



THE HOUSTON SEMINAR

*Fall 2018*





## 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 natural environment, and current trends and events.



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Cover: Leonard Bernstein *repeteert met Concertgebouwerkst*. Photo: Bart Molendijk, CC BY



## Courses and Study Tours

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## Calendar

### SEPTEMBER

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### OCTOBER

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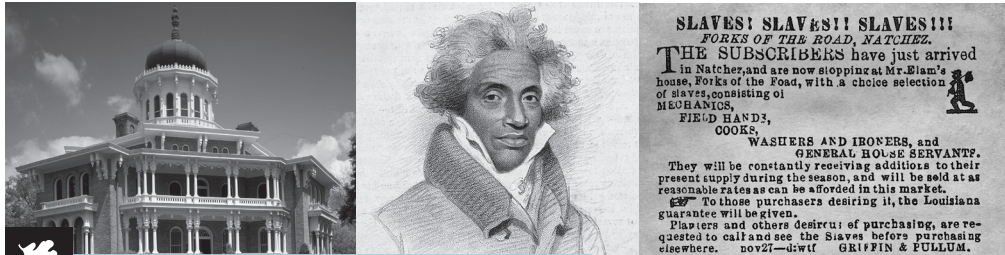
### NOVEMBER

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO ADD YOUR NAME TO AN INTEREST LIST FOR THE STUDY TOURS, PLEASE CONTACT THE HOUSTON SEMINAR'S ADMINISTRATOR, JANICE D'ANGELO AT 713-666-9000 OR EMAIL REGISTRAR@HOUSTONSEMINAR.ORG.



## From #Antebellum to #BlackLivesMatter: A Study Tour of Natchez, Mississippi

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26-MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2018

"the Hamptons of the South," Natchez was the riverside city of choice for wealthy planters to escape the heat and isolation of their cotton and sugar cane plantations. They built opulent mansions to show off their vast wealth, and developed social clubs and garden clubs to organize their society. By the start of the Civil War, "The Forks of The Road" slave market just outside Natchez's city limits was the second largest in the South. Because they were loyal to their city and to their national trade networks, the planter citizens of Natchez didn't foster strong secession sentiments. Natchez quickly surrendered to the Union Army in 1862, leaving the city intact when other great southern cities were sacked.

Led by **STEPHEN FOX** and local historians, the tour will begin and end at the Baton Rouge airport, with stops along iconic Highway 61 to and from Natchez. We will enjoy classic Southern cuisine, explore the waterfront and the downtown churches and synagogue, a city townhome built by the free black businessman William Johnson above his barber shop, and meticulously preserved antebellum houses. We will lodge in one of these, a house called Monmouth, built in 1818 and now a National Historic Landmark sitting on 26 beautifully landscaped acres.

West Front of Monticello. Photo: Sbuckley, CC BY



## Jefferson's Virginia: The Cradle of Democracy

SPRING STUDY TOUR, LATE MARCH 2019

We will stay on an estate in Charlottesville that predates 1780. From this stately mansion we will explore Jefferson's Virginia and Jefferson the man: political thinker, architect, scientist, bibliophile, paleontologist, musician, and gourmet.

## It's All about the Brews

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2:00-6:00 P.M. The bus will depart promptly at 2:00 P.M. from the Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray Street, 77019. Closed-toe shoes are required for the Karbach Brewery tour.

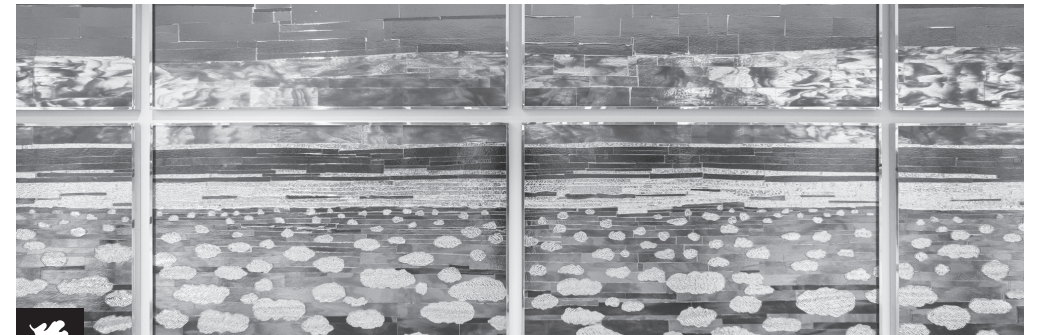


Two of America's favorite libations—coffee and beer—are yours for the tasting! We'll visit two of Houston's successful custom brewing companies, Katz Coffee and Karbach Brewery, to tour their premises, hear about the brewing processes, and sample their wares.



