



Summer 2023

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**Haystack Book Festival** brings together in unmoderated conversation writers and thinkers who have something to talk about. Past and upcoming talks are as various as Rosa Alcalá and MacArthur Award winner John Keene discussing the relation between their creative writing and their work as translators; Pulitzer Prize finalist Janice Nimura and Dorothy Wickendon on the women who helped spark the first American Civil Rights Movement; Sam Sifton and cookbook author, Melissa Clark on the world of *New York Times Cooking* and salt; and Lynn Garafola and Marina Harss on modern ballet and the life of choreographer Bronislava Nijinska.

## Writers in Conversation

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## SUNDAY, JUNE 4th at the Art Barn

**1:00 PM:** A Public Reading of Joe Brainard's *I Remember*

Introduction by Timothy Young

Public participation is encouraged

## FRIDAY, JUNE 23rd at the Norfolk Library

**7:00 PM:** The Daring Eye of George Platt Lynes

*with* Jarrett Earnest & Allen Ellenzweig

## SUNDAY, JULY 9th at the Norfolk Library

**4:00 PM:** John Ashbery's Playlist

*with* Karin Roffman & Melvin Chen

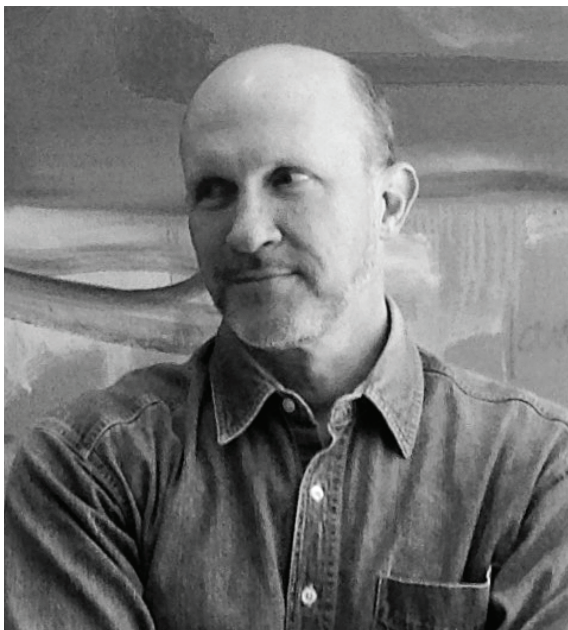
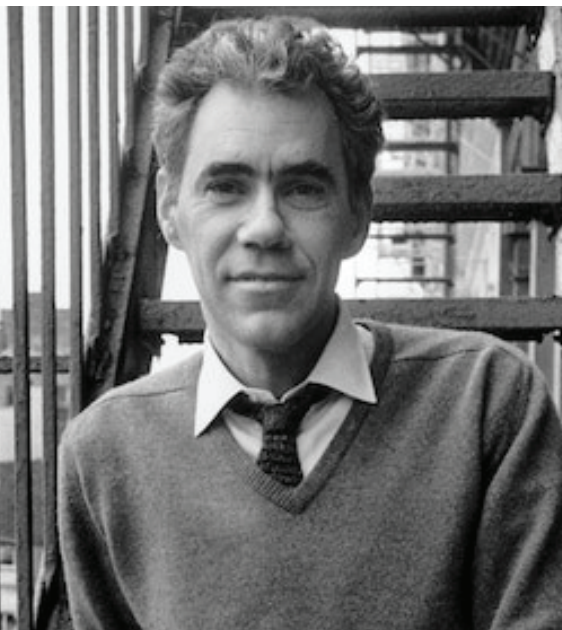
## SATURDAY, AUGUST 5th at the Norfolk Library

**4:00 PM:** Modernism and Tradition — The Foundations of American Art and Culture

*with* Jennifer Homans & Hugh Eakin

Sunday, June 4 • 1:00 PM

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© Chris Felver/Getty Images

## A Public Reading of Joe Brainard's *I Remember* with an Introduction by Timothy Young

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Joe Brainard's *I Remember* is a literary and artistic cult classic, praised and admired by writers from Paul Auster to John Ashery and Edmund White. As autobiography, Brainard's method was brilliantly simple: to set down specific memories as they rose to the surface of his consciousness, each prefaced by the refrain "I remember..."

*I remember when I thought that if you did anything bad, policemen would put you in jail.*

*I remember a very poor boy who had to wear his sister's blouses to school.*

*I remember my collection of Nova Scotia pamphlets and travel information.*

*I remember how many other magazines I had to buy in order to buy one physique magazine.*

*I remember seeing colors and designs by closing my eyes very tightly.*

Ron Padgett writes in the afterward: “I don’t remember the genesis of *I Remember*, but as soon as Joe Brainard showed the initial version of it to friends and read it in public, everyone saw that he had made a marvelous discovery, and many of us wondered why we hadn’t thought of such an obvious idea ourselves.”

