

# CLASSICAL PURSUITS

GREAT BOOKS

GREAT CONVERSATION

GREAT PLACES



# 2012

Join adults from all  
over North America  
for a learning vacation  
with a difference.

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416.892.3580

[www.classicalpursuits.com](http://www.classicalpursuits.com)



# CLASSICAL PURSUITS

is a learning vacation with a difference.

Do you ever finish a difficult book or leave a concert or museum wishing you had someone to talk with about what it had to say? Would you like to retreat for a while from the worrying headlines and hurly-burly of daily life to throw yourself into a good book, fine art or great music? Do you find that the usual array of depressingly similar package holidays doesn't offer the intellectual stimulation you crave? You are not alone.

Since 1999, Classical Pursuits has taken inquiring adults beyond the headlines and crowded tourist attractions to expose them to the ways people think and work, suffer and fall in love, make enemies and sometimes make revolutions.

Our flagship program is **Toronto Pursuits** – a learning vacation offered each July on the bucolic campus of the University of Toronto. Participants immerse themselves for a week in the great classics of literature, music, art and film. There are twelve small group seminars to choose from and a broad array of social and imaginatively planned cultural activities both on and off campus – cocktail receptions, topical talks, walking tours, opera sessions, theatre outings, film screenings, and much more.

With so many requests to take Classical Pursuits “on the road,” **Travel Pursuits** was created to offer unique opportunities to share ideas about the great works of literature, art and music in the location in which they were created or where they take place. In 2012, we will travel though space

and time to destinations like Flannery O'Connor's Savannah and Salmon Rushdie's India. Classical Pursuits is part of the Worldwide Quest family of expert-led learning vacations involving culture, the arts, and natural history.

Our **Made-to-Measure** program comes from a demand from our travellers who want a Classical Pursuits trip developed especially for their own group. As the demand increased, we decided to formalize this offering into its own program.

Classical Pursuits is the creation of Ann Kirkland, who loves nothing more than exploring and celebrating the unique particularities of various corners of the world, paradoxically discovering the timeless ties that bind across oceans, languages and centuries. Her love affair with people, places, literature, music and art, with learning and with really good conversation has only deepened over the years.

Enjoy exploring the possibilities for learning adventures in 2012. And then, come on along!



**Ann Kirkland**  
Founder of Classical Pursuits Inc.

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## Adventure for the Mind Travel for the Soul

With Classical Pursuits, you will not compromise the spontaneity, flexibility and sense of personal discovery you seek in your own private travels – only the logistical hassles.

What makes our learning vacations special is the balance of

- animated and thoughtful discussion in small groups guided by a skilled leader,
- a broad array of cultural and recreational activities, and
- ample unscheduled time to explore, read, reflect, and linger over a good meal and conversation.

Because Classical Pursuits operates in the “slow zone,” camaraderie develops easily and lasting friendships form. And you get to explore someplace new – even if it is your own home town.

## Shared Inquiry

Shared Inquiry is a term coined by the Great Books Foundation to describe a model of civil discourse. A group comes together, under the guidance of a skilled leader, to help members explore the meaning of a work. Individuals achieve a more thorough understanding of a book (or piece of music or art) by discussing questions, responses and insights with fellow inquirers. Through sharing their personal perspectives in thoughtful dialogue and respectful debate, participants gain new insights and deepen and often change their initial understanding.

## Prerequisites

The only prerequisites are to READ BEFORE YOU ARRIVE and COME WITH AN OPEN MIND

## Looking for Credit?

You can earn both academic and professional continuing education credits by participating in Classical Pursuits programs through Harrison Middleton University.

## Leaders

Our discussion leaders all have mastery of their subject but are selected above all for their ability to guide a Shared Inquiry discussion. Our leaders do not “profess” the meaning of a book, painting or opera. Their principal role is to help participants grapple with the questions and ideas raised by a work and discover for themselves its deeper meanings.

**The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them.**

~ Mark Twain ~

**Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers.**

~ Charles W. Eliot ~

**A classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say.**

~ Italo Calvino ~

**We read to know we are not alone.**

~ C.S. Lewis ~

**When the day of judgment comes therefore and all secrets are laid bare, we will not be surprised to learn the reason we have grown from apes to men... is simply this – we have loved reading.**

~ Virginia Woolf ~

**A book must be an ice-axe to break the seas frozen inside our soul.**

~ Franz Kafka ~

## Worldwide Quest

It takes both creativity and managerial know-how to make a successful trip. As part of the Worldwide Quest family, Classical Pursuits makes good use of their highly skilled expertise, turning all the good ideas into practical itineraries and on-the-ground arrangements that are efficient and reliable.

Offering a varied portfolio of expert-led learning vacations in natural history, culture and the arts, Worldwide Quest has been travelling by land and sea since 1970 to some of the earth's most intriguing destinations. The range of travel programs, which spans every continent, now makes it possible for Classical Pursuits to travel to far-flung places such as Egypt, India, Brazil and Vietnam. All our trips are carefully crafted, the result of insider knowledge built up over more than 30 years of creating experiential travel.

You are invited to be in touch with the talented, enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff at Worldwide Quest to discuss the Travel Pursuits trips presented in this brochure or your dream of a Made-Measure trip. They are dedicated to providing you with the most authoritative and up-to-date information about the trip.



In this age of instability and uncertainty, we know that reliability counts. Wherever your trip takes you, near or far, your well-being, comfort and safety are of paramount importance.

Further, as a licensed Ontario tour operator, Worldwide Quest adheres to the strictest financial requirements – your payments are protected.

As part of the Worldwide Quest family, Classical Pursuits is able to create unique, one-of-a-kind Travel Pursuits and Made-to-Measure trips that provide the opportunity for enrichment, encounter and authenticity. Please be in touch with Worldwide Quest for more information and to book your Travel Pursuit.

[www.worldwidequest.com](http://www.worldwidequest.com)  
[classicalpursuits@worldwidequest.com](mailto:classicalpursuits@worldwidequest.com)  
1.800.387.1483 / 416.633.5666

## RELATIONSHIPS

Providing many of the discussion leaders both in Toronto and abroad, the **Great Books Foundation (GBF)** in Chicago offers continuing guidance on how to more meaningfully read and discuss books. GBF is an independent, nonprofit educational organization whose mission is to provide people of all ages with the opportunity to read, discuss, and learn from outstanding works of literature. [www.greatbooks.org](http://www.greatbooks.org) or 1.800.222.5870.



**Harrison Middleton University** is a great books, great ideas, great conversations, distance-learning university that offers undergraduate and graduate education in the humanities. Harrison Middleton University promotes student-faculty scholarship through research, discussion, the development of collaborative publications and offers academic and professional continuing education credit to Classical Pursuits participants. [www.hmu.edu](http://www.hmu.edu) or 1.877.248.6724.



