

BOWERS MUSEUM

PROGRAM GUIDE

November/December 2026

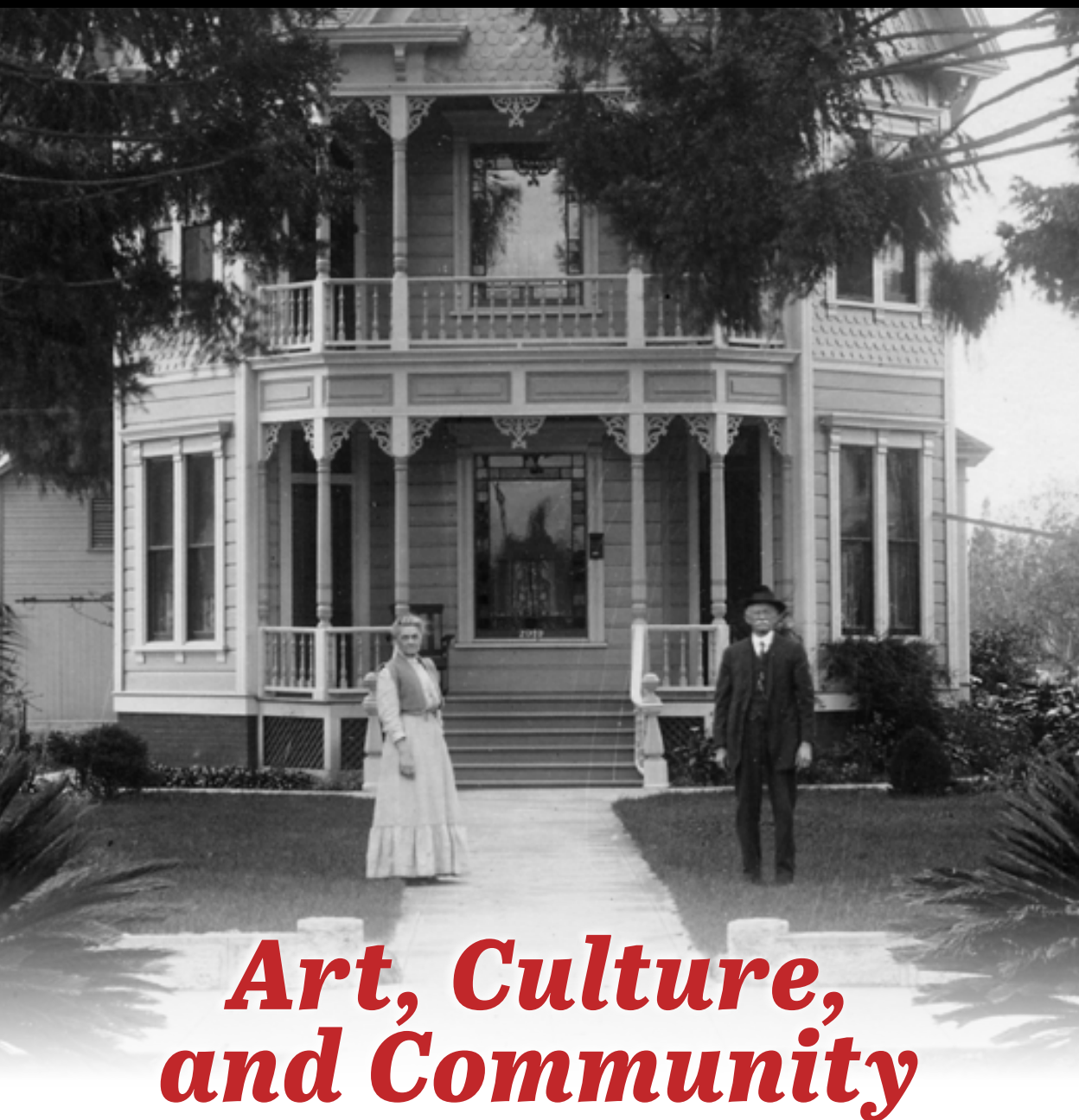


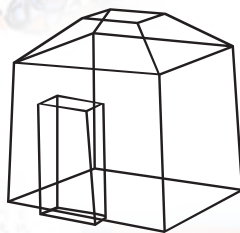
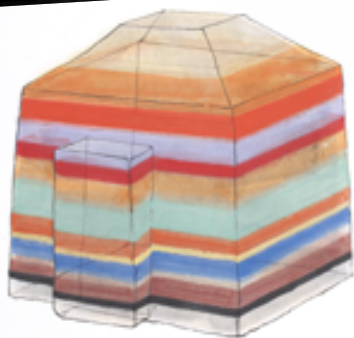
Image credit: *Bowers Home in Santa Ana*, early 20th century, Santa Ana, California, photographic print, Bowers Museum Collection, 88A.

