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ISABELLA
SEWART GARDNER
MUSEUM

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EDITORS' NOTE: *Photo/film crews welcome. Please visit gardnermuseum.org/afterhours/afterhours.asp for additional information, audio and video clips, details about each night's theme and gallery tour, and check out our *After Hours* blog at: <http://gardnerafterhours.wordpress.com/>.*

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum's Popular Evening Events
"GARDNER AFTER HOURS"

Return this Fall with Ten All-New Nights of Art, Music, Performances, Cocktails, Gallery Explorations, and More in a Venetian-Inspired Setting

After Hours Year Two Kick-Off September 18th Celebrates Isabella Gardner's "Wanderlust" with a Live Acoustic Performance by Jazz Sextet Dr. Magpie, New Gallery Travels, an All-New Time, Signature Cocktail, and Graphic Look by Artist Danijel Zezelj, and More



"Gardner After Hours" Evening Events • Third Thursdays • September through June • *New Time* 5:30-9:30 PM • Premiere Event • September 18th • "WANDERLUST" • 7PM Jazz at the Gardner with Dr. Magpie

"Art aficionados have a new haven where they can tap into a cool vibe of culture, cocktails, and conversation." ~ *The Patriot Ledger*

"The fact that the Gardner isn't where you'd expect to hear the avant-garde is one reason the Thursday night event has managed to draw capacity crowds..." ~ *Boston Herald, February 20, 2008*

BOSTON • SEPTEMBER 5, 2008 • Art, music, cocktails, performance, atmosphere, and more: What will you discover at the Gardner After Hours? The artfully chic *Gardner After Hours* evening events at the Venetian-inspired Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston return this Fall for year two – and with it ten all-new nights of inspired entertaining – a new kind of night out in Boston – in a festive and artful setting. Energized by a highly successful inaugural year – highlighted with at-capacity crowds and accolades galore – the Gardner's hot new nights will again enchant guests with all-new live music and edgy contemporary performances, thematic gallery tours and conversations about new facets of the Gardner Museum and its collection, and even a new signature cocktail, a new time, and a new graphic look by graphic novelist and artist Danijel Zezelj.

"Isabella Gardner was an artful entertainer and her inventive parties were highly revered in Boston at the turn-of-the-century," says Anne Hawley, *Norma Jean Calderwood Director* of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. "*Gardner After Hours* throws open our doors at night to engage guests in the magic of the Gardner in new ways. Always enchanting, the Gardner is particularly provocative by 'candlelight,' when its galleries and courtyard are aglow and transport visitors to another time and place."

"Truly a 'new kind of night out,' *After Hours* is all about making Isabella Gardner's Venetian-inspired museum open and available at a time when a lot of young professionals want to come," says Julie Crites, *Director of Public Programs* at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and project manager for *After Hours*. "Our goal is to take the incredible atmosphere of the Gardner at night and to heighten it through cool things to do throughout the evening, a perfect mix of art and socializing!" The great success of these events in our first year has bolstered our excitement and enticed us to think of all-new ways to engage new and returning faces in year two!"

After Hours guests are invited to linger around the courtyard, revel in live jazz, explore or sketch in the galleries and outdoor gardens, or dine in the artistic Gardner Café. Live **Courtyard Sounds**, ranging from classical music to a sitar player to the *shakahachi*, sets the tone of each evening from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. Thematic **Gallery Travels** self-guided tours and intimate impromptu **Viewfinder** conversations with museum curators and staff in the galleries engage guests more deeply with new aspects of the museum's diverse and rich collection each evening. Guests can also create their own masterpieces with **Sketching in the Galleries**, and access to the museum's current special exhibitions and conversations with visiting artists and collaborators provides artists' or new scholarly perspectives on the collection. And for the culinary enthusiasts, **Artful Flavors** at The Courtside Bar and/or in the award-winning Gardner Café include a full menu of sweet and savory dishes, beer, wine, and an all-new signature cocktail, **The Madame Gautreau**, inspired by one of Isabella Gardner's favorite paintings, and small snacks.