Artist and writer Joe Brainard was born in 1941 and grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Brainard moved to New York City in the early 1960’s and became associated with the New York School along with Ron Padgett and Ted Berrigan. His first solo exhibition was at the Alan Gallery in 1965. He subsequently showed at the Landau–Alan and Fischbach galleries and took part in many group shows around the country and abroad. His drawings, collages, assemblages, and paintings are in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, The Whitney Museum, and the Joe Brainard Archive at the University of California–San Diego, among others. Joe Brainard died in 1994 in New York.

Timothy Young is Curator of Modern Books and Manuscripts at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University focusing on fields of research related to modern literary and cultural movements, especially the avant garde, and visual culture. He currently is working to expand the library’s collections in LGBTQ literature and culture as well as the broader field of human sexuality, with collections of manuscripts and books ranging from life histories, magazines, and erotica to Tijuana bibles.

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**“A completely original book.”**

—Edmund White

Friday, June 23 • 7:00 PM

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## The Daring Eye of George Platt Lynes

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Allen Ellenzweig, the author of the biography, *George Platt Lynes: The Daring Eye*, and artist and writer Jarrett Earnest will discuss the life of photographer Platt Lynes and his place in the modern art movement as it relates to dance, Hollywood, and the male form.

By the mid-1930s George Platt Lynes was a well-established portrait and fashion photographer in New York City, principal photographer for Balanchine's dances and dancers, and, largely out of public view, an extraordinary explorer of the male nude.

A Great Barrington boy, Lynes was at the heart of the distinctively queer modernism charted by Jarrett Earnest in his 2019 exhibition at David Zwirner art gallery. Ellenzweig's masterful biography unpacks the full scope of Lynes's life and work, from his early encounters with Gertrude Stein in Paris through his long and complex relations with the publisher

and eventual MoMA exhibition director Monroe Wheeler and the novelist Glenway Westcott, to his early death in the very different world that emerged in wake of World War II.

Allen Ellenzweig is a cultural critic and commentator who has published in numerous arts and general interest periodicals, including *Arts Magazine*, *American Photographer*, *The Village Voice*, and *Art in America*, as well as the online journals *Tablet*, *The Forward*, and *Poetry Magazine*. He has been a regular contributor to *The Gay & Lesbian Review* for some two decades, writing on film, theater, and books. His landmark history, *The Homoerotic Photograph: Male Images from Durieu/Delacroix to Mapplethorpe*, was published by Columbia University Press. The biography *George Platt Lynes: The Daring Eye*, the first full-length study of the life and career of Lynes, a transatlantic gay cosmopolitan of the late 1920s through 1955, the year of his death.

Jarrett Earnest is an artist, writer, and editor in New York City. He is the author of *What it Means to Write About Art: Interviews with Art Critics* and editor of *Hot, Cold, Heavy, Light: 100 Art Writings 1988–2018* by Peter Schjeldahl, *The Young and Evil: Queer Modernism in New York, 1930–1955*, *Painting Is A Supreme Fiction: Writings by Jesse Murry, 1980–1993* and *Devotion: Today's Future Becomes Tomorrow's Archive*. His new book of photographs and writing, *Valid Until Sunset*, will be published in the fall by MATTE editions.

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**“Ellenzweig gives the great photographer George Platt Lynes his full due in this intimate, expansive, richly detailed biography. Lynes lived a tragically short life but his work and friendships put him at the center of 20th century American history. His portraits of artists and his pioneering work in the male nude both receive here the attention they deserve. The huge cast includes Gertrude Stein, Virgil Thomson, Paul Cadmus, Katherine Anne Porter, Cecil Beaton, Lincoln Kirstein, and Alfred Kinsey, as well as Lynes’s lovers, Glenway Wescott and Monroe Wheeler.”**

—Christopher Bram, author of *Father of Frankenstein*

# New York Stories: A Timeline

June 4th

June 23rd

George Platt Lynes (1907-1955)

July 9th

August 5th

Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)

John Quinn (1870-1924)

1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940

MoMA founded, 1929

American School of Ballet  
founded, 1934

NYC Ballet founded, 1948

Serge Diaghilev (1872-1929)

Chick Austin (1900-1957)



Joe Brainard (1941–1994)

John Ashbery (1927–2017)

George Balanchine (1904–1983)

Alfred Barr (1902–1981)

1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2020 2030

MoMA moves to  
53rd Street, 1953

Lincoln Center built,  
1964–69

Lincoln Kirstein (1907–1996)