Exclusive Access for Fellows

ART OF MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA

BOWERS LEGACY

The Making of a Museum



XIAOZE XIE
Reimagining
the Library Cave
at Dunhuang

VIP Opening Reception

Become a Fellow or donate \$1,000 or more to the 2026 year-end Annual Fund campaign to receive an invitation to this special event!

Friday, December 11, 2026

- 4 pm Check-in and VIP cocktail reception
- 5–7 pm Curator-led previews of:
Art of Mexico and Central America
Bowers Legacy: The Making of a Museum
Xiaoze Xie: Reimagining the Library Cave at Dunhuang

Questions? Please contact the membership department at



714.567.3639 or



membership@bowers.org

Major support for *Art of Mexico and Central America* is provided by Dr. Richard and Kathleen Barrutia. Image credit: Raúl Anguiano (Mexican, 1915–2006), *The Mayas*, 1999, Mexico. Gift of Bowers Museum Collectors Council, 99.63.2a,b. © Bowers Museum.

Major support for *Bowers Legacy: The Making of a Museum* is provided by David & Ruth Seigle and Dr. Kelly Tran. Image credit: *Bowers Home in Santa Ana*, early 20th century, Santa Ana, California, photographic print, Bowers Museum Collection, 88A.

Xiaoze Xie: Reimagining the Library Cave at Dunhuang is organized by Bowers Museum and on loan from the artist. Major support for the exhibition is provided by Dunhuang Foundation (USA), Assumpta (Amy) Kiang, and Nancy Xu. The exhibition catalogue is made possible by The Lou Foundation and Yilan Zhao. Image credit: Xiaoze Xie (Chinese American, b. 1966), *Long Scroll Part VIII, Overflowing with Colors and Gold*, 2023 © Xiaoze Xie.

Membership

An exciting new season is taking shape at Bowers Museum, and we hope you'll be part of it.



Members enjoy free and early access to featured exhibitions like *Picasso Ceramics from the Rosenbaum Collection*, plus three new exhibitions opening in November and December!

Bowers Museum members enjoy exclusive benefits, including:

- One year of unlimited free general admission
- One free ticket (per cardholder) to each special-ticketed exhibition
- 30-50% off all public programs (lectures, films, performances, workshops)
- Up to a 20% discount at the Gallery Store and Ada's Table
- A print subscription to our bi-annual magazine, *Passport*
- **Invitations to exclusive member events and more!**

Join now!

Picasso Ceramics from the Rosenbaum Collection is organized by Landau Traveling Exhibitions, Los Angeles, CA with contributions from Bowers Museum and guest curator Dr. Salvador Haro González. © 2026 Estate of Pablo Picasso / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

If you would like assistance in registering or want to learn more about our membership levels, please contact us at  714.567.3639 or  membership@bowers.org



Travel further with Bowers Museum: explore the world's finest arts and cultures

Paris to Burgundy | Apr 18–24, 2027 ***Tickets available!***

Vietnam | Aug 25–Sep 5, 2027 ***Tickets available!***

Space is limited; reserve your spot today!

For questions or to sign up for a trip, please contact Lesley Ann Hamilton
at lahamilton@bowers.org or **714.567.3602**.

**Must be an active Fellow or higher level member of Bowers Museum to attend*

Contact Membership at  **714.567.3602** or  membership@bowers.org.

Opening Lecture



The Arts of Ancient Mexico and Central America with Dr. Khristaan D. Villela

Sun | Nov 22 | 1:30–2:30 pm
Norma Kershaw Auditorium | Opening Lecture

For more than three thousand years the Indigenous peoples of Mexico and Central America created magnificent works of art in ceramic, stone, jade, and gold. From the Olmec, Maya, and Zapotec of Mexico and Guatemala to the Chiriqui of Costa Rica, ancient artists made images from nature as well as of their rituals, gods, and rulers. Join *Art of Mexico and Central America* guest curator Dr. Khristaan Villela on the exhibition's opening weekend for an illuminating talk on the newest permanent installation at Bowers.