Our group will travel by bus, first to **KATZ COFFEE ROASTERS**. After attending the Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management at UH, owner Avi Katz managed another local coffee business to learn the ropes before starting his own business in 2003. He began with a single roaster smaller than a car, and now has two giant state-of-the-art roasters that take the coffee from green beans to the final product. The company prides itself in developing relationships with small farms and plantations and purchasing its coffee from sources that prioritize environmental responsibility. He now supplies customers around the country as well as chefs and restaurants in Houston; he also provides a private label coffee for H-E-B Grocery.

Our bus will transport us down the street to the **KARBACH BREWING COMPANY**, a local brewery specializing in German-style beer. Founded in 2011 by Ken Goodman and Chuck Robertson, the company tagline is "We like beer. A lot." Since 2016, Karbach has been affiliated with The High End, a business unit of the Anheuser-Busch company, as one of its family of craft brands. At Karbach, we'll be treated to a tour covering the areas of production, the company history, the brewing process, and the company's brewing philosophy. The tour will conclude with samples and food at their restaurant.



## On the Ground: Art at Hobby Airport

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 10:00-11:30 A.M. Limited enrollment. Participants will be required to provide identification information prior to the event in order to access secure airport locations. Parking information will be provided to subscribers.

Libbie Masterson, *Ethereal Sky*, 2015, Glass, Epoxy Resin, and Mirror. Photo: Pablo Gimenez Zapiola

The Southwest Airlines concourse at Hobby Airport, Houston's newest gateway to Latin America, introduces international travelers to the city's vibrant arts and culture. Through a thoughtful long-term effort, the Houston Airport System (HAS) has assembled one of the largest collections of





**Henrique Oliveira,**  
*Travessia*, 2015,  
Acrylic on Linen.  
Photo: Tommy  
Gregory

**Chris Sauter,**  
*Airport Seating*  
(*Somewhere  
Between Here  
And There*), 2015,  
Photo: Pablo  
Gimenez Zapiola

public art in Texas, amounting to nearly 300 commissioned and donated works. Forty-two pieces are currently on view at Hobby. Carefully placed throughout the airport's terminals, the collection showcases local luminaries and nationally recognized artists in a wide variety of media. These original works speak to the diversity of our city and its active art scene.

Our tour of the art at Hobby will include public and also some restricted areas and will be led by **TOMMY GREGORY**, HAS's public art program director and curator. Mr. Gregory directs public art commissions, acquisitions, maintenance, and conservation for George Bush Intercontinental Airport, William P. Hobby Airport, and Ellington Airport. He is also an established artist, exhibiting his sculptures locally, nationally, and internationally and is co-founder of Sculpture Month Houston, a city-wide art campaign. He holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Houston.

**It's Wild Out There**  
**THREE WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 10, 17, AND 24,**  
**6:30–8:00 P.M.** Houston Arboretum and  
Nature Center, 4501 Woodway Drive, 77024.



Houstonians, like all humans, are happier, healthier, and smarter when they have daily contact with nature—but fewer Houstonians seem to be venturing outdoors, which can cause lasting, negative effects on human health and happiness. Join us to learn about ways that three experts are working to bring people back into nature and nature back into the urban environment as well as to protect vulnerable wildlife in their efforts to survive in the city.

**OCTOBER 10: JAIME GONZALEZ**, an award-winning conservationist, is a Houston-based self-described civic ecologist, environmental educator, and aspiring filmmaker. He will discuss a number of local initiatives seeking to reconnect Houstonians with nature, wildness, and adventure.

Mr. Gonzalez is the Houston urban conservation programs manager at the Nature Conservancy in Texas, former community conservation director at Katy Prairie Conservancy, and co-founder of the Coastal Prairie Partnership. He received both his Master of Education and his B.S. in biology from the University of Houston.

