



HUMANITIES WEST

Exploring History. Celebrating the Arts.

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Public Info: Humanities West

www.humanitieswest.org

Tickets: City Box Office 415/392-4400

www.cityboxoffice.com

HUMANITIES WEST PRESENTS

Vienna on the Verge (1890–1918)

Friday & Saturday, November 4 & 5, 2016

Marines' Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (SAN FRANCISCO, XX August, 2016) Humanities West opens its 2016-2017 Season with ***Vienna on the Verge (1890-1918)***, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and musical performance exploring the tumultuous cultural life of Vienna at the end of the 19th century, when a conflicted city became the center of emerging modernism in philosophy, architecture, art, music, and literature. The program takes place on Friday, November 4, from 7:30pm to 9:30pm, and Saturday, November 5, from 10am to 4pm, at Marines' Memorial Theatre, located at 609 Sutter Street in downtown San Francisco.

Tickets for ***Vienna on the Verge (1890-1918)***, are priced as follows: Single tickets for individual Friday programs are \$60 orchestra and \$45 balcony and individual Saturday programs are \$80 orchestra and \$55 balcony, single tickets for both days of each program are \$125 orchestra and \$90 balcony. Order direct from City Box Office 415-392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com. Season tickets may still be available and offer a significant savings. Visit www.humanitieswest.org for details and complete program descriptions for the 2016-2017 Season. Individual balcony tickets for teachers and students are available for \$25/day for any program. Free tickets are available in limited quantities for students age 25 or younger (inquire at info@humanitieswest.org).

Humanities West's two-day lecture/performance programs are designed transport audiences through time and across the globe, focusing on the people, places and events that have shaped, and still inform modern cultures. The 2016-2017 season begins with a visit to ***Vienna on the Verge (1890-1918)***. By the end of the 19th century deep rifts had emerged in Central Europe's capital. Vienna's public life—its demographics and politics—had changed profoundly, and its cultural life—architecture, music, visual arts, and literature—both reflected and contributed to the upheaval. Humanities West explores the modernist side of Vienna's split personality, when a conflicted Vienna gave birth to emergent modernism and some of Europe's greatest artistic treasures.

On Friday evening, **Gary Cohen** (*U of Minnesota Twin Cities*), gives the opening lecture ***Late Imperial Vienna: A Metropolis of Contrasts and Conflicts***, providing an overview on how the stark contrasts and conflicts of life in 1900 Vienna gave impetus to modernist innovations, resulting in a particularly rich concentration of innovators in psychology, philosophy, economics, architecture, art, music, and literature.

Completing the Friday evening program is a musical lecture/performance ***City of Musics: The Twilight of Tonality*** by **Bruce Lamott** (*Philharmonia Baroque*) featuring chamber music by Johannes Brahms, Richard Strauss, Anton Webern, and Oscar Straus, with **Helene Zindarsian** (soprano), **Robert Howard** (cello), and **Keisuke Nakagoshi** (piano).

On Saturday, **David Luft** (*Oregon State U*) presents ***Literary Modernism in Austria***. The essayists and novelists of early twentieth century Austria represent a highpoint of the German language and one of the great moments of world literature. Luft's talk underscores the powerful role of literary modernism in this generation and points to the broader context of Viennese intellectual life in Austria, positing an ethical vision of literature and its possibilities for transforming modern life.

Lisa Silverman (*U of Wisconsin Milwaukee*) follows with a presentation, on ***Change from the Margins: Women, Jews, and Everyday Life in fin-de-siècle Vienna***. Silverman will discuss the ways those without power, including women and Jews, successfully adapted to or resisted the rapidly changing ideologies of *fin-de-siècle Vienna*. The examination of their experiences reveals a fascinating and important basis for understanding social change.