Ticketed event
Members \$15 | General \$20

[Get tickets](#)

Major support for this exhibition is provided by Dr. Richard and Kathleen Barrutia.

Image credit: Raúl Anguiano (Mexican, 1915–2006), *The Mayas*, 1999, Mexico. Gift of Bowers Museum Collectors Council, 99.63.2a,b. © Bowers Museum.

Opening Lecture & Book Signing



Amber of History: Reimagining the Dunhuang Library Cave

A Conversation Between Artist Xiaoze Xie and Curator Tianlong Jiao

Sat | Dec 12 | 1:30–3 pm
Norma Kershaw Auditorium
Opening Lecture & Book Signing

Artist Xiaoze Xie uses the metaphor “amber of history” to describe Dunhuang’s famous Library Cave, a key Silk Road site central to his work. Across ink drawings, sculpture, installations, and immersive experiences, Xie reinterprets the cave, the scattering of its ancient Buddhist manuscripts, and the cosmic worldviews within these texts. This conversation with Bowers’ Chief Curator Tianlong Jiao will explore his creative process and the contemporary relevance of Dunhuang art.

Ticketed event
Members \$15 | General \$20

[Get tickets](#)

Xiaoze Xie: Reimagining the Library Cave at Dunhuang is organized by Bowers Museum and on loan from the artist. Major support for the exhibition is provided by Dunhuang Foundation (USA), Assumpta (Amy) Kiang, and Nancy Xu. The exhibition catalogue is made possible by The Lou Foundation and Yilan Zhao.

Image credit: Xiaoze Xie (Chinese American, b. 1966), *Cosmic Models*, 2025 © Xiaoze Xie.

BOWERS MUSEUM

CERAMICS FAIR



Bowers Museum Ceramics Fair

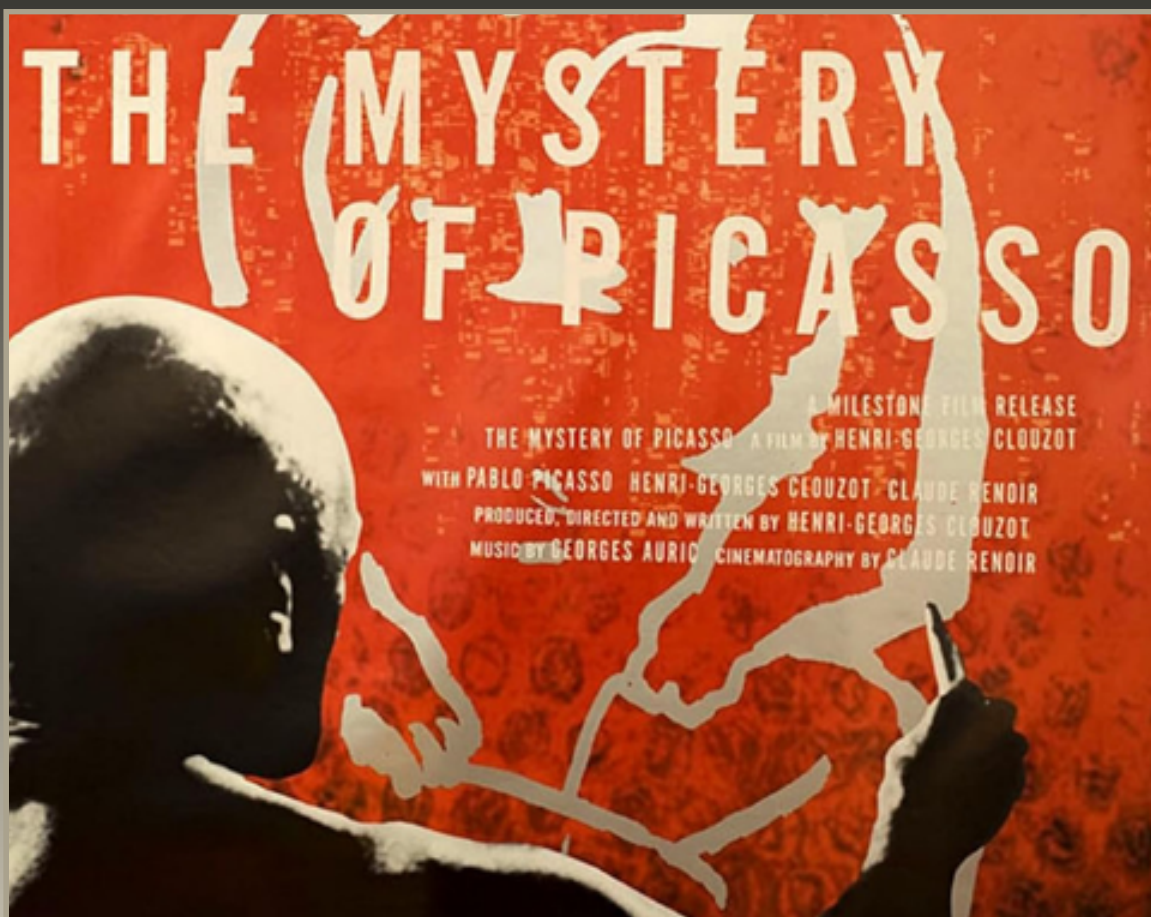
Sun | Nov 15 | 10 am–4 pm
John M. Lee Court & Key Courtyard

