



Arts Alive Series Features Local Fashion Writer and Curator

The Lehigh Valley Arts Council is pleased to present the first program, “Curating Fashion,” in the Arts Alive 2014 series on Saturday, January 18, 2014, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at the Payne Gallery, Moravian College, in Bethlehem. The event features noted men’s fashion writer and editor G. Bruce Boyer who will speak about his career in fashion and his upcoming exhibition, *Elegance in an Age of Crisis: Fashions of the 1930s*, at the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City.

G. Bruce Boyer has lived most of his life in Bethlehem; an alumnus of Moravian College, he went on to do graduate work at Lehigh University and taught literature for eight years at Moravian College and DeSales University.

“The Lehigh Valley is fortunate to be home to so many artists whose work is respected around the world,” says Arts Council Executive Director Randall Forte.

For more than thirty-five years, Boyer has been a dynamo in the fashion media, internationally recognized for his articles in *L’Uomo Vogue*; *Esquire*; *The New Yorker*; *Harper’s Bazaar*; and *Forbes*, among others. He was the men’s fashion editor for *Town & Country* magazine for fifteen years and currently serves as its consulting and contributing editor. Boyer has written several books on men’s fashion history; one of his most recent, *Gary Cooper: Enduring Style* (PowerHouse Books, 2011) was coauthored with Gary Cooper’s daughter Maria Cooper Janis. His extensive knowledge of the fashion industry has led him to image consulting



and public relations for clothing manufacturers and retailers from Ralph Lauren to Bergdorf Goodman. He has also appeared on national TV and National Public Radio, and as a commentator on the TV documentary series *The Hollywood Fashion Machine*.

His current exhibition, *Elegance in an Age of Crisis*, runs February 8 through April 19, 2014, and was curated by Boyer and Patricia Mears, deputy director at FIT. They have written an accompanying book that provides a historical overview, examining how the Great Depression and political upheaval influ-

enced the restrained style of the era. The best of both men’s and women’s fashion from the 1930s are represented among the eighty outfits and thirty accessories from the finest dressmakers and men’s clothiers.

The exhibit examines the beginnings of “modern fashion” when cutting-edge technology met fine hand-craftsmanship. Tailors and dressmakers were inspired by classicism to experiment with new techniques, creating designs that highlighted movement, proportions, and the classically idealized body. The glamorous new look of the 1930s spread internationally and revolutionized the fashion industry.

Arts Alive 2014 is a three-event series designed by the Lehigh Valley Arts Council for members and their friends who are eager to rub shoulder with the creative process. The fee for each session is \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers. Attendance is limited and reservations are required. Tickets are available at www.LVArtsBoxOffice.org. For further information, call 610-437-5915.

ARTS COUNCIL MATTERS

Start Access Now

On November 21, 2013, the Arts Council hosted **START ACCESS NOW**, a community discussion on accessibility. Featured guest Ms. Betty Siegel, Esquire, Director of VSA and Accessibility at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, spoke to members of the arts, social service, and health service sectors about Americans with Disabilities Act compliance. Her presentation emphasized the importance of embracing accessibility as a community asset and a core value of customer service. "The ability of all participants to participate fully should be adopted as a core value."

Siegel's visit follows on the launch of the Pennsylvania Arts Accessibility Program that the Lehigh Valley Arts Council administers in the region. In coalition with the Center for Vision Loss, the Center for Independent Living, individuals with disabilities, and several cultural

organizations, the program offers the sensory-impaired access to cultural events by providing arts groups with both training and shared use of audio-description and open-captioning equipment.

At the end of Siegel's presentation, attendees were invited to become involved with planning the 2015 celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act via the arts. The first planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 20, 2014, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m., in the second-floor conference room in the Butz Building, 840 Hamilton Street, Allentown. Please RSVP to rforte@lvartscouncil.org.

The Lehigh Valley Arts Council will continue to offer workshops, training, and discussions on accessibility as it works to make the Lehigh Valley more inclusive. Resources exist to support organizations in becoming more accessible; one recommended resource is the eighth edition of *Guidelines: How to Write and Report About People with Disabilities*. Visit our new Arts Access Program page (www.lvartscouncil.org/access) for updates and more information, including Betty Siegel's presentation and Celia Hughes's notes for organizations on starting an audio-description program.

The next accessible performance in the Lehigh Valley is Act 1 Theatre's performance of *The Diary of Ann Frank* on Saturday, March 1, 2014, at 8 p.m. at DeSales University's Labuda Center for the Performing Arts in Center Valley.

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Call for submission guidelines. News items must be received by the fifth of the month preceding publication.

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Our Mission:

To promote the arts; to encourage and support artists and their development; to assist arts organizations; and to facilitate communication and cooperation among artists, arts organizations, and the community.



The Lehigh Valley Arts Council is a Pennsylvania Partner in the Arts, a program of the PCA.

New Board Member



The Lehigh Valley Arts Council is pleased to welcome Kimberly Thompson to the Board of Directors. Ms. Thompson has worked for the Lehigh Valley Health Network in various management positions for the past decade and currently serves as project manager in the Community Health & Health Studies Division.

Actively engaged in the community, Kimberly is a member of the Rotary Club of Allentown, West End Branch, and has been volunteering for the Arts Council for five years, planning and implementing special events.

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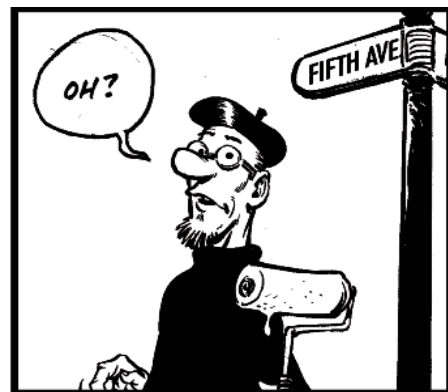
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THE INSIDE TRACK

Photographer **Michael Reese** Much of Bethlehem has had an image accepted for the 2014

Royal Microscopical Society calendar. The image is of a microscopic detail of an Imperial Moth antenna. This is the third year in a row that one of Michael's images has been featured in the calendar.

The Lehigh Valley Arts Council staff mourns the passing of long-time volunteer, patron, and member **Frank Palin**. Frank will be remembered for his love of classical music and fine art, his hands-on engagement, and his easygoing humor. Our condolences to his wife Ann Simmons.

This new year, writer **Kathryn Craft** will be traveling throughout eastern Pennsylvania and the mid-Atlantic region to launch the publication of her first novel, *The Art of Falling*. Her fans in the Lehigh Valley can attend her book signings at the Doylestown Bookstore on Jan. 18 and at the Moravian Bookstore in Bethlehem on Feb. 1.

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ONE LAST THOUGHT

2014 heralds the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Lehigh Valley Arts Council, and the staff and board wish to thank the membership for their ongoing support. The forecast is bright for continued growth because your commitment makes a difference in our ability to expand access to the arts in the Lehigh Valley.

Last year we launched two new initiatives, the Pennsylvania Arts Accessibility Program (see page 2) and the Cultural List Exchange Co-Op (CLEC), both of which are designed to increase attendance to local cultural events. CLEC provides cultural groups with training and affordable access to data mining and demographic analysis. We anticipate continued growth in both areas along with greater opportunities for individual artists and small community groups to apply for state funding via the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Program.

We begin our twenty-fifth year with renewed vigor and the promise for more arts engagement. Our collective voice will allow the arts to flourish.

Randall Forte