The program continues with a presentation on ***Passion, Obsession and Betrayal: The Art of Gustav Klimt and Oskar Kokoshka*** by **Kayleen Asbo** (*SF Conservatory of Music*) looking into works of the two most scandalous painters of *fin-de-siècle Vienna*. From the glittering mosaics of golden women to the raw and blistering *Bride of the Wind*, the intensely erotic portraits by both artists were laced with symbols of death, doom and despair.

The two-day program culminates with ***The Question of Art in Viennese Architecture*** a talk by **Mitchell Schwarzer** (*California College of the Arts*). At the turn of the twentieth century, several Viennese architects proclaimed that the status of art within architecture had reached a point of crisis. This lecture explores three astonishingly different solutions: Otto Wagner's aim to develop ornamental responses in parallel with iron technology; Josef Hoffmann's proposal to harmonize aesthetically all

aspects of building and life; and, finally, Adolf Loos's manifesto to banish art from architecture.

A panel discussion with the presenters will follow, addressing questions from the audience.

*Ancillary programs providing opportunities to learn more about the featured topic and related issues complement this two-day event. For a complete program schedule and additional information about the presenters please visit www.humanitieswest.org

About Humanities West

Serving the Bay Area since 1983, Humanities West Explores History and Celebrates the Arts through time and across the globe, bringing illuminating lectures and dynamic performances that focus on the people, places, and events that have shaped, and still inform, modern cultures.

Each season Humanities West presents a number of programs in which leading scholars and artists present lectures, performances, readings and discussions to audiences in San Francisco's Marines' Memorial Theatre. These one- or two-day events represent an opportunity unique not only to the Bay Area, but also to the entire United States. In cooperation with other institutions, such as the Mechanic's Institute Library and the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, additional public lectures and panels are presented to further expand upon program topics

CALENDAR LISTING: EVENTS/LECTURES/ARTS & CULTURE

WHAT: *Vienna on the Verge (1890-1918)*

Humanities West presents *Vienna on the Verge (1890-1918)*, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and musical performance exploring the tumultuous cultural life of Vienna at the end of the 19th century, when a conflicted city became the center of emerging modernism in philosophy, architecture, art, music, and literature.

**WHEN: 7:30pm to 9:30pm, Friday, November 4, 2016
10am to 4pm, Saturday, November 5, 2016**

**WHERE: Marines' Memorial Theatre
609 Sutter Street, San Francisco**

TICKETS: \$25 - \$80
Tickets are available through City Box Office at
415-392-4400 or online at www.cityboxoffice.com
Group tickets: info@humanitieswest.org

PUBLIC INFO: 415/391-9700 or www.humanitieswest.org

***Related Events for Vienna on the Verge (1890-1918)**

HUMANITIES WEST SALON: Richard Savino and *The Kingdoms of Castile*

Richard Savino, guitarist/lutenist and Director of the ensemble *El Mundo*, performs and discusses Hispanic music and the making of *El Mundo's* Grammy-nominated CD, *The Kingdoms of Castile*. Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries the Spanish Vice Royalties of Central and South America, as well as those in Italy, were well-springs of cultural sophistication. Latin American cathedrals and courtly life demanded a varied and active musical scene. Often, indigenous populations were drawn into the arts and participated in their production. The musical result was a style that even in sacred compositions bears the imprint of folk music. Guitars and percussion, coupled with dance rhythms and the occasional use of native languages, demonstrate a close relationship between European and Indigenous cultures. Composers include Roque Ceruti, José de Orejón y Aparicio, Santiago de Murcia, Rafael Antonio Castellanos, Manuel Quiroz. Featured artists for the full concert include **Jennifer Ellis Kampani & Nell Snidas** (soprano); **Adam LaMotte & Lisa Grodin** (violin); **William Skeen** (cello); **Corey Jamason** (harpsichord), and **Richard Savino** (director).

