



ALBANY MUSEUM OF ART

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING TOPIC OF AMA ART LOVERS BOOK CLUB**

Albany Museum of Art Mixes Fine Art and Good Reads With Great Conversation

**[For Release June 21, 2019 – Albany, GA]** — With a successful launch in May, the *AMA Art Lovers Book Club* will have its second meeting at 6 pm on Tuesday, July 16, 2019. K.K. Snyder will lead the conversation on Tracy Chevalier’s novel, *Girl With a Pearl Earring*.

The meetings are held in the Willson Auditorium of the Albany Museum of Art, 311 Meadowlark Drive.

“We had a really good turnout for our first book club meeting,” Annie Vanoteghem, director of education and public programming for the AMA, said. “We’re hoping to have even more join us for our second one.”

Chevalier, an American-British historical novelist, is best known for *Girl With a Pearl Earring*. A *New York Times* bestseller, the book, which marks its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, was adapted in 2003 into a film starring Scarlett Johansson and Colin Firth.

Inspired by the 17<sup>th</sup> century painting of the same name, Chevalier’s novel is a fictional account of painter Johannes Vermeer, the model for his painting, and the painting. She is said to have bought a poster of the painting when she was a teenager.

The complex expression on the model’s face captured her imagination, and she wrote the novel—the second of eight she has penned—after researching the time period, studying the work of Vermeer and his contemporaries, and spending time in Delft, Holland, where Vermeer lived and the novel is set.

“It’s a fascinating book and there’s still plenty of time to get a copy and read it—or reread it—before the club meeting,” Vanoteghem said.

There is no cost to attend the club meetings, which are set for the third Tuesday of alternating months, and you may attend as many or as few as you like. Those who plan to attend the July 16 meeting are asked to RSVP by noon that day so that seating accommodations can be set up at the AMA. Club

members also are encouraged to bring a favorite beverage. You can RSVP to [bookclub@albanymuseum.com](mailto:bookclub@albanymuseum.com) or by calling 229.439.8400.

If you would like to read ahead for future club meetings, these are the future dates for the 2019-20 series. All club meetings start at 6 pm:

- Sept 17: *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde. Candace Franklin will lead the conversation;
- Nov 19: *The Miniaturist* by Jessie Burton;
- Jan 21: *An Artist of the Floating World* by Kazuo Ishiguro;
- March 17: *I, Juan de Pareja* by Elizabeth Borton de Trevino.

### **CURRENT AMA EXHIBITIONS**

- *Figure Forward*, works by Jill Frank, William Downs and Jaime Bull, is in the Haley Gallery June 27-Oct 12, 2019;
- *Educators as Artists: A Juried College Faculty Exhibition* is in the East Gallery June 27-Oct 12, 2019;
- *Fragments of a Violent World*, nano photography by Michael Oliveri, is in the West Gallery June 27-Oct 12, 2019;
- *Inspiring Wellness Through the Arts*, works by Jose Tongol, is in the Hodges Regional Sales Gallery in June.

### **ABOUT THE ALBANY MUSEUM OF ART**

The Albany Museum of Art, located in Albany, Georgia, adjacent to Albany State University West Campus just off Gillionville Road is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The Albany Museum of Art is open 10 am through 5 pm Tuesdays through Fridays and noon until 5 pm on Saturdays. Admission is free.

For more information about the AMA please visit our website, [www.albanymuseum.com](http://www.albanymuseum.com) or call 229.439.8400. Be sure to follow the @AlbanyArtMuseum on Twitter, AlbanyMuseum of Instagram and AlbanyMuseumOfArt on Facebook.

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