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*“The world of books is the most remarkable creation of man. Nothing else that he builds ever lasts. Monuments fall; nations perish; civilizations grow old and die out; and, after an era of darkness, new races build others.”*

CLARENCE DAY, AMERICAN WRITER (1874-1935)

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## MADE-TO-MEASURE TRIP PLANNING

Are you a member of a book club or a group of friends who share an interest in literature and travel? Are you and your curious pals fed up with both passive sight-seeing and beach holidays? We can take you wherever in the world you would like to go at a time that suits you. We can design a trip to fit your particular interests and aims, one that will stimulate you and expose you to out-of-the-way places and local people that you would not meet on conventional tours or on your own.

Our trips are created for groups of active and curious learners of all ages who want to get behind the scenes, mingle with the locals and understand what makes a particular society tick. They don't like big crowds or long waits. They want a chance to engage, to ask ques-

tions, to exchange ideas. We think lots of groups would enjoy the Classical Pursuits approach to travel, but obvious examples include:

- Book clubs
- School groups of all ages
- Alumni groups
- Cultural institutions
- Faith groups

We have more than 30 carefully-designed literary trips on the shelf, so to speak. We can use one of these as a starting point and modify it in length, focus, and activities to suit your group. Or we can start from scratch.

Curious? Contact us at [travelpursuits@worldwidequest.com](mailto:travelpursuits@worldwidequest.com) or 1.800.387.1483 to request our information package.

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*“All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware.”*

MARTIN BUBER

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# TRAVEL PURSUITS

We are the only organization we know of that offers opportunities to travel through both space and time to destinations like Dante's Florence, Georgia O'Keeffe's Santa Fe, and Bartok's Budapest. By exploring and celebrating the particular visions of artists in the location in which their works were created, we paradoxically come to discover the timeless truths that make these works great.

We believe that people are curious and eager to learn about the world at large and about themselves. We also believe that, as with much formal education, many travel experiences end up disappointing because they miss the mark on how we learn.

We have created our trips on our own best learning and travel experiences – those that actively involve our hearts and minds; that challenge us to consider new possibilities; that delight and leave us changed. We do this by opting for depth over breadth in our travel.

Our groups are small and intimate. They include singles, couples and groups of friends and family members. Many are repeat travellers. Moderate walking is required unless otherwise stated. Our trips generally include characteristic, comfortable and well-located accommodation, two meals a day, ground transportation, admissions, excursions, guided walks, expert talks and gratuities.

Our trips offer ground arrangements only. Many wish to arrive early or extend their stays or use their airline points to travel. Worldwide Quest expertly arranges the ground arrangements for each trip to complement our literary theme. They also handle all bookings and are happy to book flights and help with pre and post-trip arrangements. We will send you the book(s) for discussion upon registration and, closer to the departure, a wide-ranging booklet that includes the detailed itinerary, destination tips, plus lots of fascinating background reading.

For Terms and Conditions, visit [www.classicalpursuits.com/fineprint/termsand-conditions.php](http://www.classicalpursuits.com/fineprint/termsand-conditions.php)

## THE TRAVEL PURSUITS EXPERIENCE

### The “slow travel” approach

We opt for depth over breadth. We prefer to spend a half a day getting to know one church stone by stone than making flying stops to a dozen soon-forgotten churches.

### Meeting the locals

Much travel keeps the traveller in a bubble, protected from encounters with the locals. We seek them out, invite them to join us for a meal, meet them in their workplaces, homes, and places of worship and leisure.

### Talking together rather than being talked to

We prefer discovery, through guided conversation, of the big ideas embodied in great works in a much more meaningful way than what we all had too much of in school.

### Active learning through experience

We seek out creative opportunities such as shopping in the local market and making dinner in the Yucatan, dining in an antebellum mansion in rural Georgia with the opera diva mistress of the house, picking up a piece of charcoal to try our hand at figure drawing, and pitching in at a literacy project in India.

For more information or detailed itineraries for Travel Pursuits trips, call 1-800-387-1483 or email [classicalpursuits@worldwidequest.com](mailto:classicalpursuits@worldwidequest.com)

# DYSTOPIAS, UTOPIAS, AND IMAGINED WORLDS

A perfect adjunct to the Key West Literary Seminar

## DESTINATION

Key West, Florida

## DATES

January 8 – 13, 2012 (5 nights)

## ACCOMMODATION

La Concha Hotel, a historic, luxury hotel in old Key West

## FEES

US\$2595 based on double occupancy

Fee includes readings, accommodation, two meals a day, discussions, walking tours, talks, excursions, and admissions.

For more information and to register, call 1.800.387.1483 or email [classicalpursuits@worldwidequest.com](mailto:classicalpursuits@worldwidequest.com).



## DESCRIPTION/ITINERARY

Key West and January – an attractive pairing. So too, *The Handmaid's Tale* and *The Baron in the Trees*. Apparently so dissimilar, and yet when set beside one another, they couple perfectly. Atwood's tale is a dystopian fable of the near future. It is a harsh nightmare set in a totalitarian theocracy, the former United States. It is a story of subjugation. Calvino's tale is a utopian fable of a not-too-distant past. It is a gentle dream set in the lush tree tops of 18th century Italy. It is a love story. Key West in the winter coupled with extraordinary books, lively discussions, walks and talks, and plenty of time to play – it feels utopian.

Populated in the early twentieth century by an eclectic mix of fishermen, spongers, rum runners, and cigar makers, this tiny island was more Caribbean than American. Over 100 miles from mainland Florida and the southernmost point in the US, Key West has attracted numerous artists and writers, including Ernest Hemingway, Wallace Stevens, Ralph Ellison, Elizabeth Bishop, Tennessee Williams, Robert Frost, and James Merrill, with its remote location, tropical setting, and wild spirit.

The Key West Literary Seminar, which has been drawing lovers of literature to this small island in the subtropics for 30 years, explores *Yet Another World: Literature of the Future*, this January 5-8. Classical Pursuits will piggyback on this venerable institution. You may wish to double your pleasure by attending the Key West Literary Seminar.

## LEADER

For 25 years, **Gary Schoepfel** has led and taught folks how to lead book discussion groups. According to Bertolt Brecht, "Nothing needs less justification than pleasure." Gary will not deny himself the pleasures of this Key West excursion! No justification necessary. He hopes you'll join him.

**George Fontana** is a long-time resident of Key West and fondly referred to by all as Uncle George. He sings, he sails, and he is deeply involved in the arts and culture of the town. He will take us to places and introduce us to people we would not normally meet.

