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Out and About: Art and music in the new year

Kathy Lauer-Williams

Jan 10, 2019



Start the year off by exploring two exhibits celebrating some of the 20th century's best photographers when the **Allentown Art Museum** kicks off the opening of its winter and spring exhibitions during its free-fun Sunday.

From noon to 4 p.m. Sundays, the museum offers free admission as well as free family activities

Opening are the exhibitions "Carrie Mae Weems: Strategies of Engagement" and "Fresh Perspective: Modernism in Photography, 1920-1950," running Sunday through May 5 in the museum's Scheller, Rodale and Fowler galleries.

"Carrie Mae Weems: Strategies of Engagement" examines this eminent American artist's diverse and innovative career through both celebrated and rarely exhibited projects made during the last 30 years.



The exhibition includes pieces that show Weems' critical explorations of history, a focus that is powerfully relevant in the context of current activism around racial equality and social justice. Exhibits include immersive installations of suspended images on fabric and encounter video and photographs that expose systems of power and injustice.

"Fresh Perspective: Modernism in Photography, 1920-1950" includes works by well-known artists such as Edward Weston, Walker Evans and Margaret Bourke-White, as well as exemplary work by less-recognized artists who embraced the unique advantages of the camera, finding fresh perspective through unusual lighting and cropping, unexpected camera angles and deep focus.

These modern ways of seeing revolutionized photography continue to influence artists today.

Family fun includes making a masterpiece inspired by the museum collection in the Crayola Classroom and a treasure hunt through the galleries. In Art Ways Interactive Family Gallery, explore the Curiosity Wall, draw on the chalk wall and make an art project to take home.

For more information, go to [Allentown Art Museum's website](#).

Be a part of a CD recording at Miller Symphony Hall Join **Fusion Jazz Trio** at 7:30 p.m. Friday as it records its new CD, "Out of the Shadows," during the show at Miller Symphony Hall in Allentown.

Part of the Allentown Symphony Orchestra's Jazz Upstairs series, the trio made up of Vernon J. Mobley, Brian Bortz and George Grund will perform two sets with the help of special guests guitarist Joe Mixon and singer Chet Brown.

The trio, formed in 2002, blends bold percussion, funky and innovative bass lines and electrifying keyboard refrains into a refreshing musical signature. The group has performed at Musikfest as well as at restaurants, professional associations and private engagements throughout the Lehigh Valley.

The concert in Rodale Community Room includes light fare. There is a cash bar.

Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door.

For more information, go to [Miller Symphony Hall's website](#).

Unleash your inner opera fan Berks Opera Company looks at Cilea's opera "Adriana Lecouvreur" with its program "Art Based on Life" or "The Wicked Stage ain't Nothin' for a Diva" at 7 p.m. on Friday.

The "**Unleashing Your Inner Opera Fan**" series consists of presentations highlighting an upcoming Met in HD Opera with a multimedia presentation, featured guest artist and followed by dessert, coffee and wine.

Learn all about this romantic opera based on the life, love and death of the famous diva, Adrienne Lecouvreur, who revolutionized the art of acting. However, she ran afoul of a powerful and jealous princess whose husband was an expert in chemistry and died under mysterious circumstances.

The guest artist is soprano Mary McCormick.

The presentation is 60 to 80 minutes long and will take place at The Highlands at Wyomissing.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and seniors and \$15 for those under the age of 30.

For more information, go to [Berks Opera Company's website](#) or call 484-752-2462.

Experience accordions times two in Bowers The Kutztown Folk Music Society will present "**The Free Reeds,**" the musical collaboration of renowned piano accordionist Rob Curto and acclaimed button box player Corey Purcell at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Janelle's Restaurant in Bowers, Berks County.

These two seasoned musicians combine the strengths of their free reed instruments to create a truly unique performance experience. They incorporate a variety of influences in their musical repertoire including traditional music of Ireland, France, Sweden and Canada, in addition to many of their own original pieces.

The Kutztown Folk Music Society is dedicated to providing an intimate venue for a wide range of local and national folk artists.

Admission is a \$7 donation, \$5 for students and free for ages 12 and under.

For more information, call 610-682-0544 or go to [Kutztown Folk Music Society's website](#).

Perspectives 5 performance at Nurture Nature Center Don't miss the "**Perspectives 5: Art on Environment**" closing reception and performance of visual, literary, video and musical arts informed and inspired by the Science on a Sphere data at Nurture Nature Center in Easton.

The center's six-foot suspended animated globe displays high-resolution video about the earth and planetary science that reveals how different things affect atmosphere, climate, weather and even the balance of life on earth.

For the fifth anniversary of the Perspectives Project, a project that explores our relationship with the environment, 19 artists and writers took a closer look at environmental issues inspired and informed by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Science on a Sphere exhibit at the center.

The exhibit of artists representing a wide variety of media ends this weekend with a performance with artists referencing data on the sphere at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday.

The multimedia art exhibit features visual, written and performance artists who use painting, sculpture, video and poetry to explore the complexities of our natural world and planetary space.

Artists include Linda Ganus Albulescu, Lynn Alexander, May Budkoski, Ann Burke, John Cosgrove, Yvette Hendler, Anna Kodama, Jackie Lima, Karen Mauer, Tom Maxfield, Denise McCormack, Melissa Benzinger McGlynn, Lauren Rosenthal McManus, Lilian June Robinson, Earl Stocker, Cleveland Wall, Don Wilson and Matt Wolf.

The center is open 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

There is no admission charge.

For information, go to [The Nurture Nature Center's website](#).

Fish printing at Jacobsburg Learn the Japanese art of [Gyotaku, or fish printing](#), during Family Night at 6:30 p.m. on Friday at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center in Bushkill Township, Northampton County.

Use paint and model fish to make prints of various Pennsylvania species. Study their anatomy and habitat needs to create accurate paintings of fish in the wild. Paper will be provided, but participants are welcome to bring a bandana or t-shirt to print on. It is recommended that participants wear old clothes or a smock. There is no cost, but registration is required.

Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center encompasses 1,168 acres of forests, fields and creeks, which provide a wealth of recreational and educational opportunities. Visitors can enjoy interpretive exhibits at the visitor center during open hours, as well as Henry's Woods, an old growth forest surrounding Bushkill Creek, which has many hiking trails.

The center is open every day of the year, sunrise to sunset.

For more information, call 610-746-2801 or go to the **Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resource's website.**