Join us at Bowers Museum for a vibrant celebration of ceramics, artistic traditions, creativity, and community! Held in conjunction with our featured exhibition showcasing ceramic works by one of the 20th century's most influential artists, this all-day event brings together ceramic artists, makers, and art lovers for a dynamic day of discovery. Enjoy a diverse marketplace of ceramics, live artist demonstrations, engaging talks, student displays, and hands-on family artmaking.

View participating vendors and activities schedule by clicking the link below!

The Ceramics Fair is a free, non-ticketed event.
Speaker series is \$10 or free with paid museum admission.

[Learn more](#)



The Mystery of Picasso (1956)

Sun | Nov 29 | 1:30–3 pm
Norma Kershaw Auditorium

Step inside the creative world of Pablo Picasso in this extraordinary documentary that captures the legendary artist at work. Through an innovative filming technique, director Henri-Georges Clouzot transforms the screen into a living canvas, revealing Picasso's artistic process as paintings emerge, evolve, and transform before your eyes. A mesmerizing portrait of creativity in motion, *The Mystery of Picasso* offers a rare opportunity to witness the imagination of one of the 20th century's most influential artists unfold in real time.

Free with paid special-ticketed exhibition entry
Members \$10 | General \$15 (for film only)

Get tickets

Picasso Ceramics from the Rosenbaum Collection is organized by Landau Traveling Exhibitions, Los Angeles, CA with contributions from Bowers Museum and guest curator Dr. Salvador Haro González. © 2026 Estate of Pablo Picasso / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

Garden Party! Monet's Giverny to the Modern Landscape presented by Annalee Andres

Art Historian

Wednesdays | Oct 14–Nov 18

11 am–12 pm *(unless otherwise noted)*

Norma Kershaw Auditorium

Lectures 4–6 of this 6-part lecture series

Nov 4 | The Garden Grows: The Impact of Giverny

Learn how Monet's Giverny inspired an international community of artists and shaped generations of painters around the world.

Nov 11 | Prairies and Ponds: Experiencing Art within the Modern Landscape

Explore how today's museums use innovative landscape design to transform the way we experience art.

Nov 24 | Blurred Boundaries: Indoor/Outdoor Landscape in the Golden State

Examine the evolution of California's distinctive garden tradition and the innovative designs shaped by its unique climate.

Individual tickets:

Members \$11 | General \$16

Get tickets



Timeless Melodies

Take a nostalgic walk down memory lane with music and more presented by Larry Maurer, historian of the Timeless Melodies Foundation for Education, Inc.

Irving Berlin: America's Premier Songwriter

[Get tickets](#)

Thu | Nov 19 | 1:30–3 pm

Norma Kershaw Auditorium | Lecture

Celebrate the remarkable life and enduring legacy of Irving Berlin in this special presentation by Larry Maurer of Timeless Melodies, tracing his journey from humble beginnings to becoming one of America's most celebrated songwriters. Enjoy the stories behind his timeless hits, from "Alexander's Ragtime Band" and "God Bless America" to *This Is the Army* and other beloved Broadway and Hollywood classics that continue to inspire generations.