Additionally, each night, ticketed **After Hours PLUS** performances bring a wealth of cutting-edge contemporary music and performance to the atmospheric Tapestry Room, beginning at 7:00 pm. The September 18th event features a **Jazz at the Gardner** concert by **Dr. Magpie** with Ben Powell and others. The renowned **Composer Portraits** contemporary classical concerts return as well in October with the work of Philippe Hurel performed by the International Contemporary Ensemble. Jazz nights showcase talented young musicians from the Berklee College of Music, many in their Gardner Museum debuts, and **Composer Portraits** profiles some of the freshest and most visionary voices in contemporary classical music. *After Hours PLUS* performances are ticketed separately and include access to the *After Hours* event. *After Hours PLUS* performances are followed by a special *Meet-the-Artists* cocktail reception in the Cloisters alongside as part of the *After Hours* revelry.

PREMIERE EVENT • "WANDERLUST" • SEPTEMBER 18, 2008 • 5:30-9:30 PM

After Hours year two celebrations kick-off on September 18th with an evening devoted to Isabella Gardner's "Wanderlust." The night celebrates travel and provides guests an invitation to journey through the historic galleries and Artist-in-Residence Luisa Rabbia's travel-inspired video exhibition *Travels with Isabella, Travel Scrapbooks 1883/2008*. Live sitar music sets the tone for the evening from 5:30 to 8:30 PM while guests linger around the courtyard. Guests can view one of Isabella Gardner's travel scrapbooks from her journeys throughout Asia up close and learn more about Isabella Gardner's love of travel and how it is conveyed in her collection in a special *Viewfinder* conversation, *Isabella, the Intrepid Traveler*, at 6PM and 7PM, and throughout the evening, every half-hour from 5:30 to 8:30PM, join in a discussion on John S. Sargent's famous portrait of Isabella Gardner on view in the Gothic Room. A special *Artist Conversation* between video artist Luisa Rabbia and music collaborator Fa Ventilato will focus on the inspiration and creation of her video work. And guests can create their own masterpieces with *Sketching in the Galleries* activities in the first-floor cloisters.



After Hours PLUS debuts with an acoustic jazz performance by **Dr. Magpie**. Named after a bird that chatters and improvises, Dr. Magpie is an acoustic string jazz sextet whose sound draws equally from Appalachia, New York, and the freewheeling Left Bank of pre-war Paris, and features: Ben Powell, violin; Duncan Wickle, octave fiddle/violin; Eric Robertson, mandolin; Jon Sosin, guitar; Adam Tressler, guitar; and Dan Carpel, bass.

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY • UPCOMING EVENTS

Each *After Hours* event features a similar combination of *Courtyard Sounds*, *Viewfinder* talks, *Artist Conversations*, *Sketching in the Galleries*, *Artful Flavors*, and more, in addition to *After Hours PLUS* performances and periodic *Art-Making* projects. Upcoming *After Hours* themes include:

- A celebration of "Living Music" in the collection and galleries (October 16th);
- Dante's "Divine Comedy" and Isabella Gardner's early collecting (November 20th);
- "A Solstice Soiree" event featuring live Renaissance music and art (December 18th);
- "Renaissance Visions" celebrating the period's rich ideas and culture (January 15th);
- "Carnevale," in celebration of the museum's Venetian inspiration (February 19th);
- "Buddha Night" exploring Asian art in the collection (March 19th);
- "Earthly Eden" in and around Isabella Gardner's gardens and galleries (April 16th);
- "Primavera," a celebration of spring and renewal (May 21st); and
- A Mediterranean-inspired "Mezze" nighttime celebration (June 18th).

A full schedule of *After Hours* events is also online at: www.gardnermuseum.org/afterhours/afterhours.asp.

TICKETS, RESERVATIONS & SPECIAL OFFERS

- **After Hours Tickets • \$5 students; \$12 general public; FREE for museum members and all “Isabella”s**
Includes access to all galleries and programs, excluding the After Hours PLUS performance)
- **After Hours PLUS Tickets • \$10 students; \$15 museum members; \$23 general public**
Includes admission to the museum and all After Hours programs, plus the performance; space is limited)

Box Office • *After Hours* tickets can be purchased via the museum Box Office at 617 278 5156, online via www.gardnermuseum.org and/or at the door at 280 The Fenway Boston (*subject to availability*). Advance purchase recommended, as *After Hours* events in year one sold out.

