



THE BARNES FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BARNES FOUNDATION BUILDS ON FOUNDING VISION WITH EXPANDED EDUCATION PROGRAM

Launched this month, restructured art education program introduces new frameworks for art interpretation alongside original methodology

Initiative broadens accessibility with price reductions, scholarships, and class accreditation

Philadelphia, PA, September 26, 2016—Building on Dr. Albert C. Barnes’s groundbreaking approach to teaching visual literacy, the Barnes Foundation announced today an expansion of its pioneering education program for adults. The Barnes-de Mazia Education Program launched this month, introducing new course offerings to complement the Barnes method, reduced fees, and need-based full scholarships to improve access to the program. Plus, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA), students will have the opportunity to receive undergraduate academic credit for selected classes they take at the Barnes.

“Dr. Barnes felt it was his privilege and responsibility to enrich the lives of others by inviting them to experience firsthand the transformative power of great works of art,” said Thom Collins, executive director and president of the Barnes Foundation. “Education has and always will be at the heart of everything we do at the Barnes Foundation. It’s an honor to extend Dr. Barnes’s vision into the future with an expanded program that reflects the core values of our institution.”

Martha Lucy, deputy director for education & public programs and curator, explained that “Barnes developed a unique approach to teaching about art that was grounded in pure visual engagement with the object. His students learned how to look closely at form, acquiring visual skills that could be brought out into the world. We will continue to teach that approach alongside an array of new courses that explore the collection from different angles—bringing in history, social history, and politics. These courses all happen in the galleries, in the midst of some of the greatest works in the history of art.”

The program builds on the original teachings of Albert Barnes, Violette de Mazia, and John Dewey, which emphasize the formal analysis of art and reflect progressive education philosophies of the 1920s. The new curriculum has expanded to include other interpretive approaches: classes based on historical context and classes that explore materials and techniques. The Barnes-de Mazia Education Program will be taught by artists, art historians, and conservators on the Barnes staff and faculty at local universities.

Course Offerings

The courses highlight topics ranging from European modernism to African tribal sculpture and take place in the Barnes’s Collection Gallery so students can engage directly with works of art. Classes are organized into three categories; categories II and III contain classes being offered for the first time.

- **Category I: The Barnes Method** emphasizes close visual analysis in object-based courses, evolved from the teachings and writings of Albert Barnes and Violette de Mazia.
- **Category II: Understanding Materials and Techniques** focuses on the physical aspects of how art is made.
- **Category III: Art in Context** approaches art as a reflection of history, culture, and politics.

Certificate Program

September 2016 also marks the official launch of the integrated Barnes-de Mazia Certificate Program, a two-year track offering an immersion in the Barnes Method and an introduction to more contemporary interpretive approaches. The three Category I courses in the certificate program (The Elements of Art, The Traditions of Art, and Collections Concentration) are eligible for college credit through PAFA.

Scholarships

Need-based full scholarships for individual classes are being offered for the first time. Five scholarships per class are available. In addition, two Violette de Mazia Scholarships are available each year for students committed to completing the Barnes-de Mazia Certificate Program. Forty-six scholarships have already been awarded for fall 2016 classes. For more information and for spring 2017 submission deadline:

<http://www.barnesfoundation.org/education/art/scholarships#formtop>

Registration

The costs for courses have been cut. Details on fall 2016 courses, admissions, and enrollment are available at <http://barnesclasses.org>

The Barnes-de Mazia Education Endowment Fund

In April 2015, the Barnes Foundation and the Violette de Mazia Foundation announced a plan to affiliate their education programs and establish the Barnes-de Mazia Education Endowment Fund. The Fund is dedicated to supporting and expanding education programs at the Barnes Foundation, including scholarships, an annual Violette de Mazia Lecture, and a fellowship for scholars to research the theories, writings, and methodology of Albert Barnes, Violette de Mazia, and John Dewey. This program expansion is among a series of initiatives being introduced as part of the affiliation with the Violette de Mazia Foundation. De Mazia was hugely influential to the Barnes's education philosophy as a principal collaborator of Barnes's and Dewey's and as Director of Education of the Foundation from 1950 to 1987.

ABOUT THE BARNES FOUNDATION

The Barnes Foundation (barnesfoundation.org) was established by Dr. Albert C. Barnes in 1922 to "promote the advancement of education and the appreciation of the fine arts and horticulture." The Barnes holds one of the finest collections of post-impressionist and early modern paintings, with extensive works by Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Paul Cézanne, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Henri Rousseau, Amedeo Modigliani, Chaim Soutine, and Giorgio de Chirico; old master paintings; important examples of African sculpture; Native American ceramics, jewelry and textiles; American paintings and decorative arts; and antiquities from the Mediterranean region and Asia. The Barnes Foundation's Art and Aesthetics programs engage diverse audiences. These programs,

held at the Philadelphia campus, online, and in Philadelphia communities, advance the mission through progressive, experimental, and interdisciplinary teaching and learning.

The Barnes Arboretum, at the Merion campus, contains more than 2,000 varieties of trees and woody plants, many of them rare. Founded in the 1880s by Joseph Lapsley Wilson and expanded under the direction of Mrs. Laura L. Barnes, the collection includes a fern-leaf beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Laciniata'), a dove tree (*Davidia involucreta*), a monkey-puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*), and a redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*). Other important plant collections include lilacs, peonies, *Stewartias* and magnolias. The Horticulture school at the Barnes Foundation in Merion has offered a comprehensive three-year certificate course in the botanical sciences, horticulture, garden aesthetics, and design since its establishment in 1940 by Mrs. Barnes.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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