



**DISCOVER SDIS**  
san diego independent scholars

## **SCHOLARS NOTEBOOK**

February 2019

### **Diana Withee**

### **Finding Bosch: Some New Discoveries**

**February 16**  
**at 1:30pm**

**Room 111A, Chancellors Complex**  
**UCSD Campus**

Hieronymus Bosch remains one of the most mysterious painters in Western art. Thousands of books and articles have been written trying to discern the meaning of his work, with no real satisfactory answers more than 500 years after his death in 1516. With the help of two Helen Hawkins Grants Diana Withee has been able to travel to Europe to see as many of his paintings as she could in person—Madrid, Paris, Brussels, Frankfurt, & Munich. Along the way, she was also able to identify aspects of his work that no one to her knowledge has as yet detected. She will share some of these discoveries for the first time anywhere with SDIS members in her talk “Finding Bosch: Some New Discoveries”.

Netherlandish nobles never before associated with this famous artist. It was published in the conference papers in 2014 and was cited in the Prado's 2016 'Bosch: The 5th Centenary Exhibition' exhibition catalogue.

Despite some recent health problems, she has continued her research on Bosch's Lisbon 'Temptation of Saint Anthony' and the Prado 'Haywain.' New information from the exhibition catalogues of the Bosch 500 exhibitions in Den Bosch & Madrid suggests an interesting connection between the two paintings. As a byproduct of Diana's Bosch research she discovered the only known contemporaneous portrait of Perkin Warbeck in a late 15th century tapestry. Perkin was the Tournai youth who claimed to be one of the Princes in the Tower who miraculously survived being murdered by his uncle King Richard III.



### **About Our Speaker**

### **Diana Withee**

### **SDIS Member**

Diana Keeran Withee is an art historian who has been doing research on the paintings of Hieronymus Bosch for more than a decade based on discoveries she made about the painter while a graduate student. She delivered a paper on part of this research at the 3rd International Bosch Conference held in Den Bosch in 2012, 'Some Additions to Bosch's Circle of Noble Patrons,' which focused on the Escorial 'Christ Carrying the Cross,' which includes the portrait of a member of

## **(Withee Bio Continued)**

This was presented at the 16th Century Society Conference in 2010. As a result she is currently participating in Philippa 'The King in the Carpark' Langley's 'Lost Princes Project.'

While still a graduate student she presented research on the Aegean Bronze Age frescoes of Akrotiri, Thera at the AIA meeting in 1991, which has been hailed by archaeologists as an entirely new methodology for interpreting ancient art. The abstract has been cited in the scholarly literature at least 18 times since then. She received a B.A. in Art History from Pomona College, Claremont, CA, an MA from Tulane University, New Orleans, and an ABD from University of Maryland, College Park. Diana has worked in the education departments at the National Gallery of Art and Hillwood Museum and Gardens in Washington, DC and in Curatorial at The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD. She has taught art history courses at Tulane University, and Montgomery College in Rockville, MD and at the Bishops Schools, La Jolla, CA and for the Navy through their Central Texas College program, which included teaching art history on an aircraft carrier.

# **STUDY GROUPS**

## **Colloquy Café**

The January meeting was spent discussing the meaning of “normal”. Synonyms mentioned during various attempts to define the concept were: expected, average, usual, naturally occurring, appropriate, conventional, and conforming. “Normal” can, but does not always, connote approval, just as describing something as “not normal” might connote disapproval.

The medicalization of the term “not normal” was noted, as measurements outside the standard deviations in such physical phenomena as temperature, blood pressure or blood count, for example, are considered signs of ill health. And “normal” is not a static concept; it is fluid. The

status of women, the identification of indigenous peoples as savages and the disapproval of individuals who are other than heterosexual have all undergone change, and continue to. “Normal” is not a fixed standard. Neither is it a dichotomy, an either/or, but a continuum.

Those present could not agree on a topic for the group’s next—February 20—meeting. The tie vote was between “altruism” and “grace”; so it was decided to discuss the former and hold the latter in reserve in case the discussion lags. Unlikely.

*Gerry Horwitz*

## **Culture One**

Culture One will meet, Thursday, February 14, at 2:00pm in the Signature Room at Vi.

Culture One is launching its study of “China Rules”, i.e., China’s ongoing growth and development, by using the New York Times’ Special Report (Nov 25, 2018) as the basic source for our research. Thus, we are starting out by reading Part 1 of CHINA RULES, “The Land that Failed to Fail”, for our upcoming February 14th meeting along with a useful handout, “Five Takeaways from our New China Project”.

Both provide background information as to how CHINA progressed from “a country mired in poverty ..... to become a superpower that may soon surpass the United States”. “This is the story of how it got there”.

Copies of these readings are available to Culture One members and invited guests upon request. For information about our “CHINA RULES” readings and related articles, please contact Sue R. Rosner, e-mail, [rosnersue@gmail.com](mailto:rosnersue@gmail.com).