Member Discounts & Offers • Gardner Museum members receive *FREE* admission to *After Hours* events and discounted tickets for *After Hours PLUS* performances, plus unlimited museum access, invitations to members-only exhibition previews and events, discounts on concert and lecture tickets and at the Museum Shop, and more! In celebration of *After Hours*, the Gardner is offering \$10 off new memberships. Join in person at *After Hours* and also receive a free poster by artist Danijel Zezelj. Guests can also sign up online to receive email updates and announcements about *After Hours* and related events and/or text “Gardner” to 22122 for special discounts and updates.

“ARTFUL FLAVORS” CULINARY OFFERINGS • Artful culinary offerings are also being served up at the Gardner *After Hours* with all-new offerings at The Courtside Bar and The Gardner Café to fulfill guests’ culinary, as much as their cultural, appetites. Guests can indulge in “Courtside Cocktails” and all-new “Courtside Bites” offerings at **The Courtside Bar** adjacent to the interior courtyard garden, and open 5:30 to 9:15 pm. “Courtside Cocktails” include an all-new signature *After Hours* cocktail *The Madame Gautreau*, a refreshing and harmonious blend of grapefruit juice, pineapple juice, a splash of grenadine and champagne, perfect for a summer evening, along with wine, beer, and non-alcoholic alternatives. The cocktail is named for a small painting by John Singer Sargent in the collection, *Madame Gautreau Drinking a Toast*, depicting the ravishing beauty, charm and zest of Paris socialite Madame X – and one of Isabella Gardner’s favorites. Also new this year are creative snacks (“Courtside Bites”) available for \$1 and ranging from a Japanese rice cracker mix to spiced nuts and dried fruit served up in an artful paper box. The award-winning **The Gardner Café**, also open on these ten evening, is serving up a full menu including: Brazilian Style Braised Pork with black beans, orange and cilantro; Baked Rigatoni Bolognese; basil and Grana Padano; Ginger Ice Cream; Lime and Vanilla Panna Cotta with stewed blackberries and more) each *After Hours* evening.

AFTER HOURS ONLINE • A dedicated *Gardner After Hours* webpage provides details about all ten *After Hours* events, including *Courtyard Sounds* and *After Hours PLUS* performers; *Gallery Travels* and *Viewfinder* themes and locations; The Gardner Café’s full *After Hours* menu; plus a video clip of the event so patrons can see what to expect, select audio and video clips of performers, and access to the museum’s blog (“Before & After”), where guests, artists, performers and staff can post and/or comment about each night.

Illustration by graphic novelist and artist and 2005 Gardner Museum Artist-In-Residence Danijel Zezelj.

Gardner After Hours is made possible by an Excellence Award from The Wallace Foundation, aimed at helping the Gardner increase cultural participation among younger audiences and more deeply engage them in the life of the museum, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Boston Phoenix and Stuff@Night are media sponsors.



ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM • 280 The Fenway Boston MA 02115 • Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm • Admission: \$12 adults; \$10 seniors; \$5 students; FREE children under 18 and all named “Isabella” • \$2 off regular admission with a same-day Museum of Fine Arts, Boston receipt • Box Office 617.278.5156 • www.gardnermuseum.org • Modeled after a 15th-century Venetian palazzo surrounding a flowering courtyard garden, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum houses one of the most remarkable art collections in the world, featuring works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Degas and Sargent. Special exhibitions, concerts, changing courtyard garden displays, lectures, and, beginning in September 2007, monthly evening event programs enrich the collection and continue to fire the imagination of all who visit.

THE WALLACE FOUNDATION • The Wallace Foundation is an independent, national foundation dedicated to supporting and sharing effective ideas and practices that expand learning and enrichment opportunities for all people. Its three current objectives are: strengthening education leadership to improve student achievement; improving out-of-school learning opportunities; and building appreciation and demand for the arts. The foundation maintains a Knowledge Center of free publications on what it has learned at www.wallacefoundation.org.