## READINGS

*Baron of the Trees* by Italo Calvino  
*The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood

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*"Better never means better for everyone... It always means worse for some."*

MARGARET ATWOOD, *THE HANDMAID'S TALE*

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# CONFOUNDED & BEWITCHED

## The Strange Rise of Modern India

### DESTINATION

North India – Delhi, Udaipur, Narlai, Jaipur, Agra, Varanasi

### DATES

February 24 – March 11, 2012 (16 nights)

### ACCOMODATION

A variety of comfortable Western style hotels and selected heritage palaces.

### FEES

US\$5495 based on double occupancy

Fee includes readings, accommodation, two meals a day, discussions, walking tours, talks, excursions, and admissions.

For more information and to register, call 1.800.387.1483 or email [classicalpursuits@worldwidequest.com](mailto:classicalpursuits@worldwidequest.com).



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*“There are some parts of the world that, once visited, get into your heart and won’t go. For me, India is such a place.”*

KEITH BELLOWS (EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY)

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### DESCRIPTION/ITINERARY

The startling array of sensual, spiritual and intellectual riches of India resists generalizations. We will explore the dizzying contrasts of the world’s largest democracy from throbbing metropolis, to sleepy village, to the great regal excess of the famous Raj, to the restorative calm of the holy city of Varanasi.

*Midnight’s Children*, by Salman Rushdie, is at once a fascinating family saga and an astonishing evocation of a vast land and its people— an historical chronicle of modern India centring on the inextricably linked fates of two children born within the first hour of independence from Great Britain. Thirty years after its publication, *Midnight’s Children* stands apart as both an epochal work of fiction and a brilliant performance by one of the great literary voices of our time. It has won the Booker, the Booker of Booker and the Best of the Booker Prizes, the only novel ever to be so awarded. Edward Luce’s *In Spite of the Gods: The Strange Rise of Modern India* might well be subtitled *Midnight’s Grandchildren*. Published in 2011, it is a series of acutely observed vignettes, held together by a single theme, and an overriding question: India will soon become a great power; what kind of great power will it be?

We will return with a deep appreciation of the ancient roots that still nourish the flourishing growth of modern India as it moves towards its new position as one of the major political forces of today’s world order.

### LEADER

For 25 years, **Gary Schoepfel** has led and taught folks how to lead book discussion groups. Gary thinks India is a cat of a country. She is ineffable, deep, inscrutable and singular. India is a mystery and this mystery intrigues him deeply.

### READINGS

*Midnight’s Children* by Salman Rushdie  
*In Spite of the Gods: The Strange Rise of Modern India* by Edward Luce



# MYSTERY & MANNERS IN SAVANNAH

Selected works of Flannery O'Connor

## DESTINATION

Savannah, Georgia, with excursion to Milledgeville

## DATES

April 1 – 5, 2012 (4 nights)

## ACCOMMODATION

The Marshall House

## FEES

US\$1695 based on double occupancy

Fee includes readings, accommodation, two meals a day, discussions, walking tours, talks, excursions, and admissions.

For more information and to register, call 1.800.387.1483 or email [classicalpursuits@worldwidequest.com](mailto:classicalpursuits@worldwidequest.com).



## DESCRIPTION/ITINERARY

To read Flannery O'Connor's fiction is to be amused, provoked, and pushed to reconsider ourselves and our place in the world. A Roman Catholic and a native of Georgia, O'Connor created stories that inimitably blend humor, horror, and the mysteries of faith.

While her writing is richly specific, evoking the dusty back roads and quirky characters of the American South, it deals powerfully with universal questions: What does it mean to be good? How should we live? What is the meaning of death? How can the divine penetrate the everyday world? In her relatively short lifetime (1925-1964), O'Connor created a powerful body of work, including two novels and a number of short stories and nonfiction pieces.

Our base will be Savannah, O'Connor's birthplace and childhood home. Here we will hold our discussions, visit the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home Foundation and explore it this beautiful antebellum city's striking architecture laid out around twenty-four squares. We will travel by private coach to Milledgeville, where we will be received at Andalusia, the O'Connor family farm by a close personal friend of hers and Andalusia Foundation director, Craig Amason.

## LEADER

**Nancy Carr** is a senior editor at the Great Books Foundation in Chicago and is also a freelance writer and teacher of writing and English literature. This will be her fourth visit to O'Connor's Savannah with Classical Pursuits.

## READINGS

Short stories, occasional prose and letters

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*"She would of been a good woman," said The Misfit, "if it had been somebody there to shoot her every minute of her life."*

FLANNERY O'CONNOR, "A GOOD MAN IS HARD TO FIND"

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# A GRAND TOUR OF ITALY

For Grand Children (and their grandparents)

Recommended ages 10 – 16

## DESTINATION

Italy – Rome, Castellammare Di Stabia, Florence, Venice

## DATES

June 30 – July 11, 2012 (11 nights)

## ACCOMODATION

Simple but interesting heritage properties located in the historic centre of each city; often run by religious orders.

## FEES

Approx. US\$3900 based on double occupancy (€2800)

Fee includes readings, accommodation, two meals a day, discussions, walking tours, talks, excursions, and admissions.

For more information and to register, call 1.800.387.1483 or email [classicalpursuits@worldwidequest.com](mailto:classicalpursuits@worldwidequest.com).



## DESCRIPTION/ITINERARY

Intergenerational travel is now one of the fastest growing segments in the travel industry.

Picture this – you and your grandchild, or even grandchildren, drifting down the Grand Canal in Venice. Visiting a farm and watching how mozzarella cheese is made. Studying the statue of David in Florence, learning why many think it is the most beautiful statue in the world, and why David is naked. Enjoying a drawing class with a local artist.

Whether you know Italy like the back of your hand and wish to introduce young Jack or Julia to some of your favourite places, or you look forward to discovering Italy together, Classical Pursuits invites you to spend quality time with the young people you love best, while enjoying a unique travel experience to perhaps the most beloved country in the world.

We have the most entertaining hostess/guide, Mary Tzambiris, who has lived and taught in Italy for many years. An accomplished musician and dramatist, Mary works with all ages and knows how to keep students interested and involved.

*“Surely, two of the most satisfying experiences in life must be those of being a grandchild or a grandparent.”*

DONALD A. NORBERG

Too good to be true? Classical Pursuits has crafted a specially tailored itinerary designed to keep both you and the kids happy, engaged and hassle free.

## LEADER

**Mary Tzambiris** hails from New Zealand and has lived in Italy for many years working as a music and drama teacher and performing artist. She specializes in the performing traditions of opera and brings a lively enthusiasm and in-depth knowledge of the country to her groups.