Famous Musical Biographies

[Get tickets](#)

Thu | Dec 17 | 1:30–3 pm

Norma Kershaw Auditorium | Lecture

Uncover the remarkable lives and musical legacies of America's most celebrated composers in the newest presentation by historian Larry Maurer of Timeless Melodies. From George Gershwin and Cole Porter to Rodgers and Hart, Jerome Kern, and many others, this musical journey brings to life the fascinating stories, creative inspirations, and timeless melodies that shaped the golden age of American popular music.

Individual tickets

Members \$11 | General \$16



Personal Astrology and Wisdom Literature in Graeco-Roman Egypt with Dr. Lingxin Zhang

Sat | Nov 14 | 1:30–3:30 pm
Norma Kershaw Auditorium | Lecture

In first-century Roman Egypt, astrology shaped how people understood their destinies, influencing beliefs about health, character, and social standing. Dr. Lingxin Zhang, a specialist in the languages and cultures of Graeco-Roman Egypt (3rd century BCE–4th century CE), examines how scribes grappled with questions of fate, free will, and the power of the stars to determine the course of human life through ancient astrological texts and Egyptian wisdom literature. Learn how these ancient beliefs shaped ideas about personal agency and whether men and women were thought to have equal control over their destinies.



*Explore Ancient Egypt
through ARCE-OC's
ongoing lecture series
at Bowers*

Get tickets

Ticketed event

Free for Bowers & ARCE Members | General \$15

Recorded online screening

Free for Bowers & ARCE Members | General \$10

Online version will be emailed to ticketholders one week after the onsite event.



When Isis Met Astarte with Dr. Ellen Morris

Sat | Dec 5 | 1:30 – 3:30 pm
Norma Kershaw Auditorium | Lecture

How did cultural encounters between ancient Egyptians and the people of Byblos shape their gods, religious traditions, and everyday lives? Dr. Ellen Morris, Professor of Ancient Studies at Barnard College, Columbia University examines how deities from different cultures became intertwined, transforming their identities, mythologies, and the ways they were worshipped. Learn how these connections influenced religious beliefs and fostered cultural exchange in the ancient Mediterranean world.



*Explore Ancient Egypt
through ARCE-OC's
ongoing lecture series
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Get tickets

Ticketed event

Free for Bowers & ARCE Members | General \$15

Recorded online screening

Free for Bowers & ARCE Members | General \$10

Online version will be emailed to ticketholders one week after the onsite event.

Free Family Festival

Celebrate with Bowers Museum during our free family festivals held every first Sunday of the month in the museum's beautiful Key Courtyard. Enjoy live performances, art making, face painting, and complimentary treats at every festival.



Día de los Muertos

Sun | Nov 1 | 11 am–3 pm
Key Courtyard

[Learn more](#)

Join us for a vibrant Día de los Muertos Free Family Festival honoring the cherished memories of loved ones who have passed. Experience this beloved Mexican tradition through music, dance, art, and traditional foods as we come together to remember the joy they brought to our lives. Bring a photo of a departed loved one or beloved pet to place on our community ofrenda (memorial altar), and enjoy live performances by Mariachi Anacatlan, Relámpago del Cielo, Los Cuates, Xipe Totec, Joel Aceves, and Marimba Tropical.

International Winter Holidays

Sun | Dec 6 | 11 am–3 pm
Key Courtyard

[Learn more](#)

Celebrate the magic of the holiday season at the International Winter Holidays Free Family Festival! Experience the rich traditions of Hanukkah, Las Posadas, and Kwanzaa through music, dance, and cultural activities that bring families and communities together. Enjoy a special performance of *The Nutcracker* by Tustin Dance Center, along with festive music by Mariachi Anacatlan and Klezmer Juice Band.

Free Family Festivals are made possible with generous support from the Nicholas Endowment.

Bowers' Books for Kids: Storytime in the Galleries

Held every last Saturday of the month*, *Storytime in the Galleries* includes free copies of each author's featured book (while supplies last) and free general admission to the museum. Readings will be followed by a simple, fun art project that kids will love.