Sunday, July 9th • 4:00 PM

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## John Ashbery's Playlist

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Karin Roffman, author of *The Songs We Know Best: John Ashbery's Early Life*, and Melvin Chen, Director, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, explore the life and soundscape of the poet John Ashbery (1927–2017). Roffman's "John Ashbery's Music Library: A Playlist" appeared in the *Evergreen Review* in Spring, 2021

Because Ashbery made his living for nearly forty years as a well-known art critic for popular newspapers and magazines and was renowned at the end of his life for creating a series of original, witty collages, his enduring involvement with music may come as something of a surprise. Over the course of his long life, he amassed a eclectic collection of records, cassettes, and CDs; many poems referenced pieces and composers; hundreds of unpublished letters to friends detailed enthusiastic musical discoveries and illuminated his listening habits. Composers, including

Elliot Carter, Ned Rorem, and Alvin Lucier, enjoyed setting his poems to music. As he put it himself, "I have always felt that my ideas came out of music...I listen to music all the time and especially when I am writing. I always have a record on or listen to the classical radio station...It is a trigger, but I would be at a loss to say how."

Karin Roffman is a senior lecturer in Humanities, English and American Studies and the Associate Director of Public Humanities at Yale University. Her biography, *The Songs We Know Best: John Ashbery's Early Life*, was named one of the 100 notable books for 2017 by the *New York Times*. She is currently at work on a full biography of John Ashbery. In 2019, in collaboration with the Yale University Digital Humanities Lab, she released John Ashbery's Nest, a virtual tour and website on John Ashbery's Hudson house.

Dr. Melvin Chen has received acclaim for solo and chamber performances throughout the United States, Canada, and Asia. Chen's performances have been featured on radio and television stations around the world. As a Professor in the Practice of Piano, Chen teaches a studio of graduate and undergraduate piano students. In addition, he is the Deputy Dean at the Yale School of Music, and also serves as Director of the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival–Yale Summer School of Music, where he also performs.

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**"By far the most thorough and reliable account of a formative period in the biography of one of our greatest and most mysterious writers... *The Songs We Know Best* lets us see, clearer than ever before, how the poet's mind works, and how it developed."**

— *The New Republic*

Saturday, August 5th • 1:00 PM

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© Brigitte Lacombe



© Aaron Lavinsky

## Modernism and Tradition – The Foundations of American Art and Culture

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By the middle of the twentieth century, New York City had emerged as the vital center of American cultural life, perhaps most visibly in the twin institutions of the Museum of Modern Art and the New York City Ballet.

2023 Pulitzer Prize finalist Jennifer Homans, author of *Mr. B.: George Balanchine's 20th Century*, and Hugh Eakin, author of *Picasso's War: How Modern Art Came to America*, will engage in a wide-ranging conversation about the United States and Europe, modernism and tradition, and the individuals who ultimately laid the foundations for contemporary American art and culture—not just Picasso and Balanchine (who never met) but also John Quinn, Serge Diaghilev, Alfred Barr, Lincoln Kirstein, and many others.

Jennifer Homans is the dance critic for *The New Yorker*. Her widely acclaimed *Apollo's Angels: A History of Ballet* was a bestseller and named one of the ten best books of the year by *The New York Times Book Review*. Trained in dance at George Balanchine's School of American Ballet, she performed professionally with the Chicago Lyric Opera Ballet and the Pacific Northwest Ballet. She earned her BA at Columbia University and her PhD in modern European history at New York University, where she is a Distinguished Scholar in Residence and the Founding Director of the Center for Ballet and the Arts.

Hugh Eakin, the author of *Picasso's War: How Modern Art Came to America*, is a senior editor at *Foreign Affairs* and frequent writer on the art world for a number of notable publications, including *The New Yorker* and *New York Review of Books*.

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“[Homans] captures the full complexity of Balanchine's life and art, placing both in a historical context that makes for a riveting narrative. [A] masterpiece.”

—Amanda Vaill

“Eakin tells an intriguing and gripping story with clarity and finely judged pace. His portraits of the main players are astute and fascinating, as is his picture of a changing America.”