**OCTOBER 17: DIANA FOSS** will speak about Houston-area urban wildlife. She works with public and private landowners and government agencies to adapt policy for wildlife and to advise on wildlife habitat.

Since 1993, Ms. Foss has guided urban wildlife policy as part of the Wildlife Diversity Program of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. She also coordinates the Houston Area Bat Team, a

group of trained volunteers who monitor bat populations in our region. She has a B.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Texas A&M University.

**OCTOBER 24: BETH WHITE**, one of the nation's leading urban park planners, will address the role of parks in safeguarding urban green spaces and providing outdoor experiences for visitors.

In June 2016, Ms. White joined the Houston Parks Board as president and CEO to lead the organization in implementing and maintaining the \$220 million Bayou Greenways 2020 project, the ambitious, public-private effort creating a 150-mile network of parks and trails along Houston's major waterways. Before moving to Houston, Ms. White, director of the Chicago region Trust for Public Land, oversaw the development of Chicago's innovative park and elevated trail system, the 606. She was also instrumental in the designation of Hackmatack, the only U.S. National Wildlife Refuge within 150 miles of Chicago and Milwaukee. She holds a M.A. in urban studies from Loyola University and a B.A. from Northwestern University.

*Bernstein conducting the Israel Philharmonic in the Mahler No. 9, September 21, 1985. Photo: © Steve J. Sherman*

## Encore! Leonard Bernstein at 100

**THREE THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 11, 18, AND 25, 6:30–8:00 P.M.**

Private residences; addresses will be given to course subscribers. Limited enrollment.



Leonard Bernstein, conductor, composer, songwriter, pianist, theatrical to the core, was the ultimate Renaissance man and musical chameleon. Our speakers showcase three different aspects of the man and his music.

### **OCTOBER 11: LARRY RACHLEFF | A Total Embrace: Leonard Bernstein the Conductor**

Leonard Bernstein is a powerful influence on the current generation of symphonic conductors. From his first concert with the New York Philharmonic in 1943, he captured the hearts of America and of the world. He once said, "I'm not interested in having an orchestra sound like itself. I want it to sound like the composer." From his own perspective as a conductor, Larry Rachleff will discuss Leonard Bernstein, the conductor, and his dedication to uncovering the composer's true intent.

**LARRY RACHLEFF** is the Walter Kris Hubert Professor of Orchestral Conducting and Music Director of the Shepherd School Symphony and Chamber Orchestras. He also serves as music director of the Rhode Island Philharmonic. *The Chicago Tribune* has described him as "a take-charge maestro who invests everything he conducts with deep musical understanding." He has conducted and presented master classes all over the world, and is an enthusiastic advocate of public school music education.

### **OCTOBER 18: SUSAN LORETTE DUNN and BRIAN CONNELLY | Dream With Me: Leonard Bernstein the Songwriter**

Leonard Bernstein's extraordinary compositional output included opera, song, symphonic repertoire, musical theatre, chamber music, and ballet, all influenced by a variety of musical styles. As Susan Lorette Dunn and Brian Connelly perform a smorgasbord of Bernstein's songs and piano music, the audience will hear from a colorful and diverse set of characters from opera, the concert hall, the recital hall, and most especially, the theatre.

**SUSAN LORETTE DUNN** is artist teacher of opera studies in the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. She studied at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music in Brisbane, Australia, graduating with a Bachelor of Music, and a Graduate Diploma in opera. She has performed and recorded as soloist with ABC Australia and with many of Australia's major musical performing arts companies. Since moving to the U.S. in 2002, Miss Dunn has maintained a teaching career and a full-time performing career.



**BRIAN CONNELLY** teaches piano performance and chamber music in the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University and is the artistic director of the renowned chamber ensemble Context, now in its twenty-third season. His career embraces a broad range of historical and modern repertoires and styles, and he has premiered works by contemporary composers. Mr. Connelly is widely respected as a scholar and performer of period instruments.

