

Private collection of Ann and James Harithas

Address will be provided to subscribers.

For years, **ANN AND JAMES HARITHAS** have collected original, one-of-a-kind folk art with a special interest in depicting the influence of American folk art on contemporary art. Both Ann and James have deep roots in the art world. James will lead us on a tour of their collection in their home.

OCTOBER 10

CHARLENE CERNY: Why Folk Art Matters Now

St. Luke's United Methodist Church, The Rotunda,
3471 Westheimer Road.

CHARLENE CERNY is a founder and executive director of the Santa Fe International Folk Art Market, the largest event of its kind in the world. For 16 years, **Ms. CERNY** served as director of the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

While folk art remains an authentic means of expression in many world cultures, its very existence is now at risk. Using examples of master artisans at work today, **Ms. CERNY** will discuss how travelers and buyers in the global marketplace can not only bring beauty into their lives, but can preserve cultures and help to craft a better world for all.

OCTOBER 17

Home of **STEPHANIE SMITHER**

Address will be provided to subscribers

Renowned collector of folk art, **STEPHANIE SMITHER**, invites us to her River Oaks home to tour her extensive collection of 20th-century self-taught artists. Mrs. Smither and her late husband, John, began collecting American folk art in the mid-80s, and later expanded into collecting internationally. The collection has been shown in many museums, including the Museum of Fine Art, Houston. **Mrs. SMITHER** serves on the board of The Orange Show, and is currently involved in the creation of Smither Park, dedicated to her husband's memory.

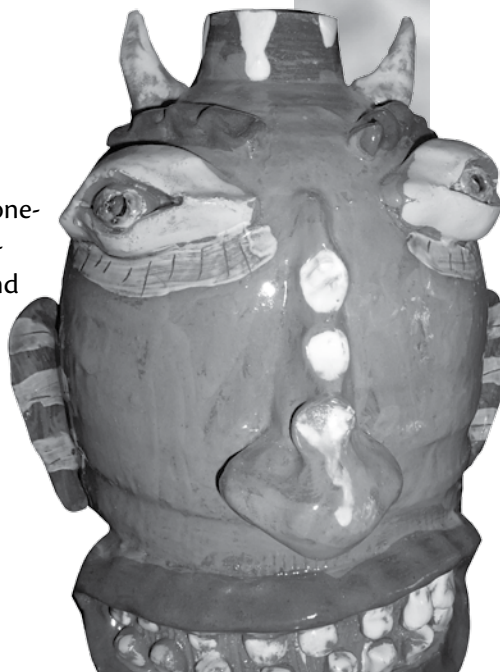
HANGING MAX ERNST

A DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES

THREE WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 26, NOVEMBER 2 AND 9, 5:00–6:30 P.M.

The Menil Collection, Library anteroom, 1515 Sul Ross Street

As a young filmmaker, **FRANÇOIS DE MENIL**, in collaboration with others, vividly captures in five short films the spirit of creating, cherishing, curating and housing art. The first film, "Hanging Max Ernst," follows his mother, Dominique de Menil, from the planning and hanging of the 1973 Max Ernst exhibition at the Rice Media Center through the opening night party. Three other films capture each of Mark di Suvero, Niki de Saint Phalle and Jean Tinguely in conversation and at work in his or her personal and unique environment. The last film, "The Rothko Chapel," features conversations with Dominique and John de Menil, architect Howard Barnstone and others on the inspiration and creation of the Rothko Chapel. François de Menil will join us for "Hanging Max Ernst."



OCTOBER 26

“Hanging Max Ernst,” directed by John de Menil and François de Menil from original footage by François de Menil

NOVEMBER 2

“Niki de Saint Phalle,” by François de Menil and Monique Alexandre
“Jean Tinguely,” by François de Menil and Monique Alexandre

NOVEMBER 9

“Mark di Suvero,” by François de Menil
“The Rothko Chapel,” by François de Menil

Enrollment: All classes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Confirmation of enrollment will be sent by return mail. It is possible to attend a single session of multi-session courses for a pro-rated fee. You may enroll by mail, fax, or online.

Discounts: Any individual or couple signing up for more than three courses on the same registration form may discount the total fee by 10 percent. However, calculations of total costs eligible for the discount cannot include out-of-town trips or excursions. Teachers and students at accredited institutions may attend courses at a discounted fee of \$10 per session.

Refunds: You will receive a partial refund if you cancel at least two weeks before a course begins; a cancellation fee will be charged. If your enrollment has caused others to be turned away from a limited-enrollment class, no refund will be issued unless your place can be filled. Refund policies for courses involving travel may differ.

Gift certificates: These are available for a single session, a specific course, or a dollar amount, which the recipient may apply toward any course(s). Notification will be mailed to the donor and the designated recipient. Please call for more information, or send request and payment with this form.

For further information telephone 713-666-9000
or fax 281-488-0511 or consult www.houstonseminar.org

The Houston Seminar
P.O. Box 22764, Houston, TX 77227-2764

COURSE LIST AND RESERVATION FORM

please enroll me/us in the following courses:

MURRAY ON THE “OFF-YEAR” ELECTIONS

Three Tuesdays, Sept. 20, October 18, & Nov. 29, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

☐ \$60/3 sessions

☐ \$25/1 session

THE PIANO

Two Wednesdays, Sept. 21 & Oct. 5, One Monday, Oct. 24, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

☐ \$120/3 sessions

☐ \$45/1 session

TROUBLE IN THE BORDERLANDS

Two Tuesdays, September 27 & October 4, 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

☐ \$50/2 sessions

☐ \$30/1 session

WHY FOLK ART MATTERS

Three Mondays, October 3, 10 and 17, 6:30 p.m.

☐ \$90/3 sessions

☐ \$35/1 session

HANGING MAX ERNST

Three Wednesdays, October 26, November 2 & 9, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

☐ \$135/3 sessions

☐ no single sessions

ENCOUNTER CUBAN STYLE

Two Thursdays, November 3 & December 1, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

☐ \$60/2 sessions

☐ \$35/1 session

TOTAL FEE:

LESS DISCOUNT (SEE ENROLLMENT INFO):

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

NAME

ADDRESS.....CITY/ZIP.....

TELEPHONE (VERY IMPORTANT) HOME.....OFFICE.....

EMAIL.....

We do not share or sell email addresses or any other enrollment information. Providing an email address allows us to advise you of changes and supplemental information regarding courses.

Do we have your email address? ☐ yes ☐ no

please send reservation form and payment to
the houston seminar, p.o. box 22764, houston, texas 77227-2764, or fax to 281-488-0511.

Visa, MasterCard, and American Express accepted.

NAME

CC#EXP. DATE.....

SIGNATURE

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FALL 2011

SCHEDULE AND ENROLLMENT

MURRAY ON THE "OFF-YEAR" ELECTIONS
THE PIANO

TROUBLE IN THE BORDERLANDS

WHY FOLK ART MATTERS

HANGING MAX ERNST

ENCOUNTER CUBAN STYLE

COMING IN SPRING 2012

BOSTON STUDY TOUR