**Ann Kirkland** will host this trip along with her intrepid sidekick, Thea, age 9.

## READINGS

Short readings on both the pleasures of travel and the history of Italy.



# TAKING YOUR SOUL FOR A STROLL

A hundred miles on the Camino de Santiago

## DESTINATION

Spain – from Leon to Santiago de Compostela

## DATES

October 15 – 26, 2012 (11 nights)

## ACCOMMODATION

3 & 4 star hotels and historic country manors

## FEES

CAN\$5695 based on double occupancy (€3995)

Fee includes readings, accommodation in 3 & 4 star country manors and hotels, all meals including wine with dinner, all ground transportation in private coach, bi-lingual walking guide to accompany the group, support vehicle to provide assistance along the Camino, all luggage transfers, guided tour of the Cathedral in Santiago by a local art historian, and a visit and tasting at an Albariño winery in Galicia.

For more information and to register, call 1.800.387.1483 or email [classicalpursuits@worldwidequest.com](mailto:classicalpursuits@worldwidequest.com).



## DESCRIPTION/ITINERARY

The crown jewel of Spanish walking trails, the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela began as an act of faith as Europeans crossed Spain to visit the sacred tomb of Saint James. One thousand years later, the Camino continues to draw the spiritual seeker as well as the traveler looking to enjoy the beauty of the green rolling hills and small hamlets of northwestern Spain's Galicia. The biggest problem when considering the Camino to Santiago is the amount of time required to walk the whole way in one go – four to six weeks. Classical Pursuits offers a Camino experience better suited to many people's holiday time and comfort requirements.

There are thousands of long-distance pathways we can walk but only the Camino has achieved world recognition for its historical and spiritual significance. Although numbers have increased tenfold during the past ten years, this is still fewer than half the number of pilgrims who walked the Camino each year in medieval times.

Pilgrimage is an idea whose time has come around again. In the frequent mindless madness of our daily lives, dedication to a path of simplicity, beauty, history, and kindness opens a space for profound personal transformation. Perhaps now is your time.

## LEADER

Classical Pursuits founder **Ann Kirkland** walked the Camino by herself in 2010 and is eager to share the experience with others. She will be joined by a bi-lingual Camino veteran from Spain.

## READINGS

We will explore the theme of pilgrimage in selected short works of a variety of major writers, including Shakespeare, Conrad, Dickinson, T. S. Eliot, Yeats, and Heaney.

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*“We are speeding up our lives  
and working harder, in a  
futile attempt to slow down  
and enjoy it.”*

PAUL HAWKEN, ENVIRONMENTALIST,  
ENTREPRENEUR AND AUTHOR

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# VIETNAM VOICES: A BALANCED OPPOSITION

Hanoi to Saigon and Mekong  
River cruise to Angkor Wat,  
Cambodia

## DESTINATION

Vietnam and Cambodia

## DATES

November 4 – 18, 2012 (14 nights)

## ACCOMMODATION

## FEES

US\$5195 (main deck) – US\$5695 (upper  
deck) based on double occupancy

Fee includes books, accommodation, two  
meals a day (all meals on board the river  
cruise), discussions, tours, excursions and  
admissions.

For more information and to register,  
call 1.800.387.1483 or email  
classicalpursuits@worldwidequest.com.



## DESCRIPTION/ITINERARY

A necessary first step to understanding Vietnam is to recognize that “Vietnam is a nation, not a war.” It is a complex mix of contrasting landscapes, languages, cultures, religions, values and voices. It is a society that rests on a system of *yin* and *yang*, a balanced opposition.

It is not possible to understand the soul of a nation and the heart of a people from afar. It requires the wonder-filled inconvenience of travel and the immediacy of contact. This Travel Pursuits adventure will place our feet on the ground in a fascinating land and require us to exercise all of our senses as well as our minds. We will try to understand Vietnam’s “balanced opposition” by talking about its stories and traditions, by navigating its land and rivers and mountains, by tasting its cuisine, by experiencing its old and new, and especially by listening to the voices of its people.

Xo Ho Xuan Huong – whose name translates as “Spring Essence” – is one of the most important and popular poets in Vietnam. A concubine, she became renowned for her poetic skills, writing subtly risqué poems which used double entendre and sexual innuendo as a vehicle for social, religious, and political commentary.

Written by one of Vietnam’s most beloved writers, *Paradise of the Blind* depicts the complexity of three Vietnamese women trying to make sense of the world around them – the allegiance to family and ancestors, the

symbolic value of food, class distinctions and the continuing sense of desperation mingled with pride – all within the societal framework of post-war Communism.

## LEADER

For 25 years, **Gary Schoepfel** has led and taught folks how to lead book discussion groups. Vietnam wasn’t even on his “To Do” list. Having stumbled upon a small collection of eye-opening books about Vietnam, it recently soared to the top of Gary’s “Must Do” list. The lush green mountains, the scenic waterways, the ancient pagodas, and the appeal of a fascinating culture: it’s a magical mix that holds out a promise of many delights.

## READINGS

*Spring Essence* by Xo Ho Xuan Huong

*Paradise of the Blind* by Duong Thu Huong

*Understanding Vietnam* by Neil I Jamieson.

This book is highly recommended background reading. It will not be discussed.



# TORONTO PURSUITS

Sunday, July 15 to Friday, July 20, 2012

Over 100 adults from across Canada and at least 20 states will gather on the shady garden campus of the University of Toronto's Victoria College. About 80% will be returnees and the rest will be there for the first time. About half will be working and half will be retired. They will range in age from early thirties to mid-eighties. Some will stay in the economical campus residence; others will opt for a nearby hotel. Still others will commute each day from home.

Out-of-towners and first-timers get started on Sunday afternoon, July 15, with an optional demonstration in the Shared Inquiry method of discussion and a guided walking tour of Toronto's art and architecture. The program gets into full swing on Monday morning with the convening of 12 concurrent seminars, which take place concurrently each morning. The groups are small, capped at 15 participants. At noon we gather for an excellent lunch. Each afternoon and evening, you may choose from

a wide variety of cultural and social activities both on and off the campus – topical talks, a series of opera talks, walking tours, film screenings, small dinners and much more. On Tuesday evening, there will be an optional excursion to the historic Distillery District for a production of the Soupepper Theatre Company. We have two gala receptions, one on Monday evening and the other at the conclusion of the week on Friday, and a dinner and movie evening on Wednesday.

Choose one seminar option. Full descriptions are on the following pages.