*Sue Rosner*

## Film

We will meet Wednesday, February 6 at 10 am to watch *Julieta*, another of Pedro Almodovar's colorful melodramas. The film is based on several of Alice Munroe's short stories from her prize winning book *Runaway*. This 2016 drama focuses on the efforts of a struggling mother to understand the stages of her life and to finally reunite with her estranged daughter. This will be the fifth Almodovar film we've watched, and they've always been a pleasure.

Our January film was a 2016 British-American historical drama about a 1996

## General Relativity

At our January meeting, we digressed to discuss a recent article in *Physics Today*, which showed the enormity of information that was obtained from the detection of gravitational waves from colliding neutron star pairs. In particular, because of the nature of gravitational waves, it is possible to use the data to directly determine the distance to the neutron stars! This provides a new and

## Neuroscience

Neuroscience will meet Tuesday, February 19 at 2 pm in my apartment at the Vi. Visitors are welcome as always but please call me to check on space availability.

At our last meeting we continued our discussion of Artificial Intelligence with a focus on the micro analysis of how the of the research details, although widespread, all have the goal of empowering a machine to replicate the activities of a human and the limits thereof. As technology has increased the amount and speed that a computer can analyze

libel lawsuit filed in Britain by David Irving, a British author who made his living by writing as a Holocaust denier. He sued Deborah Lipstadt, an American professor who named him as a Holocaust denier in her books. In the UK, the burden of proof in a libel case falls on the defendant, so Lipstadt and her attorney had to prove Irving a liar. There were many very interesting facts presented in the film which would appeal to history buffs. Lipstadt and Irving are still active today in their respective fields.

*Barbara Heckler*

independent measure of cosmological distances. We also discussed Chapters 10 and 11 of Hartle. This included gravitational lensing effects, which among other things allows detection of massive dark objects in the milky way, via their lensing affects on light reaching us from behind them. Such dark objects are among the speculative candidates for "dark matter" in the universe.

*Alvin Halpern*

data, this ability can and will transform computers and AI into a dominant force that can and will change the arc of human endeavor.

Because there are daily reports of new AI research, members are tasked with bringing what new items they have found in the current literature for a brief discussion realizing it is probably not the 'last word'.

Our reading assignment is the Introduction and first chapter in Michael S. Gazzaniga's new book "The Consciousness Instinct".

*Bea Rose*

## **Just Lunch**

Save the date: Another lunch will be scheduled for Monday, March 28 at 12 noon. Location is still undecided.

*Barbara Heckler*

## **Supper With Scholars**

We are meeting on the first Thursday of each month, at 6 pm. Thus, we will meet next on Thursday, February 7. If you plan to attend, please RSVP, stating whether you are coming alone or bringing friend(s).

We meet at Humphreys La Jolla Restaurant, 3299 Holiday Court. Meals from the menu ([www.humphreyslajolla.com](http://www.humphreyslajolla.com)) are Dutch Treat. Group discussion is based on suggested topics that have particularly interested the attendees in the last month. If possible, we select a question that can be addressed from the viewpoints of various diverse areas of expertise.

*Dave Parker*

## **Looking Forward**

### **General Meeting**

**March 16, 2019**

**Leslie Lewis**

**Beyond Biology:  
Examining the  
Social, Structural &  
Environmental  
Determinants of Health**

### **Helen Hawkins Grants**

Applications will be available **January 2, 2019** to SDIS members who joined at least one year ago. Deadline for applications is February 28. Contact [bheckler@san.rr.com](mailto:bheckler@san.rr.com) .

# SDIS CALENDAR

## **Colloquy Café**

February 20

1:30 pm

At Vi

Contact: Peter Lisbon

[plisbon@san.rr.com](mailto:plisbon@san.rr.com)

## **Culture One**

February 14

2 pm

Contact: Sue Rosner

[rosnersue@gmail.com](mailto:rosnersue@gmail.com)

## **Film Group**

February 6

10 am

At Barbara's home

Contact: Barbara Heckler

[bheckler@san.rr.com](mailto:bheckler@san.rr.com)

## **General Relativity**

February 13

10 am

At John Alexander's home

Contact: Alvin Halpern

[alvin.halpern@gmail.com](mailto:alvin.halpern@gmail.com)

## **Neuroscience Group**

February 19

2 pm

At Bea's home at the Vi

Contact: Bea Rose

[beabe@me.com](mailto:beabe@me.com)

## **Just Lunch**

March 24

Location to be Determined

Contact: Barbara Heckler

[bheckler@san.rr.com](mailto:bheckler@san.rr.com)

## **Supper with Scholars**

February 7, 2018

6 pm

Humphreys

In the Sheraton La Jolla

Contact: Dave Parker

[parkerd1954@gmail.com](mailto:parkerd1954@gmail.com)

## **General Meetings**

February 16, 2019

March 16, 2019

April 20, 2019

May 18, 2019

President

Barbara Heckler

Send information for

SDIS Notebook to [bheckler@san.rr.com](mailto:bheckler@san.rr.com)