

The Unreliable Narrator

September 1–November 24, 2017
Sun Valley Center for the Arts

MUSEUM EXHIBITION

The exhibition features works that invite the viewer to question the story they are being told. What can we believe? What don't we know? What do we need to fill in? Viewers are asked to engage with the artwork to complete its story.

Participating artists:

Portland-based photographer **Holly Andres** is known for creating compelling narratives through carefully constructed images. Placing figures into elaborate sets, Andres makes photographs that unfold like a movie, with gaps in the story that she invites viewers to complete with their imaginations. The Center commissioned Andres to create a new body of work for this exhibition during a residency at The Center, Hailey, which is also the birthplace of the iconic poet Ezra Pound.

Internationally known artist **Mark Dion** works in a variety of media, from drawing to sculpture, installation, photography and film. He regularly borrows the language, presentation formats and methods of science. Whether pursuing projects that mimic early 20th-century archaeology or the carefully constructed curiosity cabinet of the 16th century, Dion asks viewers to consider the idea of authenticity in art and in science.

Simon Evans™ is the artistic collaboration between **Simon Evans** and **Sarah Lannan**. Together, they create works on paper, often very funny, that combine text and image in explorations of everything from catalogues of their personal belongings to ideas for new continents. This exhibition includes two sculptural works, both made from paper, that consider what happens when viewers or readers can't access the entirety of a text and thus must choose to believe—or not—an author or an artist.

As the artist-in-residence for the Natural Resources Defense Council, artist **Jenny Kendler** has developed a practice that draws attention to challenges facing the environment. Her project, *Nabokov's (Invented) Butterflies*, marries her focus on the environment with her love of literature. Vladimir Nabokov, who regularly employed unreliable narrators in his own fiction, was also an amateur lepidopterist. His own invented butterfly species appear throughout his short stories and novels. Kendler has created a series of watercolor paintings based on Nabokov's descriptions of these fictitious species.

New Orleans artist **Gina Phillips** works with fabric, thread, ink and paint to create works that weave together narrative strands drawn from history, folklore and myth. She pulls from sources as varied as the legends she heard growing up in Kentucky, stories of early European settlers in the south and the indigenous peoples they encountered, and propaganda used to lure laborers to the Delta in the early 20th century. Combining personal, regional and national histories, Phillips presents her works in installations that offer multiple narrative possibilities.

Chicago-based artist **Deb Sokolow** combines drawing and text in elaborate narrative works that use real historical figures as the starting point for dark but hilarious stories. From

a failed CIA plot involving the minimalist sculptor Donald Judd to tales of interior designers who double as surveillance experts, Sokolow's narratives combine conspiracy, humor and complex storylines in works that leave viewers wondering if just maybe the stories they tell could be true.

Exhibition Opening Celebration and Gallery Walk

Fri, Sep 1, 5–7pm
Free at The Center, Ketchum
Join us as we celebrate the opening of *The Unreliable Narrator!*

Evening Exhibition Tours

Thu, Sep 28 and Thu, Oct 19, 5:30pm
Free at The Center, Ketchum
Enjoy a glass of wine as you tour the exhibition with The Center's curators and gallery guides.

Public Hours at The Center, Hailey

Thu, Oct 19; Thu, Oct 26; and Thu, Nov 2
2–5:30pm, Free
Visit the house that inspired Holly Andres' still life photos. Special thanks to the Blaine County Historical Museum for their assistance with Holly Andres' residency project.

Holly Andres' residency and commissioned project have been generously underwritten by Jennifer Wilson.

LECTURE

James B. Stewart
Truth Matters: How Fake News and False Statements Undermine America



Thu, Oct 12, 6:30pm
Church of the Big Wood, Ketchum
\$35 / \$45 nonmember
\$15 students/educators (limit one per educator)
Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and bestselling author James B. Stewart combines the skills of an investigative reporter with the style and sensibility of a novelist, examining events in finance, law and politics that shape American society. A former *Wall Street Journal* reporter and editor and a regular contributor to *The New Yorker*, Stewart is the author of multiple bestselling books. Stewart's latest book, *Tangled Webs: How False Statements are Undermining America: From Martha Stewart to Bernie Madoff*, analyzes America's perjury trend, which he suggests is symptomatic of an ethical breakdown compromising the country's judicial system as well as business, government, academia and medicine. A Harvard-educated lawyer, Stewart is the Bloomberg Professor of Business Journalism at the Columbia Journalism School. *The San Francisco Examiner* described Stewart as "the journalist every journalist would like to be."