1. *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens
2. *A History of God* by Karen Armstrong
3. Selected poetry of WB Yeats and Seamus Heaney
4. *The Magic Mountain* by Thomas Mann
5. *Keeping Company with Montaigne: Essays*
6. *And When They Were Good, They Were Very Very Good*
7. *Holy Longing: Seeking the Divine in short fiction*
8. *Revenge and Justice in Ancient Greek Drama*
9. *The Idiot* by Fyodor Dostoevsky
10. *Actors Need Not Apply – Several plays plus coaching*
11. **MUSIC – The Concerto: Studies in Contrast**
12. **ART – *Ways of Seeing* by John Berger**

**And**, back by popular demand:

A two-night extension to the Stratford Festival with the option of seeing two or three plays, Friday, July 13 – Sunday, July 15. See [www.classicalpursuits.com](http://www.classicalpursuits.com) or call 1.877.633.2555 for details.

See page 38 for full details on fees, discounts, registration and optional add-ons such as campus accommodation and theatre tickets.



SEMINAR OPTION ONE

## David Copperfield, by Charles Dickens

*“Of all my books, I like this the best.”*

CHARLES DICKENS

*David Copperfield* was Dickens' own favourite among his books because into this sprawling novel he poured his most intense and formative experiences. In this book alone he traces the development of a character who becomes an author, and he turns a searching light on the mysteries of childhood and identity that contribute to David's profession. Dickens' own sense of rejection as a child, his class insecurity, his hunger for love, and his restless ambition are depicted in David's quest to craft a satisfying life. *David Copperfield* has been hailed as superb entertainment from its first publication, and it includes some of Dickens' most memorable characters – Mr. Micawber, Betsey Trotwood, Dora Spewlow, Mr. Murdstone, Uriah Heep, and James Steerforth. But through this profusion of characters and the detailed depictions of London and Yarmouth that structure the novel, Dickens is also exploring fundamental questions about how we make sense of ourselves and our lives.

By having the adult David narrate his life, Dickens creates a character who sets out to determine what has made him who he is. David's experiences continually raise the question of what chance the innocent have against the duplicitous, and whether merit can win a place in a society seemingly ruled by rigid class divisions. His encounters with other characters lead him to ask what responsibilities we bear toward others, and how we can balance those responsibilities with our duty to ourselves. Most significantly, the blows of good and bad fortune that shape David's career lead us to ask what can make life, with all its chances and changes, meaningful and worth living.



**LEADER**

**Nancy Carr** is a senior editor at the Great Books Foundation in Chicago who is also engaged in freelance teaching and leading discussions. She fell in love with the Victorian novel in graduate school, and is drawn to Dickens' work by its vitality, expansiveness, and depth of feeling.

**BOOK**

Participants are required to obtain the specified editions in order to facilitate the group's ability to find and cite portions of the text during discussion.

Charles Dickens, *David Copperfield*,  
Modern Library Classics  
(paperback)  
ISBN-10: 0679783415  
ISBN-13: 978-0679783411

SEMINAR OPTION TWO

## A History of God by Karen Armstrong

One of the major trends to emerge over the last two centuries, and to have gained significant currency in the last twenty years in particular, is a move in western societies towards a greater degree of secularism and a drifting away from the monotheism that has characterized so much of western culture up to the present.

In our group we will read and discuss Karen Armstrong's masterful synthesis of the western experience of diverse conceptions of God and the modulations in the monotheistic religious faiths over time. Our discussions will not stop with the emergence of modern skepticism, however, but go on to explore more recent and radical reactions to theistic beliefs in the aftermath of Sept. 11. Among the proponents of this "new atheism" are writers such as Richard Dawkins (*The God Delusion*) and Christopher Hitchens (*God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything*). We will read and discuss excerpts from some of these writings as we explore questions such as: "Where do conceptions of God stand today?" and "Where does western religious belief seem to be heading?"

*“Had the notion of God not had this flexibility, it would not have survived to become one of the great human ideas. When one conception of God has ceased to have meaning or relevance, it has been quietly discarded and replaced by a new theology.”*

KAREN ARMSTRONG



**LEADER**

**Nella Cotrupi** is a lawyer and literary scholar who has published on Northrop Frye -- his spiritual vocation, literary theories and commitment to social change. She is interested in the role literature and culture play in presenting us with a "secular scripture" that projects models of human social and moral development.

**BOOK**

Participants are required to obtain the specified edition in order to facilitate the group's ability to find and cite portions of the text during discussion.

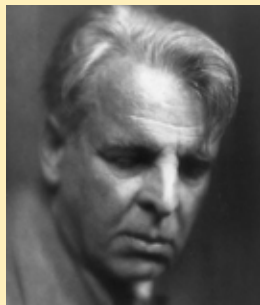
Karen Armstrong, *A History of God*,  
Ballantine Books; Reprint edition  
(1994)  
ISBN-10: 0345384563  
ISBN-13: 978-0345384560

SEMINAR OPTION THREE

## Terrible Beauty: W. B. Yeats and Seamus Heaney

*Did that play of mine send out  
Certain men the English shot?*

W. B. YEATS, "MAN AND THE ECHO"



The great Irish poetry of the 20th century was dominated by the troubles. Even in his early years, W. B. Yeats, famously in love with the revolutionary Maud Gonne, wrote about what it meant to create a new kind of Irish identity in the midst of violent upheaval. He lived through the Easter Rising, the Irish Civil War, partition and the establishment of the Republic of Ireland. Indeed his writings helped to shape the way the world would perceive these events

from then on. Similarly, Seamus Heaney came to maturity as a poet in Northern Ireland during the "Troubles" of the 1970's. He also struggled to find a voice that could speak for everyone about what they suffered and their shared history, culture and land. How does one make great art out of the ugliest hatred? Does the poet aggrandize himself in making such poetry? Can he speak for others as well as himself, even if he hasn't suffered as they have? Yeats and Heaney each won the Nobel Prize for Literature in part because of the power of their struggle with these questions as it is dramatized in the poetry. They also wrote some of the most lovely and technically magnificent formal poetry in the English Language. In studying them, we study what poetry is at "the deep heart's core."

LEADER

**Rosemary Gould** lives in Charlottesville, Virginia, where she leads discussions of poetry for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. She has always loved Irish poetry for its attention to form and natural imagery, its lyricism, and its thirst for justice. When an Irish poet writes about his mother or his lover, he is also, always, writing about his country. And yet, as if it were under a spell, the poetry only reveals its richly layered meanings when a group of devoted readers, such as can be found in a Classical Pursuits seminar, perform their magic together.

BOOK

Poems will be posted on the Classical Pursuits website for download.

