

## **“Wanderlust: Exploring the Work of The Iconic Artist, Joseph Cornell”**

**Fall 2025**

“Wanderlust”: Exploring the Work of Iconic Artist, Joseph Cornell” will hold 5 class sessions in Tuesday afternoons ( 1 to 3 PM) over 5 weeks beginning on September 9 and extending to October 14 with no class on September 23.

Description: Joseph Cornell holds a singular place in the history of twentieth- century American art. Using found objects from souvenir shops, penny arcades and discarded materials, he created shadow boxes. Objects included seashells, marbles, toys and illustrations. He is often associated with the French Surrealists. One critic described Cornell “As a poet of light, an architect of memory-fractured rooms.” Join us as we learn about Joseph Cornell and follow his inspiration.

Format: During our first week, the Coordinators will give an overview of Cornell’s life and introduce creative methods the class might employ to present Cornell’s work. During weeks 2 through 4, some of the class members, in pairs or alone( presentations recommended) and using some of the methods suggested by the coordinators, will help the class delve into Joseph’s methods, subject areas, purpose and the context of his work. In our final week, we will share a few of our own found objects that represent an important event in our lives. Look out for a visual feast!

Resources/Expenses: There are no anticipated expenses or resources required. The coordinator will provide a list of resources available online or in local libraries.

Class Schedule: 5 class sessions will be held on Tuesday afternoons ( 1 to 3 PM) over 5 weeks beginning on September 9 and extending to October 14 with no class on September 23.

Bio: Maggie Miles has led or co-led popular LLC classes in poetry, novel reading, short stories and empathy. Her creative style will enhance our vision of Joseph Cornell. Kathy Webster has led many art-based classes in LLC, from Open Studio Art to Plein air painting and Paint like a Woman.

Coordinators:

Maggie Miles

[Maggie.miles@gmail.com](mailto:Maggie.miles@gmail.com)

+1 (201) 956-1235

Kathy Webster

[rettsgram@gmail.com](mailto:rettsgram@gmail.com)

1 (269) 369-1456

Date	Topic/Hour	Topic leader
September 9 ( week 1)	Hour 1-Joseph Cornell, a brief introduction into his life.	Maggie/ Kathy
	Hour 2- Sample Presentation on a Joseph Cornell work ( one each).	Maggie- Homage to the Romantic Ballet, 1941 Kathy- Untitled (Apollinaris), 1954
September 16 ( week 2)	Hour 1- Who and what influenced Joseph Cornell?	Celene Healy and Edie Weinstein
	Hour 2-Joseph Cornell, the trajectory of his career( his shows, etc.).	Nini Stoddard and Mark Guyer
September 23	NO CLASS	
September 30 ( week 3)	Hour 1 -Discuss Joseph Cornell's Soap Bubbles Series ( your choice of work to discuss).	Nancy Maddocks
	Hour 2- Discuss Joseph Cornell's Aviary Series ( your choice of work to discuss).	Patricia Bisshopp
October 7 ( week 4)	Hour 1- Your choice: chose from one of the following series: Constellation, Hotel, Medici Slot Machines Series or two of your favorites of Cornell's boxes, any series or his collage work or a personal favorite Cornell work.	Karen Lee, Constellation Series
	Hour 2- Discuss two poems inspired by Cornell's work (Ekphrastic Poetry). See the	Bob Thibeault, <i>Toward the New Peninsula</i> by Emily Dickenson and ...

	Coordinators for an excellent resource.	
October 14 ( week 5)	Hour 1 /2- Assemble on a tray 5 or 6 objects that represent an important event in your life and share with the class.	All Class members

Guidelines for Presentations in “Wanderlust”: Exploring the Work of Iconic Artist, Joseph Cornell:

There are 6 presentations ( refer to the syllabus) to be led by members of the class. We encourage class members to work together in pairs for each portion of the class, but it is not required. Each hour of the class will be focused on one general topic as noted in the syllabus and for each “hour” of class, the leader should plan on 40 minutes of content/ discussion of the topic. For the classes that focus on one of Cornell’s Series, the leader/s will interpret that particular series and then choose pieces from that series to discuss in depth. Other pieces from that series may be shared with the class as well in a brief overview. In the week four, hour two, the class member/s will explain the concept of Ekphrastic writing or poetry written based on a piece of art and then discuss two of Cornell’s pieces that were interpreted by poets.

For the final class, as noted, each class member will bring no more than five items they have “collected” that have significance to them, explaining their importance to the class. These items will be assembled on a tray for display.

There are many different formats you may use for your presentation, You are welcome to do PowerPoint presentation or use pictures, videos or other methods to make your point. You may wish to assign a reading to the class prior to class and manage a discussion of the reading. You may wish to assign questions to the class in advance of class.

Please use relevant research material from a variety of sources, not just a Wikipedia article. Use your own words and please try not to read your presentation. It is OK to work from notes but be sufficiently familiar with your topic so that you can take a break and make eye contact with the class.

No matter what format you have chosen for your topic, please plan to have a plan for involving the class in some manner. If you want to send out material in advance of the class, please send it to one of us for distribution and early enough for your classmates to review and prepare for class.

We encourage you to consult LLC’s Guidelines for Presentations [Presentations and Discussions](#)

You can find guidelines on putting a slide show together in this section as well.

## LLC Policies

**Food:** Food is not allowed in the classrooms. Feel free to enjoy covered beverages in the classroom and please clean up after yourselves. You are welcome to enjoy food in the coffee room in the lower level.

**Cancellations:** All information about class cancellations for any reason ( including weather) will be communicated to the class by the coordinator through email. Please do not call the Shriners office.

**Technology:** The TV/computer setup in each room accepts flash drives and provides Internet access. Only the class Coordinator or a trained designee should set up the TV/Computer at the beginning of class and break it down at the end of class. If you have not been trained, do not set up, change or tinker with the classroom technology. This system will accept Keynote, PowerPoint, Word, Pages or PFD slides. If you are using another system ( Google), you must convert the slides to PDF. Save BOTH the presentation in its original format AND the PDF to your flash drive. Bring your flash drive to class and also send to Kathy as a backup. Please arrange with Kathy to test your flash drive in the weeks ahead of your presentation to assure there will not be any problems on your presentation day and to allay any concerns you might have. See this link for detailed instructions. [Bring files to class on flash drive](#)

**Entrance to the Shriners Center:** The entrance to the building at 1 Rhodes Place, Cranston is under the Portico. The door will be unlocked during class hours. Class will be held in the lower level which can be accessed via the elevator or stairs. You will see a sign on arriving in the lower level indicating the room number. There will be LLC members stationed in the hallway to assist classes to find their room during the first week of classes.

**Emergencies:** If there is a medical emergency, dial 911. There is an AED (for cardiac events) outside the McIntyre room on the upper level. If the event of a fire, there are fire extinguishers throughout the building as well as fire call boxes. Call ( 401) 467 -7100 to the Shriners center staff to inform them of the location and nature of the emergency.