THEATRE

COMPANY OF FOOLS

Staged Reading and Conversation with Playwright Tasha Gordon-Solmon *Pal*

Fri, Oct 27, 6:30pm
Liberty Theatre, Hailey
\$10 suggested donation
Company of Fools invites you to join in the development of a play! Playwright Tasha Gordon-Solmon visits the Wood River Valley to continue development of her new play, *Pal*. Two best friends share their favorite movies, their deepest wishes, their greatest fears, and grow up together—all through written letters—in a world where reality and imagination aren't clearly delineated.

Tasha Gordon-Solmon's plays have been developed and produced at Actors Theater of Louisville and The Humana Festival, Clubbed Thumb, Ars Nova, Northern Stage, The Perry Mansfield New Works Festival, Dixon Place, New Georges, INTAR and the Flea. She is a recipient of the Dramatist Guild Fellowship, a lyricist in the BMI Workshop, a member of the Project Y Playwrights Group, a New Georges Affiliated Artist, and an alumna of the Clubbed Thumb Early Career Writers Group and the Ars Nova Playgroup.

CLASSES

Creative Jump-In
How to Tell a Great Story
with Matthew Melton from *Story Story Night*

Thu, Oct 26, 5:30–8:30pm
The Center, Hailey
\$40 / \$90 nonmember
Cancellation reimbursement deadline:
Thu, Oct 12
Matthew Melton uses his extensive experience in theater, improv and sketch comedy to lead participants as they develop an engaging true story based on personal experience. Dig up the extraordinary moments from your so-called "ordinary" life to hone the concepts and connections that make stories ring with truth, power, insight and humor! Workshop participants are encouraged to attend the public storytelling performance.

Teen Workshop
From the Page to Stage
with Matthew Melton from *Story Story Night*

Sat & Sun, Oct 28 & 29, 10am–4pm
The Center, Hailey
\$10 pre-registration required
Matthew Melton leads participants through the art of great storytelling in this workshop designed specifically for teens. Students will learn how to transform unique moments from their everyday lives into compelling stories that are honest, funny and engaging. How can you tell stories that present your most authentic self to the world? Workshop students are encouraged to attend the public storytelling performance.

Matthew Melton got his start as a theater arts major at Boise State University and later moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, where he studied improv/sketch comedy under Second City alumnus Keli Semelsburger while working with the Carolina Actors Studio Theater. He later moved to L.A. and performed in national commercials, web series, repertory theater, children's theater and sketch comedy troupes while studying film acting with Alex D'Erma's Cinema Gym of North Hollywood. Upon his return to Idaho in 2012, Matthew started the

Actors Workout with local film professionals to facilitate on-camera practice and provide guidance for filmmakers interested in opportunities to sharpen their skills when they aren't on set.

For more information about *Story Story Night*, please visit their website at storystorynight.org.

Public Storytelling with The Center and Idaho Basecamp

Thu, Nov 9, 6–8pm
Sun Valley Brewery, Hailey
\$10 / 12 nonmembers

Gather to share in humanity's oldest tradition—storytelling. The theme for this event is the "Unreliable Narrator". After The Center's two storytelling workshops, participants and the public are encouraged to join us—stories will be limited to 5 minutes and Mat Gershater of Idaho Basecamp and the Humming Bull will be the night's host. All ages are welcome.

Family Day *The Unreliable Narrator*

Sat, Nov 4, 3–5pm
The Center, Hailey
Free

Join COF teaching artists for an afternoon of story crafting! The work of artist Holly Andres, who created a series of photographs during her stay at The Center, Hailey, will provide inspiration for the afternoon's activities. Through improvisation, props and costumes, we will let stories from the past inspire new creations. Collaborate, play and create!

Family Day events at The Center provide special opportunities for multiple generations to explore art and ideas together, building confidence in self-expression through art making.

FILMS

Under the Sun

Thu, Sep 28, 7pm
Magic Lantern Cinemas, Ketchum
\$10 / \$12 nonmember

After years of negotiation, the Russian director Vitaly Minsky was invited by the North Korean government to make a film about one girl and her family in the year she prepares to join the Children's Union, on the "Day of the Shining Star" (Kim Jong-Il's birthday).

But the government handlers supervising the production did not realize that Minsky kept filming even after they had shouted "Cut." *UNDER THE SUN* is the jaw-dropping result, a "surreal and sinister ... real-life version of THE TRUMAN SHOW." —*The Hollywood Reporter*
106 minutes.

NUTS!

Thu, Oct 19, 7pm
Magic Lantern Cinemas, Ketchum
\$10 / \$12 nonmember

NUTS! is a feature length documentary about Dr. John Romulus Brinkley, an eccentric genius who built an empire in Depression-era America with a goat-testicle impotence cure and a million-watt radio station. Using animated reenactments, interviews, archival footage and a hilariously unreliable narrator, *NUTS!* traces Brinkley's rise from poverty and obscurity to the heights of celebrity, wealth and influence in Depression-era America. 79 minutes.