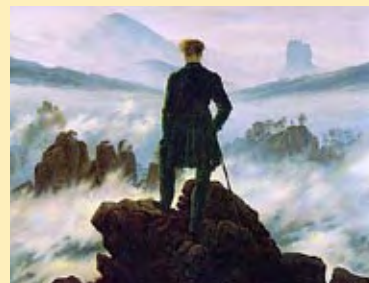
SEMINAR OPTION FOUR

## The Magic Mountain by Thomas Mann

*The Magic Mountain* is one of the enduring 20th century literary masterpieces. Set in a sanatorium high in the Alps, the novel presents a detailed tapestry of characters and ideas drawn from pre-WWI European society. Thomas Mann was always fascinated with integrating musical elements into his writing, and *The Magic Mountain*, with its Wagnerian sweep and literary leitmotifs, is his most operatic work. A concluding section of the novel presents a detailed account of the main character, Hans Castorp, listening intently to a representative group of 19th century European compositions. These musical examples draw together many of the central themes of the book. We will hear this music and explore in our sessions the literary, musical, and historical aspects of this rich and grand novel.

*"Why read? ... After reading The Magic Mountain you know Hans Castorp thoroughly, and he is greatly worth knowing"*

HAROLD BLOOM



LEADER

**Thomas W. Jones** is looking forward to participating again in Toronto Pursuits. Tom previously led sessions on *Death in Venice* – the novel, the film and the opera; Shakespeare's *Othello*; Verdi's *Otello*; and Thomas Mann's Doctor Faustus. Tom also thoroughly enjoyed leading a Classical Pursuits session in Venice three years ago on *Death in Venice*. Tom's interest in Mann's work has been enriched by his own experience as a musician. Tom works as a musician in New York as a composer, teacher, conductor, arranger and accompanist.

BOOK

Participants are required to obtain the specified edition in order to facilitate the group's ability to find and cite portions of the text during discussion.

Thomas Mann, *The Magic Mountain*, trans. John E. Woods, Vintage (1996)  
ISBN-10: 0679772871  
ISBN-13: 978-0679772873

## Keeping Company with Montaigne: *Essays*

Montaigne resists simple definition. He is the first essayist, a skeptic, an acute student of himself and humanity, a champion of human-based morality, a vivid stylist, and much more. Later writers including Shakespeare, Pascal, and Emerson attest to his influence. No single description tells enough and it is hard to see which one is central. Yet this difficulty suggests an answer: the book of *Essays* is the man; Montaigne's conscious aim was to make it so: "I have no more made my book than my book has made me," he wrote. For his readers, the book reveals a man and the man becomes a friend and often another self. Philosophical without being philosophically abstract, literary without being merely so, the *Essays*, written over twenty years, invite us to accompany Montaigne on his introspective study of human nature and conduct, ranging over a vast array of topics such as solitude, cannibalism, vanity, sleep, and customs.

We will read and discuss a selection from the *Essays* representing the evolution of Montaigne's *testings* (French: *essais*) as he creates a self-portrait that becomes the reader's own self. As Pascal commented, "It is not in Montaigne, but in myself, that I find all that I see in him."

*"Et au plus élevé trône du monde, si ne sommes assis que sur notre cul."*

*("And on the highest throne in the world, we still sit only on our own bottom.")*

ESSAYS, BOOK III, ON EXPERIENCE



### LEADER

**Donald Whitfield** is a graduate of St. John's College and Director of Adult Education Programs at the Great Books Foundation in Chicago. For too many years, he has been promising Montaigne to spend some time getting better acquainted.

### BOOK

Participants are required to obtain the specified edition in order to facilitate the group's ability to find and cite portions of the text during discussion.

Michel de Montaigne, *The Complete Works*, Everyman's Library (2003)  
ISBN-10: 1400040213  
ISBN-13: 978-1400040216

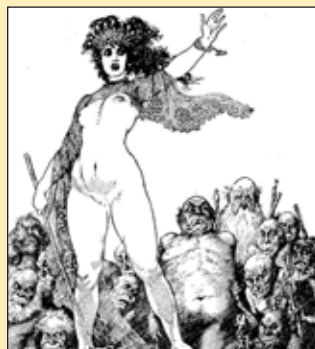
## And When They Were Good, They Were Very Very Good

*"There is no beast, no rush of fire, like woman so untamed. She calmly goes her way where even panthers would be shamed."*

ARISTOPHANES, *LYSISTRATA*

This will be a wonderful week of women at their "worst" – their wits, their wiles, their wills and their won'ts – as displayed and directed by the men who conjured them that way.

From the very beginning, Hesiod knew that the problems of mankind could be blamed on women. Chaucer showed us what "we" (the male we) have to fear from women as wives. As did Euripides (boy did he) and Aristophanes. Then Nabokov showed us that size does matter – if she is between nine and fourteen years old. *Lolita* is a funny but sad classic, not for the faint of heart! And then came Emily. Sweet Emily.



We will engage in a spirited examination of how some men have imagined some women throughout literary history and how we as readers respond to them.

### LEADER

**David Schmitt** has been leading Great Books discussions for two decades. He says: "Girls scare me. Bad girls scare me more. These girls scare me most!" An architect, a tutor, and an entrepreneur, David lives in Evanston, IL with his best bad girl, Beth.

### BOOK

Participants are required to obtain the specified editions in order to facilitate the group's ability to find and cite portions of the text during discussion. PDF versions will be posted on the website of "Pandora" by Hesiod, "Wife of Bath" by Chaucer, and "A Rose for Emily" by William Faulkner.

Please obtain the following:

Euripides, *Medea*, trans. Diane Arnson Svarlien, Hackett Publishing (2008)  
ISBN-10: 0872209237  
ISBN-13: 978-0872209237

Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*, trans. Sarah Ruden, Hackett Publishing (2003)  
ISBN-10: 0872206033  
ISBN-13: 978-0872206038

Vladimir Nabokov, *Lolita*, 1st Vintage International Ed edition (1997)  
ISBN-10: 0613706250  
ISBN-13: 978-0613706254

## A Holy Longing: Seeking the Divine in short fiction, drama and film



Some of our most profound experiences can be the most difficult to put into words. At times we catch a glimpse of something ineffable just behind the world we ordinarily see. Or we question our existence, we search for meaning, we yearn for answers, we seek redemption. We look “beyond,” “above,” or “within.”

Many great writers have sought to crystallize those occasions when the everyday reaches out toward the ultimate, and the divine seems to penetrate through to the ordinary. In this seminar we will read and discuss works of short fiction, drama and film that capture moments when grace is offered but is often rejected; moments when we call to a God who may or may not reply; moments of loss and of joy, of beauty and awe, of despair and transcendence.

