



# The Art Students League of New York

July 9, 2018

Dear League Community:

On June 25th, Executive Director Michael Rips and I had the pleasure to welcome a capacity crowd to a presentation by the distinguished modern realist painter, Philip Pearlstein. *History of Modern Art*, a 2009 anthology by Arnason and Mansfield, refers to Pearlstein as “one of the preeminent masters of directly perceived, sharp-focus realism....” League instructor Timothy J. Clark invited Mr. Pearlstein to be with us to share some of his thoughts on his own work and art education in general.

Mr. Pearlstein was Professor of Fine Art at Brooklyn College for many years and remains Distinguished Professor Emeritus there. In an article in the *New York Times* in 1985, he is quoted as saying: “I owe a great deal to teaching. I really found myself as an artist through teaching.” At the conclusion of his presentation, Michael and I presented him with a certificate designating him an Honorary Distinguished Faculty Member. If you missed it, our own Rudy Bravo has put the presentation on Facebook [here](#).

The next day, Dr. Michael White a virtuoso clarinetist from New Orleans, demonstrated how the expressive elements of music and painting meet in the elusive area known as creativity. His words and his clarinet would help you be a better painter than ever. In the course of his demonstration, Tim Clark created a portrait composed by repeating the theme of triangle shapes while Michael accompanied him in three count time. For over twenty years, Michael and Tim have collaborated on the crossover of music and painting. You can view their presentation at the League [here](#).

Noted artist Wayne Thiebaud was at the League on May 15th. He was in town for the opening of an exhibition of his drawings at the Morgan Library and Tim Clark asked him to also speak at the League. He met with both instructors and students in a tightly packed Gallery. My take away from his talk is that you cannot underestimate the importance of drawing. The *Wall Street Journal* article in conjunction with Thiebaud’s exhibit at the Morgan refers to him as: “Perhaps the best orthodox draftsman in American art of the past half-century...” In addition to being a prolific pop artist, for 40 years he was a professor of art at the University of California, Davis, where he retains emeritus status. The Thiebaud presentation is available on Facebook [here](#). It is also on YouTube [here](#).

With these three presentations we have continued a longstanding tradition at the League and have had art super stars from both East and West coasts, as well as the Gulf coast, grace us with their presence. They came in large measure because of the regard they have for our Art Students League as one of the country’s finest art schools.



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Dan Thompson, one of the League's most prominent instructors, is leading a unique, new workshop at the Weill Cornell Medical School Gross Anatomy Laboratory July 13 to 15, *Musculoskeletal Gross Anatomy for the Figurative Artist*. The specimens have been prepared by the Anatomy Instructors themselves so the quality of the dissection is excellent and bone, muscle, and tendon are clearly visible. Students will have unparalleled opportunities for developing detailed anatomical knowledge through their work in the lab enabling them to create higher quality figurative work.

I am always happy to have good news to share with my fellow League members in letters like this. I have heard some say that they receive too many, but those are balanced by others who say that they never hear enough about what is going on at the League. I hope my letters to you will strike the right balance.

Tom Harvey  
President