When: 6:15pm – 7:15pm, Monday, September 12, 2016

Where: San Francisco Conservatory of Music
50 Oak Street, SF, CA

Cost: \$25 general admission (includes VIP seating at the 7:30 pm concert)

TIX: www.cityboxoffice.com or 415-392-4400

HUMANITIES WEST BOOK DISCUSSION with Lynn Harris

A Nervous Splendor: Vienna 1888-1889 (1979) by Frederic Morton

In *A Nervous Splendor: Vienna, 1888-1889* (1979) a work of nonfiction, Frederic Morton recounts a year in the life of the city and its well-known figures — including Freud, Mahler, Gustav Klimt and Arthur Schnitzler — and especially the events surrounding the murder by Crown Prince Rudolf of his teenage mistress and his subsequent suicide, an episode known as Mayerling for the hunting lodge where the killings occurred.

When: 5:00pm, Monday, September 26, 2016

Where: Commonwealth Club of California
555 Post Street, SF, CA

Cost: \$5

TIX: www.commonwealthclub.org or 415-597-6700

HUMANITIES WEST SALON: *An Evening with Alma Mahler, Muse to Men of Genius*

Kayleen Asbo (Mythica Foundation, Humanities West), **Karen Clark** (contralto), and **Karen Rosenak** (piano)

Wife of three extraordinary men (composer Gustav Mahler, architect Walter Gropius, and novelist Franz Werfel), lover of artists Klimt and Kokoshka and muse for many more men of genius, Alma Mahler (1879-1964) was at the very center of fin de siècle Viennese cultural life. Her story is one of the most scandalous—and ultimately inspiring—stories you'll ever encounter.

When: 6:00pm, Thursday, September 20, 2016

Where: Hotel Rex
562 Sutter Street, SF, CA

Cost: \$25

TIX: www.cityboxoffice.com or 415-392-4400

HUMANITIES WEST BOOK DISCUSSION with Lynn Harris

The World of Yesterday: Memoirs of a European by Stefan Zweig

Written as both a recollection of the past and a warning for future generations, *The World of Yesterday* recalls the golden age of literary Vienna—its seeming permanence, its promise, and its devastating fall. Surrounded by the leading literary lights of the epoch, Stefan Zweig draws a vivid and intimate account of his life and travels through Vienna, Paris, Berlin, and London, touching on the very heart of European culture. His passionate, evocative prose paints a stunning portrait of an era that danced brilliantly on the edge of extinction.

When: 5:00pm, Monday, October 24, 2016

Where: Commonwealth Club of California
555 Post Street, SF, CA

Cost: \$5

Tickets: www.commonwealthclub.org or 415-597-6700

FIRESIDE CHAT with George Hammond – *Vienna on the Verge* – Preview

Join Humanities West board member George Hammond for a preview of ***Vienna on the Verge (1890-1918)*** - a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and musical performance exploring the tumultuous cultural life of Vienna at the end of the 19th century, when a conflicted city became the center of emerging modernism in philosophy, architecture, art, music, and literature.

When: 6:30pm, Tuesday, November 1, 2016

Where: Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA

Cost: Free

HUMANITIES WEST LECTURE: *Egon Schiele: A Feminist Artist ahead of his Time* with Kerrin Meis

Egon Schiele, working in Vienna in the last days of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, adored women! Sex preoccupied the Viennese, buzzing about Sigmund Freud's 1905 *Theories of Sexuality*, Gustav Mahler's music so suggestive of post-coital exhaustion, and Gustav Klimt's gorgeous images of desire. Schiele was even more audacious in his nudes and explorations of self in his Self-Portraits Masturbating. There is more to Schiele: in his landscapes of the small village where he had retreated from Vienna and where he was imprisoned for his erotic art, and in his deeply perceptive portraits. His many masterpieces explore the mysteries of Love and Death.

When: 6:00pm, Thursday, November 3, 2016

Where: Commonwealth Club of California
555 Post Street, SF, CA

Cost: \$20

Tickets: www.commonwealthclub.org or 415-597-6700