We will discuss short stories by Leo Tolstoy, Stephen Crane, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Flannery O’Connor, Eudora Welty and Philip Roth; drama by Samuel Beckett; and the 2011 film *The Tree of Life*, by Terrence Malick. Their works speak of the divine both very directly and in more subtle, sidelong ways – and often with a good dose of humour, as well.

.....  
*“For me [the gravest concern] is always the conflict between an attraction for the Holy and the disbelief in it that we breathe in with the air of the times.”*  
 .....

FLANNERY O’CONNOR

### LEADER

**Mark Cwik** is a designer and maker of wood furniture, and a long-time discussion leader in Chicago. His previous courses at Toronto Pursuits have included the *Iliad*, *The Histories of Herodotus*, *Democracy in America*, *Moby Dick*, and the *Five Books of Moses*.

### BOOK

Participants are required to obtain the specified edition of *Waiting for Godot* in order to facilitate the group’s ability to find and cite portions of the text during discussion. Participants are also required to view, in advance, Terrence Malick’s film, *The Tree of Life*. The other readings will be assembled in a compendium and sent to participants by email.

Stephen Crane, “The Open Boat”  
 Leo Tolstoy, “The Death of Ivan Ilych”

Isaac Bashevis Singer, “Gimpel the Fool”

Flannery O’Connor, “A Good Man is Hard to Find” and Revelation,”  
 Eudora Welty, “A Still Moment”

Philip Roth “The Conversion of the Jews”

*Waiting for Godot, A Tragicomedy in Two Acts*, Samuel Beckett

Publisher: Grove Press (2011)

ISBN-10: 080214442X

ISBN-13: 978-0802144423

## Revenge and Justice in Ancient Greek Drama

.....  
*“Leave this anger to Zeus: it burns too high in you.”*  
 .....

CHORUS TO ELECTRA IN SOPHOCLES’ *ELEKTRA*

Payback. Getting even. Revenge. Call it what you will, we’ve probably all wanted it at one time or another. The impulse for revenge is universal – as are the personal and social problems that emerge in its aftermath. If this impulse can’t be eliminated, can it be controlled or overcome in some way? Aeschylus confronts this question – and a host of related ones – in his trilogy, *The Oresteia*. Together, the three plays present the story of Agamemnon’s horrific homecoming from the Trojan War and its destructive aftermath involving his wife, Clytemnestra and their children, Electra and Orestes. Sophocles and Euripides, the other great Greek tragedians, have also written plays about these characters and events. Read alongside Aeschylus’ trilogy, these stories deepen our appreciation for this ancient myth and the nature of revenge, justice, and human tragedy.

After discussing Robert Fagles’ translation of Aeschylus’ *The Oresteia*, we’ll turn to Sophocles’ *Electra* and Euripides’ *Orestes*, both translated by Canadian poet and classicist, Anne Carson. Her translation of Sophocles’ *Electra* will be performed at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival during the 2012 season.



### LEADER

**Hunter Dunn** teaches at the Cranbrook School in Michigan and has also worked as a trainer and consultant for the Great Books Foundation. He is a graduate of the M.A. program at St. John’s College.

### BOOK

Participants are required to obtain the specified editions in order to facilitate the group’s ability to find and cite portions of the text during discussion.

Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*, Trans. Robert Fagles, Penguin Classics (1984)  
 ISBN-10: 0140443339  
 ISBN-13: 978-0140443332

*An Oresteia*, Trans. Anne Carson. Faber & Faber, 1st edition (2010)  
 ISBN-10: 086547916X  
 ISBN-13: 978-0865479166

## In Search of the Russian Soul: Dostoevsky's *Idiot*

*“They call me a psychologist... that is not true. I'm only a realist in the higher sense; that is, I portray all the depths of the human soul.”*

DOSTOEVSKY



Considered to be the most “Russian” of Russian writers, Fyodor Dostoevsky remains extremely popular in the West. When Dostoevsky died in 1881, he left behind a literary legacy that has inspired and influenced Western writers, philosophers, psychologists and artists. His writing probes the innermost recesses of the human psyche and manages to lay bare the paradoxes of human existence. We will read *The Idiot* (1869) and explore

the stakes of Dostoevsky's problematic “intention to portray a truly beautiful soul.” Prince Myshkin, the novel's protagonist, is a Russian Holy Fool, a descendant of Don Quixote and a Christ figure in a thoroughly un-Christian world. Through a close reading of the novel, we will examine how *The Idiot* reflects Dostoevsky's obsession with the complexities of leading a good life, the clash between the good and the real world, and the possibilities of redemption in a fundamentally flawed and morally degraded world.

### LEADER

**Julia Zarankin** received her PhD from Princeton University and taught Russian literature at Stanford and the University of Missouri. Ever since encountering Dostoevsky's work in high school, Julia has been fascinated by the way he tackles life's big questions. Julia enjoys sharing her passion for all things Russian and currently has a busy lecture and teaching schedule in Toronto. When not pondering life's big questions, Julia works as a writer, editor and writing coach.

### BOOK

Participants are required to obtain the specified edition in order to facilitate the group's ability to find and cite portions of the text during discussion.

Fyodor Dostoevsky, *The Idiot*,  
Trans. Richard Pevear and Larissa  
Volokhonsky, Vintage (2003)  
ISBN-10: 0375702245  
ISBN-13: 978-0375702242

## Actors Need Not Apply – Several plays plus coaching

The choices that actors and directors make in moving a playwright's script off the page and onto the stage are essentially acts of interpretation. The process involves careful reading, an understanding of interpretive options, analysis of character motivation, weaving in the director's vision, assessing actors' strengths and weaknesses and matching them to a script's demands, and endless other considerations.

Come in and see what goes on behind the curtain. No experience necessary. In fact, actors need not apply!

Activities include:

- director reading: conflict and concept analysis
- actor reading: performance analysis
- “on book” scene study work: reading aloud and experimenting with interpretive choices (no memorization)
- private and small group coaching (no performances)
- attending and critiquing a Soulpepper Theatre production (to be announced)
- an optional trip to the Stratford Shakespeare Festival

No experience necessary, only a willingness to read aloud. This workshop will be conducted “in the safe end of the pool.”

**Disclaimer:** This workshop will not make you an actor or an actress, and for that you should be grateful.

*“O, it offends me to the soul to hear a  
robustious periwig-pated fellow tear a passion  
to tatters, to very rags...”*

SHAKESPEARE, *HAMLET*



### LEADER

**Gary Schoepfel** worked in the theatre for nearly ten years as an actor, director, acting coach, and producer. He is a member of Actors' Equity. Gary was a founding member of the Illinois Shakespeare Festival and a member of the Steppenwolf Second Company. He received a Joseph Jefferson Citation for performance, and several Cleveland Critics Circle nominations for his productions.