**OCTOBER 25: HOWARD POLLACK | In the American Grain: Leonard Bernstein the Composer**

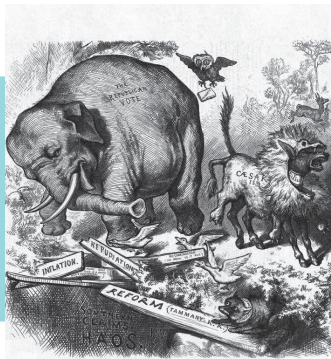
As a composer, Leonard Bernstein remains best known for his musical theater pieces for Broadway, such as *On the Town*, *Candide*, and *West Side Story*. He also wrote piano, chamber, choral, and orchestral works as well as two operas. Howard Pollack will discuss Bernstein in the context of several American composers who preceded him, in particular, Aaron Copland and Marc Blitzstein.

**HOWARD POLLACK** is the John and Rebecca Moores Professor of Music and Division Chair of Musicology at the University of Houston, where he has taught since 1987. He has published widely in the field of American music, and one of his seven books is described by the *New York Times* as “the definitive study of Aaron Copland’s life and work.” His most recent book, *The Ballad of John Latouche*, explores the life of the brilliant lyricist and librettist who collaborated with Leonard Bernstein on *Candide*. Professor Pollack holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Michigan and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Cornell University.

**Mid-Term Elections: Polls, Prognostications, and Prospects**

**THREE MONDAYS, OCTOBER 29, NOVEMBER 5, AND 12, 6:30–8:00 P.M.**

Covenant Church, 4949 Caroline, 77004, in the museum district. Limited parking in the church’s lot; parking on surrounding streets is widely available.



**OCTOBER 29: SEAN THERIAULT**

In just over a week, we’ll know the results of the hard-fought mid-term Congressional elections. What is the likely outcome? Will Republicans hold control of both houses, or will Democrats manage to seize one or both? Who’s up? Who’s down? What can we anticipate?

**NOVEMBER 5: RICHARD MURRAY**

Is there a blue wave breaking tomorrow in the nation and Texas? Based on recent polls, early voting tallies, and gut instincts, what can we look forward to tomorrow and what will it likely mean for the Trump Presidency, Congress, and public policy?

**NOVEMBER 12: RICHARD MURRAY**

As the mid-term election dust settles, what are the important takeaways? Was there a blue wave, and did it extend to Texas? How do the Trump Administration’s prospects look in 2019 now that we know the makeup of the new Congress? And what do the election results suggest for the Democratic and Republican presidential races that have already started?

**SEAN THERIAULT** is a University Distinguished Teaching Professor in the department of government at the University of Texas. His primary field of research is congressional decision-making, and his most recent book is *The Gingrich Senators: The Roots of Partisan Warfare in Congress* (Oxford University Press USA, 2013). He was UT’s Professor of the Year in 2011 and has received numerous other teaching awards including the Friar Society Teaching Fellowship, the biggest undergraduate teaching award, in 2009.

**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 April 2008. He has consulted on more than 200 political campaigns.

Jim Sanborn, *A Comma A*, 2003, Bronze. Photo: Rick Gardner

**On Campus: Public Art at the University of Houston**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9,**

**10:00–11:30 A.M.** Subscribers will meet at the Blaffer Gallery cafe, 4173 Elgin Street, 77004. Free parking available in lot 16B. Subscribers are reminded to dress appropriately for walking and weather.



**Aaron Parazette, *Remembering Next Summer*, 2015,** Acrylic on Wall. Photo: Michael Guidry

**Luis Jimenez, *Fiesta Dancers*, 1991-1993,** Painted Fiberglass. Photo: Michael Guidry

In 1969, by a vote of the Texas legislature, the University of Houston adopted a “Percent for Art” program, becoming the first state university in Texas to dedicate funds from new construction to the acquisition of art. University leaders believe a public art program will greatly enhance the student experience, improve the campus, and increase the prestige of the university.

Over the past 50 years, the UH System has acquired almost 700 works of art for its five campuses. This ambitious program enriches cultural and academic life for staff, faculty, students, and visitors.

**MICHAEL GUIDRY**, curator of public art, will guide us on a customized, hour-long walking art tour of the university’s central campus.