—Colm Tóibín, author of *The Magician*

# Haystack Book Festival – Fall 2023

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th at the Norfolk Library

### 4:00 PM: Writing Lives

Ada Calhoun, author of *Also A Poet; Frank O'Hara, My Father and Me*  
*In conversation with*

Priscilla Gilman, author of *The Critics Daughter: A Memoir*

### 6:00 PM: Brendan Gill Lecture\*

Author to be announced

\*Open reception following at Manor House Inn, Maple Avenue, Norfolk, CT

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th at the Norfolk Library

### 10:30 AM: A Look at Contemporary America by Traveling Through History

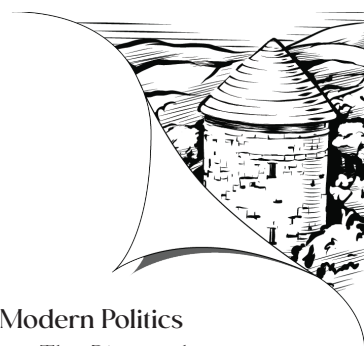
Neil King Jr, author of *American Rambles: A Walk of Memory and Renewal*  
*In conversation with*

Rinker Buck, author of *Life on the Mississippi: An Epic American Adventure*

### 1:00 PM: Inspired by the Legacy of Anne Garrels: A Conversation About Covering Conflict

George Packer, author of *The Last Best Hope: America in Crisis and Renewal*  
*In conversation with*

Elizabeth Becker, author of *You Don't Belong Here: How Three Women Rewrote the Story of War*



**3:00 PM: Reason, Rights, Resentment: The Shaping of Modern Politics**

Robert Schneider, author of *The Return of Resentment: The Rise and Decline and Rise Again of A Political Emotion*

*In conversation with*

Samuel Moyn, author of *Liberalism Against Itself: Cold War Intellectuals and the Making of Our Times*

**5:30 – 7:30 PM: Haystack Country\***

Norfolk Country Club

\*Ticketed event – cocktails and hors d'oeuvres with the authors

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1st at the Norfolk Library**

**7:00 AM: Birding through Great Mountain Forest** – an early morning bird watch with To be announced

**11:00 AM: On the Use and Abuse of Religion for Life**

Elizabeth Bucar, author of *Stealing My Religion: Not Just Any Cultural Appropriation*

*In conversation with*

Simran Jeet Singh, *The Light We Give: How Sikh Wisdom Can Transform Your Life*

**1:30 PM: Birding for Life: From the Personal to the Natural World**

Carl Safina author of *Allie & Me: What Owls Know, What Humans Believe*

*In conversation with*

To be announced

Watch for details and register at:

[www.norfolkfoundation.net/book-talks](http://www.norfolkfoundation.net/book-talks)

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Steve Melville & Michael Selleck, co-chairs

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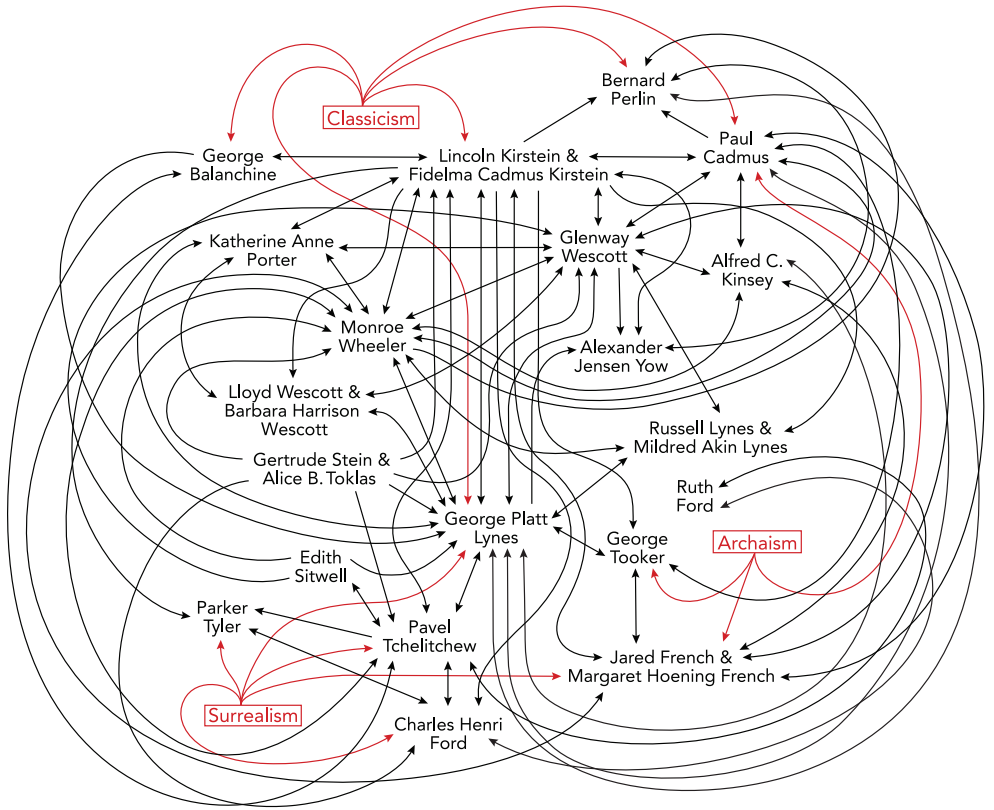
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