### BOOKS

Participants are required to obtain the specified editions in order to facilitate the group's ability to find and cite portions of the text during discussion. Two scripts will be announced. In addition, scenes and/or monologues will be provided by the leader and distributed in the seminar.

## MUSIC – The Concerto: Studies in Contrast

The concerto is a focal point of most orchestral concerts – a work for solo instrument(s) contrasted with the orchestra. Originating in the High Renaissance, the concerto matured through the Baroque and Classical periods, concentrating on constantly changing sonorities and textures, elegant dialogues and conversations. In the 19th century, the concerto became a vehicle for virtuoso display, often exhibiting a conflict between the soloist and orchestra, representing the individual against the masses – the Romantic Hero. In the 20th century and to the present, the concerto returned to some of its original traits of shifting sonorities and textures, but now employing a more democratic use of soloists, drawn from within the orchestra itself – firsts among equals. And through it all, some of the world's greatest musicians, composers and performers, past and present, have concentrated on the concerto as the conduit to their audiences. In this seminar, using legendary recordings, we will trace and explore the evolution of the concerto, regarding form, symbolism and interpretation, arriving at a deeper musical understanding, appreciation... and love.

*“Nothing in history is more thrilling or of more ancient and universal experience than the antithesis of the individual and the crowd; an antithesis which is familiar in every degree from flat opposition to harmonious reconciliation.”*

SIR DONALD FRANCIS TOVEY – BRITISH MUSICOLOGIST (1875-1940)



### LEADER

After 30 years in the Music Department of CBC Radio, **Rick Phillips** is now a busy reviewer, writer, teacher, webcaster and host of musical tours. His fascination with the concerto continues – the glories, differences and performers. He looks forward to spending a week discussing and learning about this musical genre that may represent an image of life itself.

### BOOKS

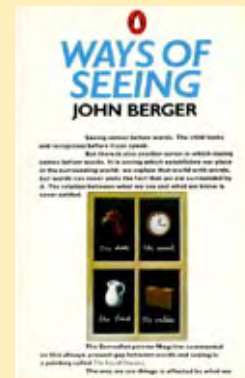
As a guide to this seminar, and for future use, participants are recommended to obtain *The Concerto: A Listener's Guide* by Michael Steinberg. 528 pages, Oxford University Press, 2000  
ISBN-10: 0195139313  
ISBN -13: 978-0195139310

## ART – Ways of Seeing by John Berger

*“Original paintings are silent and still in a sense that information never is.”*

JOHN BERGER

Aired in 1972, the four-part BBC television series *Ways of Seeing* was recast as this seminal book on visual culture and art history. Authored chiefly by writer John Berger and producer Mike Dibb, Berger's scripts were adapted into essays, several entirely visual. In Berger's company we'll determine the difference between nakedness and nudity, the status implications of commissioned portraits and advertising images as conduits of desire. Spurred by Berger's insights and provocations, the group will begin each day with a brief discussion of a key chapter. Then, for the balance of the morning, we will visit galleries and museums to consider art that relates to the themes of *Ways of Seeing*.



### LEADER

**Betty Ann Jordan** is a Toronto-based art writer and tour leader who provides an insider's perspective on the city's visual culture.

### BOOK

Participants are required to obtain any edition of John Berger's *Ways of Seeing*. There are multiple and different editions available in Canada and the U.S.

## Fees – Toronto Pursuits

### OPTION 1..... CAD \$1250

Includes five weekday morning seminars, lunches, guided art walks, afternoon speakers, five afternoon opera talks with Iain Scott, two receptions, a dinner and movie night, and a broad array of cultural and social activities.

### OPTION 2..... TBA single supplement ..... TBA

Includes everything in Option 1 plus advance excursion to the Stratford Festival, return transportation to Toronto, accommodation for two nights at Stratford hotel, premium tickets to two plays, discussions, talks, reception, and one lunch. Friday, July 15 – Sunday, July 17 (two nights)

### CAMPUS ACCOMMODATION

Basic single and double rooms are available in Rowell Jackman Hall, Victoria College's student residence. [www.vicu.utoronto.ca/facilities/accommodations.htm](http://www.vicu.utoronto.ca/facilities/accommodations.htm) 416-585-4524

### HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Inquire about special rate for Classical Pursuits participants at the nearby Park Hyatt Hotel. [www.parktoronto.hyatt.com](http://www.parktoronto.hyatt.com) 416-925-1234

### OPTIONAL THEATRE EXCURSION

We will attend a mid-week performance of a Soulpepper Theatre production. Please visit the website for more details.

### DISCOUNTS – one per registrant

- Register before January 1, 2012 and receive a complimentary Soulpepper theatre ticket
- Participants who have attended Toronto Pursuits at least five times receive a CAD \$150 discount
- Register with a friend, and if one or both are first time participants, each receives a CAD \$150 discount

## Toronto Pursuits Registration

Choose one of the ten morning seminars. A 25% non-refundable deposit is due at registration. The balance of fees is due on June 1, 2012. We accept Amex, MasterCard, Visa, Canadian cheques and money orders in Canadian funds. Please visit the website for full details.

**YOU CAN REGISTER ONLINE: Visit [www.classicalpursuits.com](http://www.classicalpursuits.com)**

Save a stamp, save a tree! Online registration is fast, safe and easy; you may choose to pay online using secure ecommerce or select 'pay offline' and we will follow up with you.

**YOU MAY ALSO REGISTER BY PHONE: 416-892-3580 / 1-877-633-2555**

### CLASSICAL PURSUITS INC.

349 Palmerston Blvd.  
Toronto ON M6G 2N5  
Canada  
[info@classicalpursuits.com](mailto:info@classicalpursuits.com)  
[www.classicalpursuits.com](http://www.classicalpursuits.com)

## Operatic Olympics

Once again, during the week of Toronto Pursuits, Iain Scott will offer a series of five afternoon illustrated lectures from 3:00 to 5:00 pm each day.

This year's topic will be OPERATIC OLYMPICS. Each opera will be explained using video examples. Iain's talks, this year, will be a real romp through both sport and virtuosity found in opera. Nothing earnest and cerebral.

Toronto Pursuits participants may attend any or all of these sessions free of charge. This year's opera sessions will be a bit of a romp – sport in opera, and operatic virtuosity of all sorts.



Iain is one of Canada's most beloved opera educators, and this will be his 9th year of presenting opera courses at Classical Pursuits. He is in constant demand as a writer, broadcaster and lecturer in North America. His company, OPERA-IS develops appreciation courses, opera tours and opera guides