Mr. Guidry came to UH in 2005 after serving for nine years as the assistant registrar and curator of traveling exhibitions for the New Orleans Museum of Art. He received his B.A. from the University of New Orleans in 1992 and his M.F.A. from University of Houston in 1996. As curator, Mr. Guidry oversees the collection, maintenance, and care of artworks, and commissioning of new artworks at all UH System universities.





## Art Underground: Carlos Cruz-Diez at the Cistern

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 6:00–7:30 P.M.

Free parking available at 105 Sabine Street, 77007. Registrants are encouraged to wear light-colored clothing. Reception to follow.

*Carlos Cruz-Diez at the Cistern: Spatial Chromointerference.* © Carlos Cruz-Diez / ADAGP, Paris 2018. Photo: Paul Hester.

Visitors to Carlos Cruz-Diez's *Spatial Chromointerference* will enter an unearthly realm. Using 26 projectors the artist has transformed the massive space of the cistern in Buffalo Bayou Park into a magical, immaterial world of light and pattern.

Born in Caracas in 1923, Carlos Cruz-Diez has lived and worked in Paris since 1960. Considered to be one of the greatest figures of kinetic and optical art, Mr. Cruz-Diez's wide-ranging body of work includes unconventional color structures, light environments, street interventions, architectural integration projects, and experimental works. In Houston, both the Museum of Fine Arts and the University of Houston have commissioned works by the artist.

**JUDY NYQUIST**, board member of the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, which oversees the cistern, and co-chair of the organization's public art committee, will welcome visitors before we enter the cistern in quiet. The tour will conclude with a reception.

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

**Discounts:** Any individual or couple who register by mail for more than three courses on the same registration form may discount the total fee by 10 percent. Calculations of total costs eligible for the discount cannot include out-of-town trips or excursions. Teachers and students at accredited institutions may attend classes for a discounted fee of \$10 per session with a school I.D.

**Refunds:** You will receive a partial refund if you cancel at least two weeks before a course begins; a 20 percent 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 will 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, email [registrar@houstonseminar.org](mailto:registrar@houstonseminar.org), telephone 713-666-9000, or consult [www.houstonseminar.org](http://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:

**FROM #ANTEBELLUM TO #BLACKLIVESMATTER: A STUDY TOUR OF NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI**  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26–MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2018

For trip price and further information, please call 713-666-9000 or email [registrar@houstonseminar.org](mailto:registrar@houstonseminar.org)

**PETER TO PUTIN: FOUR RUSSIAN RULERS**

FOUR TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 18, OCTOBER 2, 16, AND 30, 6:30–8:00 P.M.

☐ \$125 all sessions

☐ \$35 single session

**IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BREWS**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2:00–6:00 P.M.

☐ \$75 single session

**ON THE GROUND: ART AT HOBBY AIRPORT**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 10:00–11:30 A.M.

☐ \$35 single session

**IT'S WILD OUT THERE**

THREE WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 10, 17, AND 24, 6:30–8:00 P.M.

☐ \$75 all sessions

☐ \$35 single session

**ENCORE! LEONARD BERNSTEIN AT 100**

THREE THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 11, 18, AND 25, 6:30–8:00 P.M.

☐ \$150 all sessions

☐ \$55 single session

**MID-TERM ELECTIONS: POLLS, PROGNOSTICATIONS, AND PROSPECTS**

THREE MONDAYS, OCTOBER 29, NOVEMBER 5 AND 12, 6:30–8:00 P.M.

☐ \$90 all sessions

☐ \$35 single session

**ON CAMPUS: PUBLIC ART AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 10:00–11:30 A.M.

☐ \$35 single session

**ART UNDERGROUND: CARLOS CRUZ-DIEZ AT THE CISTERN**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 6:00–7:30 P.M.

☐ \$35 single session

NAME .....

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

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

EMAIL .....

PROVIDING AN EMAIL ADDRESS ALLOWS US TO ADVISE YOU OF CHANGES AND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION REGARDING COURSES.

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Telephone: 713-666-9000 or register online at [houstonseminar.org](http://houstonseminar.org)

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MasterCard, and  
American Express  
accepted.

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CC# ..... EXP. DATE ..... SECURITY CODE .....

SIGNATURE .....



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FALL 2018  
SCHEDULE AND ENROLLMENT FORM

Peter to Putin: Four Russian Rulers

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STUDY TOUR

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