

NEWS RELEASE



Montclair Art Museum

3 South Mountain Ave., Montclair, NJ 07042
973-746-5555 | montclairartmuseum.org



For Immediate Release

Media Contacts

Michael Gillespie, 973-259-5134

mgillespie@montclairartmuseum.org

Catherine Mastrangelo, 973-259-5119

cmastrangelo@montclairartmuseum.org

**THE MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM AND MONTCLAIR COMMUNITY PRE-K
PRESENT THE 9th ANNUAL CONVERSATION ON EDUCATION AND THE ARTS**

**EVENT FEATURES NOTED EDUCATOR AND BEST-SELLING AUTHOR
CLAUDIA CORNETT**

Thursday, November 3, 7 p.m., at the Montclair Art Museum

MONTCLAIR, NJ, October 3, 2011— The Montclair Art Museum (MAM) and the Montclair Community Pre-K are proud to welcome educator Claudia Cornett to speak at the 9th Annual Conversation on Education and the Arts, Thursday, November 3, 7 p.m., in MAM’s Leir Hall. Her talk is titled “Literacy IS the Arts,” in which she argues for the fundamental importance of the arts in all learning.

In her numerous books and articles, Claudia Cornett focuses on various aspects of literacy, especially on how we make meaning and solve problems. In her most recent book, the best-selling *Creating Meaning through Literature and the Arts*, now in its fourth edition, she presents the arts—literature, visual art, drama, dance, and music—as necessary for understanding and for expressing thoughts and feelings in an age of digital and multimedia communication. In doing so, she redefines literacy while integrating the arts into all areas of the curriculum.

Claudia Cornett is a professor emerita at Wittenberg University, in Ohio, where she received the Distinguished Teaching Award, one of the university’s highest teaching honors, in 1989. Cornett has also been involved in several television productions, including hosting a weekly segment on local Educational TV in South Carolina called “Art Chat” and contributing to an instructional series on early literacy titled “Sounds Abound,” a PBS broadcast during school programming. Cornett regularly delivers keynote talks and professional development for educators internationally.

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The Conversation on Education and the Arts series is an annual lecture sponsored by the Montclair Community Pre-K and hosted by MAM. Past speakers have included educators, scholars, artists, and authors interested in progressive teaching methods, such as Howard Gardner (2003), Leon Botstein (2004), Lillian Katz (2005), Maxine Greene (2006), Eric Carle (2007), Lella Gandini (2008), Philip Yenawine (2009), and Faith Ringgold (2010).

Tickets are \$15 for Members and Montclair Community Pre-K families, \$18 for nonmembers, and \$10 students with ID. Professional Development Certificates will be available for educators who attend this lecture. The lecture is presented with generous support from Jane and Harvey Susswein.

About the Montclair Community Pre-K

The Montclair Community Pre-K is a private, non-profit program with a public mission. We opened our doors in 1998 with the following mission statement: To offer all four year olds in Montclair a high quality, affordable education that prepares them for kindergarten and beyond, regardless of the ability of the family to pay tuition.

The Montclair Community Pre-K is a nationally recognized early childhood education program. We are dedicated to educational excellence and are a model school in the local community, as well as in New Jersey and across the country.

To ensure we fulfill our mission, we offer tuition assistance on a sliding-scale based on household income. We are proud to say that no Montclair resident has ever been denied admission because of lack of funds.

About the Museum

The Montclair Art Museum, a notable, community-based institution with an international reputation, boasts a renowned collection of American and Native American art that uniquely highlights art making in the United States over the last three hundred years. The collection includes more than 12,000 objects: paintings, prints, original works on paper, photographs, and sculpture by American artists from the 18th century to the present, as well as traditional and contemporary Native American art and artifacts representing the cultural developments of peoples from all of the major American Indian regions. The Museum's education programs serve a wide public and bring artists, performers, and scholars to the Museum on a regular basis. MAM's Yard School of Art is the leading regional art school, offering a multitude of comprehensive courses for children, teens, adults, seniors, and professional artists.

The Montclair Art Museum is located at 3 South Mountain Avenue in Montclair, N.J. Information and directions are available on the Museum website, montclairartmuseum.org, or by calling 973-746-5555. MAM is open Wednesdays through Sundays, Noon – 5 p.m., and closed on Mondays, Tuesdays, and major holidays. Museum admission is \$12 for nonmember adults, \$10 for senior citizens and students with I.D., and free for members and children under 12.

All Museum programs are made possible, in part, by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Vance Wall Foundation, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, and Museum Members. ###