Fishers in the Forest: The Pacific Fishers in Sequoia and Kings Canyon

Sat | Nov 28 | 10:30 am–12 pm
Art of the Pacific Islands Exhibition

Join author Gisa Nico for a special reading of *Fishers in the Forest: The Pacific Fishers in Sequoia and Kings Canyon*, a heartwarming story of a young girl's journey through California's snowy forests in search of the elusive Pacific fisher. Along the way, she learns how wildlife biologists study and protect these rare animals and why preserving their forest habitat is so important.



RSVP

The Great Danes: Santa's Reindeer Auditions

Sat | Dec 19 | 10:30 am–12 pm
John M. Lee Court

Santa's reindeer team is looking for new recruits, and the Great Danes are ready to prove they have what it takes! Join author Shannon Scharkey for a special reading of *The Great Danes: Santa's Reindeer Auditions*, a festive adventure filled with hilarious competitors, North Pole magic, and a heartwarming reminder that teamwork and determination can make even the biggest dreams come true.



RSVP

**Please note that December's program will be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month.*

Free event

This program is made possible through generous donations from Capital Group.

BOWERS
MUSEUM



Music and Movement

Sat | Nov 14 & Dec 12 | 10:30 am–12 pm

John M. Lee Court | Family program

“Music and movement inspire children to explore, create, and connect with the world around them.”

– Vivian Kusiak, Bowers Museum Docent

Join us on the second Saturday of each month for *Music and Movement*, an interactive family program that inspires learning through music, storytelling, and creative play. Led by a Bowers Museum docent, each session features a lively sing-along and story that connects to the museum’s collections or current exhibitions.

Free event

[Learn more](#)



Anne's Treasures Art Workshops

Join this very special arts engagement program for seniors and their community on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

Collage Letters

Thu | Nov 12 | 10 am–12 pm

John M. Lee Court

Decorate your initials with jewels, sequins, decorative paper, paint and found items. Create a unique art piece to hang on the wall or place on a shelf.



[Get tickets](#)

Silk Scarves

Thu | Dec 10 | 10 am–12 pm

John M. Lee Court

Create your own fashion statement with your personally designed silk scarf using bleeding tissue paper and Sharpies.



[Get tickets](#)

No classes on November 26 and December 24

Ticketed event:

\$3 materials fee

Free for Bowers Members age 62 and over | General \$7

Questions? Email mlopez@bowers.org or call 714.567.3678.



Morning Tai Chi with Melody Zhang

Sat | Nov 21 | 9–10 am

John M. Lee Court | Tai Chi Class

This new monthly series introduces 八段锦 (Ba Duan Jin, “Eight Pieces of Brocade”), a set of eight gentle movements known to build strength, release tension, improve blood circulation, and support better sleep. Each session opens with guided practice suitable for all ages and fitness levels, followed by a brief reflection on the Eastern philosophy that shaped these movements over a millennium.

No experience is required. No equipment is needed. Wear comfortable clothing and come as you are.