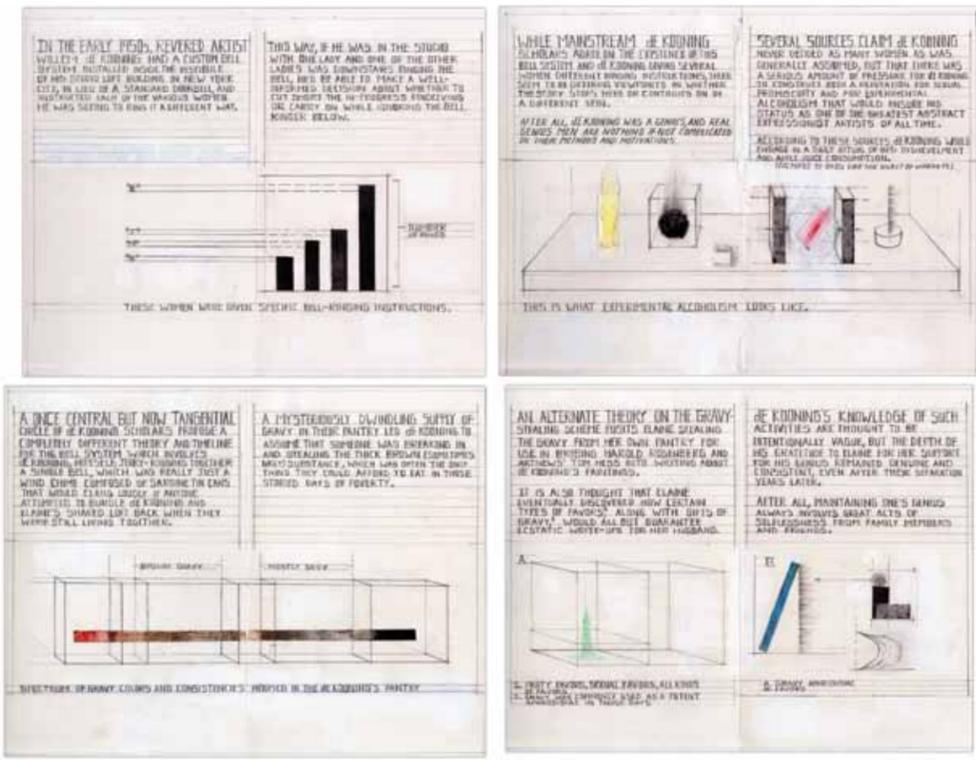
Sun Valley Center for the Arts
sunvalleycenter.org



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A BIG IDEA Project of the Sun Valley Center for the Arts



THE
CENTER

Center hours & location
in Ketchum: Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm
191 Fifth Street East, Ketchum, Idaho

Center location in Hailey:
314 Second Ave. South, Hailey, Idaho

Sun Valley Center for the Arts
P.O. Box 656, Sun Valley, ID 83353
208.726.9491 • sunvalleycenter.org

COMPANY OF FOOLS

N. Main Street, Hailey, Idaho
208.578.9122



Cover:

Jenny Kendler, *Diaphanos Parnassian (Parnassian sp.)*
from *Ada*, or *Ardor* from the series *Nabokov's (Invented)*
Butterflies, 2016, watercolor and gouache on Arches,
courtesy the artist

Back Panel:

Deb Sokolow, *Willem de Kooning: Geniuses are nothing if not complicated in their methods and motivations* (detail),
2015, artist book: graphite, acrylic, ink and collage on
acid-free paper; book board; PVA, ed. 3 of 3, courtesy the
artist and Western Exhibitions

Introduction Panels:

Simon Evans™, *Yantra* (detail and full view), 2017, mixed
media, courtesy the artists and James Cohan, New York

Gina Phillips, *Maybelle*, 2015, fabric, thread, paint,
courtesy the artist and JONATHAN FERRARA GALLERY,
New Orleans

Inside, left to right:

Mark Dion, *Oceanomania*, 2011, 2-color photopolymer
etching on manami pescia paper, ed. 3 of 27, courtesy the
artist and Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York

Holly Andres, *Keyhole*, 2017, digital photograph, courtesy
the artist and Charles A. Hartman Fine Art, Portland



THE
CENTER



The Unreliable Narrator

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Every story has a narrator—a story-teller who guides the reader, listener or viewer from beginning to end. The narrator determines the pace at which a story unfolds, the order in which we learn about events, what details we're given and what gets left out. The narrator shapes our experience of a story.

the blanks, to question and to construct their own narrative structure as they read a book, watch a play or film, or view a work of art.

This BIG IDEA project considers the power of the narrator whose first-person account may or may not be reliable. An “unreliable narrator” is one who lies (either directly or by omission) or perhaps misunderstands and misrepresents the events that unfold in a story, or who asks the reader (or viewer) to fill in

