



PALM SPRINGS
ART MUSEUM

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Palm Springs Art Museum Contemporary Art Council Presents

**WHO NEEDS ART CRITICS?
A LOOK BEHIND THE CURTAIN**

A roundtable discussion on the role of art criticism and the art critic

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (March 25, 2016) - Join a distinguished panel of art critics as they explore, in a lively conversation, the way critics establish a dialogue between a work of art and its relationship to society, making it easier for us to better understand both the work and the artist who produces it. This free event takes place on April 7 at 4 p.m. at the museum's Annenberg Theater.

Donald Osborne will lead a discussion with dynamic and talented young art critics Shana Nys Dambrot, David Pagel and art writer Steven Biller on a topic often discussed but rarely understood. The panel will explore how a critic approaches the analysis of a work, the role of historical perspectives, pedagogy, education, and crucially, the intersection of entertainment and commerce.

With the forum offering opportunities for audience questions, it's sure to be lively and informative for all, a chance to gain deep insight into this area of the art world, and to provide a valuable and entertaining learning experience. Sponsors for the program include Frank Garofolo, Donald Osborne, Pamela Smallwood, and Barbara & Michael Malamut.

Shana Nys Dambrot is an art critic, curator, and author based in Los Angeles. She is currently LA Editor for *Whitehot Magazine*, Arts Editor for *Vs. Magazine*, Contributing Editor to *Art Ltd.*, and a contributor to the *LA Weekly*, *Flaunt*, *Huffington Post*, *Palm Springs Life*, and KCET's *Artbound*. She studied Art History at Vassar College, writes loads of essays for art books and exhibition catalogs, curates one or two exhibitions each year, and speaks in public with alarming frequency.

David Pagel, an art critic who writes regularly for the *Los Angeles Times*. Since 1988, he has published reviews, features and essays in *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *Flash Art*, *frieze*, and *Art Issues*, where he was reviews editor from 1998-2001. He is also an adjunct curator at the Parrish Art Museum, in Water Mill, NY, where he has organized *EST-3: Los Angeles Art from the Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection*, *Underground Pop*, and *Damaged Romanticism: A Mirror of Modern Emotion*. Other exhibitions, which typically emphasize pleasure's place in intellectual inquiry, include *Painting from Another Planet* (Deitch Projects), *The Dreams Stuff is Made Of* (Art Frankfurt), *Radar Love* (Galleria Marabini, Bologna), *Tripod: Kyla Hansen and Dion Johnson* (Claremont Graduate University), and *The 10th Circle* (Western Project). Recent publications include "Inside-Outsider" in *Ralph Humphrey, Paintings 1972-83*; "Full Circle" in *Albert Contreras*; "Nagle: in His Own Context," in *Nagle, Ron*; "Fast Times, Slow Looks" in *Wendell Gladstone: D.O.A., S.O.S., ETC.*, and "The Handmade Imagination of John Frame," in *Three Fragments of a Lost Tale*.

Steven Biller has for 25 years worked as a top-level editor for regional and national magazines. For almost 12 of those years he was editorial director at Desert Publications Inc. and editor-in-chief of *Palm Springs Life* and *Pebble Beach: The Magazine*. He writes about contemporary and early California art in his new role as editor-at-large for these magazines, as well being the editor of the annual *Palm Springs Life ARTS+CULTURE*, and a contributor to *Art Ltd.*, *Orange County Register Magazine*, *Montage Magazine*, and other publications. He recently launched a custom publishing firm, BILLER | CONTENT, and is a former chairman of the board of the Contemporary Art Council at Palm Springs Art Museum.

Following the program (for those who have purchased reception tickets) a reception with the panel will be held at the stunning 1958 William F. Cody-designed home of Barbara and Michael Malamut in Rancho Mirage. This home won the Palm Springs Modern Committee's 'Residential Restoration Award' award in 2014 and is a showpiece of detailed, curated restoration of an historic piece of architecture.

To purchase reception tickets at \$100 each, please contact CAC Coordinator at 760-322-4823 or cac@psmuseum.org. Palm Springs Art Museum and the Annenberg Theater are located at 101 Museum Drive in downtown Palm Springs.

About Palm Springs Art Museum

Palm Springs Art Museum is the largest cultural institution in the Coachella Valley and includes three locations in Palm Springs and Palm Desert. The flagship building is located in downtown Palm Springs and features compelling art exhibitions, a vast permanent collection, and the 433-seat Annenberg Theater, all in a 150,000 square foot, architecturally-significant building. Palm Springs Art Museum Architecture and Design Center, Edwards Harris Pavilion, features exhibitions and programming that explore the rich topics of architecture

and design. Admission to the A+D Center is free for the next two years thanks to an anonymous donor. Palm Springs Art Museum in Palm Desert is an 8,400 square foot, Silver LEED-certified building named The Galen that presents rotating exhibitions and special collections. It is surrounded by the four-acre Faye Sarkowsky Sculpture Garden featuring important sculpture works. Admission to the Palm Desert location is free, generously underwritten by Helene V. Galen. For more information, call 760-322-4800, visit psmuseum.org, and follow the museum on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.