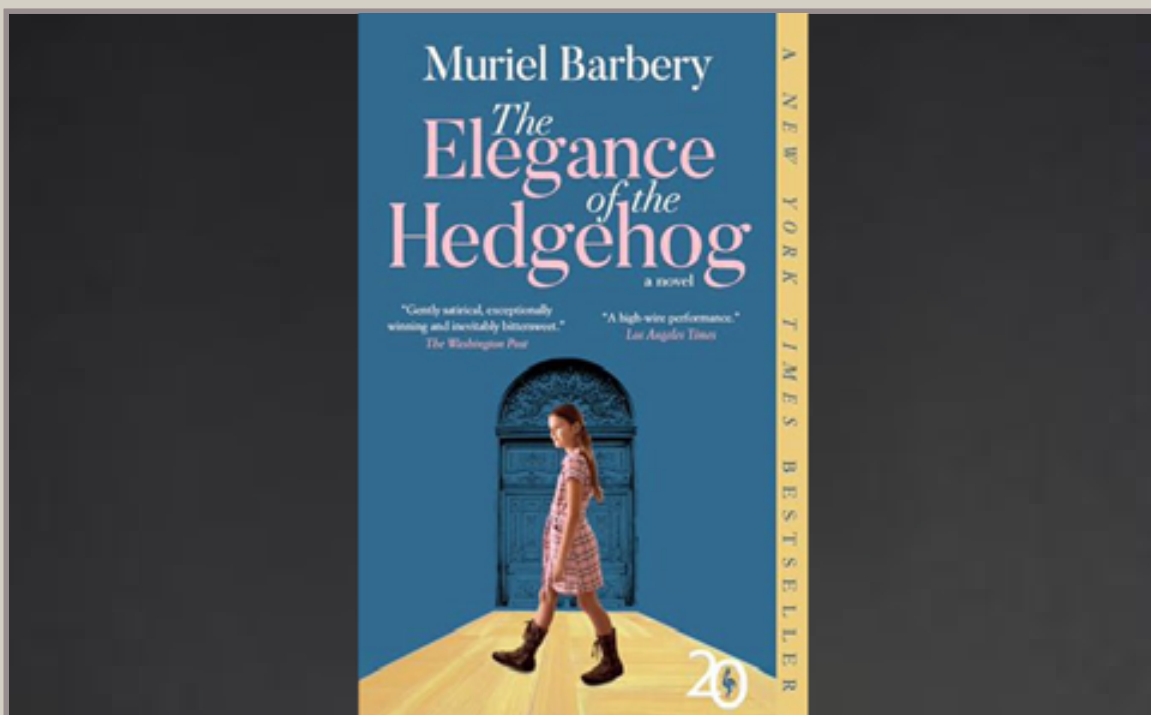
Melody Zhang trained in Kung Fu and Tai Chi under her mother, Jingmei Feng, National Kung Fu Champion of China and Olympic Torch Bearer of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. Her training spans more than fourteen years across Tai Chi, sword, and traditional Chinese martial forms.

Ticketed event

Members \$10 | General \$15

Get tickets

Books at Bowers: Touring through the Pages



***For Members Only:* a book club experience**

Books at Bowers: Touring Through the Pages is a Bowers Docent Guild-sponsored book club that pairs a topical book with a museum art experience.

Thu | Dec 3 | 1–3 pm

Norma Kershaw Auditorium | Book discussion & reception

Join *Books at Bowers* as we celebrate nine years of thought-provoking literature and lively conversation among museum members! This month's selection is *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery, a moving and witty novel that follows the unlikely friendship between Renée, a self-taught Parisian concierge, and Paloma, a precocious 12-year-old, whose lives are transformed by an unexpected connection with a new neighbor. Together, their stories offer a poignant reflection on friendship, beauty, philosophy, and the meaning of life.

Following the book discussion, enjoy *A Wassail in Winter*, a festive holiday gathering hosted by the Bowers Docent Guild, featuring seasonal treats and a special raffle.

Free event

Space is limited to 50 members.

A confirmation email will be sent to participants prior to the event.

RSVP

If you are interested in helping us lead programs like this, please consider joining as a docent of Bowers Museum by visiting bowersdocentguild.org.

Crescendo Chapter of the Guilds of Segerstrom Center for the Arts: Celebrity Speaker Series 2026



Hollywood's Golden Age with Greg Schreiner

Thu | Nov 19 | 10:30 am – 12 pm
Norma Kershaw Auditorium | Concert

Experience the glamour and glitz of Hollywood's Golden Age as pianist Greg Schreiner and a cast of three models bring the magic of classic cinema to life through music and fashion. Featuring 33 dazzling costumes spanning film history, including Elizabeth Taylor's iconic *Cleopatra* costume, this spectacular presentation offers a nostalgic journey through the elegance, artistry, and unforgettable style of Hollywood's most legendary stars.

Ticketed event

General admission \$45

[Learn more](#)

Bowers Museum members may buy one discounted ticket for \$35.

*For information about tickets contact Barbara Hagen at (714) 272-1134
or **CrescendoTicketsBowers@gmail.com***

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shop.bowers.org



ADA'S TABLE

Santa Ana, Ca

**ROOTED IN THE LEGACY OF ADA BOWERS
AND THE VIBRANT FLAVORS OF CALIFORNIA,**

Ada's Table is a welcoming café experience designed to complement your visit to the Bowers Museum. Whether you're picking up something quick between exhibits or settling in for a leisurely lunch, Ada's Table is a place where California's culinary spirit meets the warmth of community. Come for the food, stay for the feeling – and return often.



EXPLORE MORE



Scan or click on the QR code
to see upcoming events at
Bowers Museum!

