

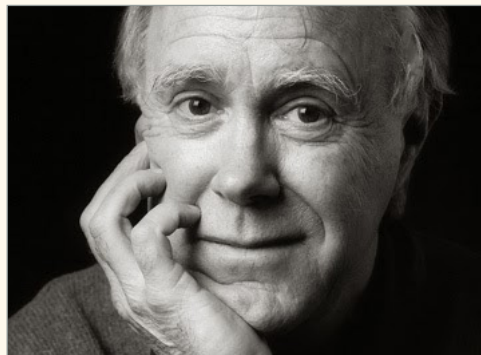


SPRING 2018

TOWNSEND

CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES UC BERKELEY

EXHIBITION **Michael Hall** BERKELEY BOOK CHATS **Robert Hass** AVENALI LECTURE **Joseph Leo Koerner** GLOBAL URBAN HUMANITIES **Rina Priyani**



TOWNSEND CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES

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Art of Writing + Spring Deadlines back cover

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COVER IMAGES (clockwise from left): Michael Hall Eric Kotila, Robert Hass Margareta Mitchell, Rina Priyani Eric Kotila, Campanile Eric Kotila, *Garden of Delights* (detail) Hieronymus Bosch.

IMAGE CREDITS: Magnolia Tree, Stephens Hall Eric Kotila; Student Protesters Bruno Barbey/Magnum; *Garden of Delights* (detail) Hieronymus Bosch; Joseph Leo Koerner Stuart Campbell, Photographic Unit, University of Glasgow; *BES_FB-SG, BC B1* Michael Hall.

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

WELCOME TO 2018! As we head toward the 50th anniversary of the 1968 student protests that rocked Berkeley, Paris, Tokyo, Mexico City, and other educational centers across the globe, we face unprecedented challenges to the mission of the humanities. Those '68 events—which, it should not be forgotten, were closely linked to student demands for more responsive teaching and learning situations—can help us gauge how far we've come.

The transformative energy of that earlier historical moment helped shape much of the extraordinary interdisciplinary culture that defines the Berkeley campus today.

But challenges remain. The incessant clamoring outside the university for a greater focus on seemingly "practical" training in science and engineering is matched by laments from many of our STEM colleagues that their students need better preparation in writing and critical thinking. Meanwhile, the news from Washington is that universities generally are out of favor among those who claim to represent us, even as the crisis of thoughtful dialogue reminds us of the role that universities must play in shaping the languages of the future, from technology to poetry.

Here at the **Townsend Center**, we're working to answer to the challenges of this time in which humanities education is needed as never before. We've been gratified to watch

the exceptional success of our **Art of Writing** program, which helps undergraduates become stronger writers and graduate students become skilled teachers of writing. We've witnessed important discussions taking place through our **Berkeley Book Chats** series, which this spring features a robust roster of ten faculty authors. The new

semester also features the visit of Avenali Chair in the Humanities **Joseph Leo Koerner**, the distinguished Harvard art historian (and Berkeley alum) who will be speaking on "Art in a State of Siege: Bosch in Retrospect."

I invite you to take advantage of these and other stimulating programs sponsored by the

Townsend Center, and to come to us with your ideas for new directions. We enjoy the rare privilege of working in a community where critique and curiosity are encouraged. Our job is to develop these faculties as best we can.

Timothy Hampton

Aldo Scaglione and Marie M. Burns Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature and French



Student Protest in Paris, 1968

ART

AVENALI LECTURE 2018

JOSEPH
LEO
KOERNER

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

IN A STATE OF



BOSCH
IN RETRO
SPECT

SIEGE



JOSEPH LEO KOERNER, Thomas Professor of History of Art & Architecture and Senior Fellow, Society of Fellows at Harvard University, is this year's **Avenali Chair in the Humanities**.

In his Avenali Lecture, Koerner examines **Hieronymus Bosch's** *Garden of Delights* — a work notorious for its portrayal of nude men and women cavorting with beasts in a verdant landscape. He approaches the painting as a representation of a world without history and without law, whose imagery attracted significant attention during similarly lawless historical periods.

The discussion emerges from a larger project in which Koerner explores the relationship between art and freedom under a range of emergency “states of siege,” including apartheid South Africa and Nazi Germany.

A Berkeley alumnus, Koerner received his PhD in history of art. He is the author of numerous books, including *Caspar David Friedrich and the Subject of Landscape* and *Dürer's Hands*. He wrote and presented the television series

AVENALI LECTURE

Art in a State of Siege: Bosch in Retrospect

5 pm, Thursday, March 15, 2018
Morrison Room, 101 Doe Library

PANEL, moderated by Professor Koerner

Art in a State of Siege

1 pm, Friday, March 16, 2018
Geballe Room, 220 Stephens Hall

FILM SCREENING

The Burning Child

4 pm, Saturday, March 17, 2018
BAMPFA, 2155 Center Street, Berkeley

Northern Renaissance and the documentary *Vienna: City of Dreams*, both produced by the BBC.

