

# The Portsmouth Arts Guild Presents: "THE BIRTH OF THE MODERN"

a three part lecture series  
Presented by Catherine Moran\*

*In 1913, French poet Charles Peguy declared: "The world has changed less since the time of Jesus Christ than it has in the last 30 years."*

*This lecture series will examine the impact this explosive change and two World Wars had on art produced in the 20th Century. We will look at important works by major artists and consider the influences the modern age, both positive and negative, had on them.*

**January 22** The first lecture will focus on the innovations that coincided with the 1887 Paris World's Fair such as the elevator, the Eiffel Tower, recorded sound, the combustion engine, and the automobile. We will consider the role that Gertrude Stein and her famous Paris Salon had on the development of radical new styles pioneered by artists like Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, and Wassily Kandinsky.

**February 5** The second lecture will examine the impact of the 1913 Armory Show. The New York debut of artists such as Kandinsky, Braque, Duchamp, Monet, Renoir and Brancusi changed the way that we collect and look at art and acted as a break from the tradition of the American school.

**February 12** The final lecture in this series will explore Abstract Expressionism. The sweeping artistic freedom that came to define mid century modern art is the culmination of innovations pioneered by artists in the first half of the 20th C. We will explore the revolutions in line, color and form exemplified by artists such as Jackson Pollock, Helen Frankenthaler, Franz Klein, Willem de Kooning, Francis Bacon and Mark Rothko.

**Sunday afternoons 2:30-4PM (snow date Feb 26)**  
**2679 East Main Road**  
**\$5. PAG members per lecture, \$10. non-members**  
**Light refreshments provided**  
**You may pay at the door**

*\*Catherine Moran grew up in Providence and has a graduate degree in fine and decorative American art. She is former gallery director for the Bernard & S. Deal Levy Gallery in New York and has worked on art and architecture books at Random House. Ms. Moran currently lives in Rhode Island and is a lecturer at several local colleges.*