Koerner's roster of major honors includes the Andrew W. Mellon Distinguished Achievement Award, which provided him with resources to pursue many scholarly projects.

During his visit to Berkeley, Koerner also screens a preview of his documentary film *The Burning Child* at the Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive. The film explores Koerner's return to Vienna to explore the birthplace of his father, painter Henry Koerner, and is a meditation on the concepts of home and homemaking that emerged amidst the turbulence of 20th-century Vienna.

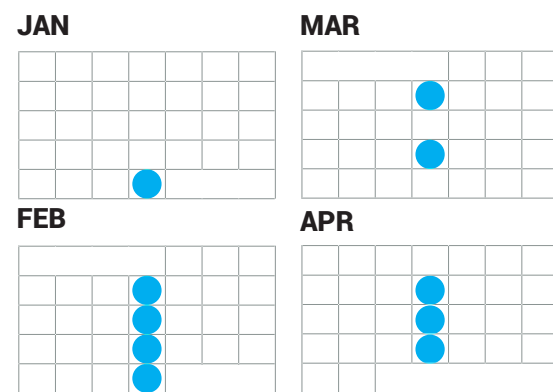
The **Avenali Lecture** and **Symposium** are free and open to the public.

Please visit BAMPFA's website bampfa.org or front desk for information on film ticketing for ***The Burning Child***.

BERK ELEY BOOK CHATS

Celebrating Recent Work
of UC Berkeley Faculty

12–1 pm, Wednesdays, 220 Stephens



JAN 31
Richard Cándida Smith HISTORY
Improvised Continent: Pan-Americanism and Cultural Exchange

FEB 7
David Marno ENGLISH
Death Be Not Proud: The Art of Holy Attention

FEB 14
James Turner ENGLISH
Eros Visible: Art, Sexuality and Antiquity in Renaissance Italy

FEB 21
Peter Sahlins HISTORY
1668: The Year of the Animal in France

FEB 28
Mark Danner JOURNALISM
Spiral: Trapped in the Forever War

MAR 7
Robert Hass ENGLISH
A Little Book on Form: An Exploration into the Formal Imagination of Poetry

MAR 21
Elizabeth Honig HISTORY OF ART
Jan Brueghel and the Senses of Scale

APR 11
Amanda Jo Goldstein ENGLISH
Sweet Science: Romantic Materialism and the New Logics of Life

APR 18
Tom McEnaney COMPARATIVE LITERATURE, SPANISH & PORTUGUESE
Acoustic Properties: Radio, Narrative, and the New Neighborhood of the Americas

APR 25
John Ferrari CLASSICS
The Messages We Send: Social Signals and Storytelling

SPRING 2018

REMNANTS

EXHIBITION

January 29–May 18 2018

Monday–Friday 9 am–4 pm

220 Stephens Hall

Michael Hall

MICHAEL HALL, an artist whose perspective is deeply shaped by his family's military background, presents *Remnants*, a selection of paintings on display at the Townsend Center.

Remnants combines works from the series *Reclamation*, which depicts the World War II-era bunkers built along the Northern California coast, and *Correspondence*, which recreates letters sent to a teenage Hall by his father while serving in Desert Storm. Throughout these works is a recognition of the burden that military conflict places on different landscapes, whether the physical landscape marred by crumbling structures now void of purpose, or the interpersonal landscape of a father and son's relationship stretched thin by war.

Hall's *Reclamation* paintings explore the decommissioned bunkers that dot the coast of Marin. Always on guard, looking out for a threat that never came, these disintegrating buildings invoke the Bay Area's largely forgotten military past.

In his *Correspondence* series, Hall uses watercolor to meticulously recreate letters his father wrote 26 years ago while serving in Iraq. In the process of transcribing letters he received decades ago as an angry and confused adolescent, Hall now finds the empathy he lacked as he reencounters his father's experience of military life.

Hall taught painting at UC Berkeley before becoming an assistant professor of art at CSU East Bay. He holds an MFA from Mills College.



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THIS SPRING **Art of Writing** is pleased to present "A Book is Born," a public conversation between **Steve Wasserman** and **Greil Marcus**, two Berkeley graduates whose collaboration spans 46 years and three books. Wasserman is publisher and executive director of Heyday and former editor-at-large for Yale University Press. Marcus is a music journalist and cultural critic noted for his work connecting rock & roll to political and social history. After meeting at Berkeley in 1971, the two began what would become a lifelong partnership and friendship through book writing.

**ART OF
WRITING**

A Book is Born

4 pm, February 22, 2018

Geballe Room, 220 Stephens Hall

SPRING 2018 DEADLINES

January 29, 2018

Public Speaking for Graduate Students

February 9, 2018

Conference & Lecture Grants

April 6, 2018

**Daniel E Koshland Jr Art of Teaching
Writing Fellowships**

May 1, 2018

Conference & Lecture Grants

May 4, 2018

Working Groups

townsendcenter.berkeley.edu/deadlines