



For Immediate Release: Center for Latter-day Saint Arts Announces 2024 Season of Events

The nonprofit arts organization shares a year of unprecedented programming in multiple cities and across vast disciplines.

New York City, New York– March 21, 2024, The Center for Latter-day Saint Arts is thrilled to announce its full season of events for 2024. The most ambitious programming from the organization to date, the roster of events spans centuries of Latter-day Saint history, from artists working across multiple genres, disciplines, and continents.

As in prior years, the organization’s mission is to foster an intersection of cultural relevance and divine creativity. Amplifying artists working at the top tiers of their disciplines, the organization also aims to create impact with a global array of artists and voices working within the Latter-day Saint tradition, whether by faith or culture.

On the heels of the organization’s leadership succession announcement earlier this year, the Center for Latter-day Saint Arts shares it will also be rebranding its visual and digital properties, offering a more streamlined, global, and robust user-experience. Chairman Richard Bushman, eminent Latter-day Saint historian and Gouverneur Morris Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University, recently announced he would step down from his chairman role in the fall.

Though Bushman will continue his service on the board of directors and as co-founder of the Center, the board has elected Stanley Hainsworth, brand savant and former global creative director of Nike, Lego and Starbucks, to take the helm. Hainsworth will lead the nonprofit’s rebranding strategy.

In addition to brand updates, the organization promises a year of unprecedented programming. From the Center’s return to Carnegie Hall in April to a comprehensive compilation of Latter-day Saint art in a forthcoming 600-page volume published by Oxford University Press, the organization anticipates that the diverse range of products, activities, and exhibitions will benefit audiences of all ages.

“This year delivers the culmination of Center projects that have been years in the making – projects that span cities, continents, centuries, and cultures. We hope you'll join us, wherever you are, in celebrating the extraordinary artists and artistic heritage of our broad Latter-day Saint community,” says Mykal Urbina, executive director of the Center for Latter-day Saint Arts.



Richard Bushman (R), chairman of the Center for Latter-day Saint Arts, and Stanley Hainsworth (L), chair-elect of the Center for Latter-day Saint Arts. Photo: Samantha Zauscher

In chronological order, highlights of the Center for Latter-day Saint Arts’ 2024 season include:

Rachel Willis-Sørensen at Carnegie Hall:

On April 9th, 2024, at 7:30pm, the celebrated soprano Rachel Willis-Sørensen will make her New York recital debut at Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall as a guest of

the Center for Latter-day Saint Arts. Willis-Sørensen is a regular at leading opera houses around the world, from the LA Opera to Opéra national de Paris.

At Zankel Hall, Willis-Sørensen will sing works by Strauss and song cycles by Rachmaninoff, Beach, and Sebelius. She will also give the world premiere of S. Andrew Lloyd's *Amaranthine*, winner of the 2022 Prize of The Ariel Bybee Endowment at the Center for Latter-day Saint Arts, an endowment created to honor the legacy of Metropolitan Opera mezzo, Ariel Bybee (1943-2018).

"It is a privilege and an honor to take the stage in celebration of Ariel Bybee, who poured all of her prodigious skill through the lens of her awe-inspiring faith. She produced world-class art in a way that I can only hope to emulate," states Willis-Sørensen.

Tickets start at \$65 and are available to purchase at CarnegieCharge (212) 247-7800, [carnegiehall.org](https://www.carnegiehall.org), or at the Box Office on 57th Street and Seventh Avenue.

PRESENTED BY THE CENTER FOR LATTER-DAY SAINT ARTS

Rachel Willis-Sørensen

Rachel Willis Sørensen
SOPRANO
Tamar Sanikidze
PIANO

Tuesday, April 9, 2024
7:30 PM Carnegie Hall, NYC

Ariel Bybee
ENDOWMENT
AT THE CENTER

THE CENTER
FOR LATTER-DAY SAINT ARTS

***Materializing Mormonism: Trajectories in Contemporary Latter-day Saint Art*, a visual arts exhibition at the Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum:**

On May 10, 2024, the Center for Latter-day Saint Arts will debut a visual arts exhibition at the Mesa Contemporary Art Museum in downtown Mesa, AZ, selected by the museum through a prospectus process. The substantial exhibition features works from more than thirty-five LDS affiliated artists from around the globe, including Eduardo Alvarez, Ginny Huo, Susana Isabel de Silva, Brian Kershisnik, Kent Christensen, Mary Sauer and Arizona-native-Corrine Geertson. The exhibition will present a broad array of media and thought within contemporary Mormon art inviting viewers to explore the complexity of ideas inspired by an increasingly worldwide faith tradition.

Materializing Mormonism: Trajectories in Contemporary Latter-day Saint Art is organized by Heather Belnap, Brontë Hebdon Patterson, and Ashlee Whitaker. The trio of female curators invites viewers to participate in the exhibition thematically through the following organizing principles: community and belonging; natural and built environments; worldmaking; peculiar “Mormon” iconography; sacred memory; and the body as a privileged and yet contested site.

Of the curatorial process, Whitaker shares, "Latter-day Saint art—created by those closely affiliated with the faith and those for whom the Latter-day Saint culture has been impactful—is flowering, and there is so much dynamic artwork being created right now, much of which is less-familiar to audiences." Her co-curator, Hebdon Patterson, adds, "Especially as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints enlarges its online presence – through social media, YouTube, etc.– LDS artwork is in high demand! Images are also useful in uniting an increasingly global LDS audience so exhibitions like those at the Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum are opportunities for cultural reflection on how art contributes to faith and identity for a twenty-first-century faith community."

The exhibition continues through August 4, 2024. For more information or to plan your visit to the exhibition, please visit the [Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum](#) website.



**MATERIALIZING
MORMONISM** TRAJECTORIES
IN CONTEMPORARY
LATTER-DAY
SAINT ART



Top: Kent Christensen, *Secrets of the Great Salt Lake* (Triptych), 2019, oil on linen, 40 x 64 inches. Private Collection; Bottom (Left to Right): Cameron King, logo and exhibition design; Corinne Geertsen, *Orbit Starter Kit*, digital photo collage, 21 x 25 inches. Collection of the Artist.

two studies in collaboration, work exhibited at Sargent's Daughters Gallery in NYC:

Sister-and-brother artists from Buenos Aires, Susana and Gonzalo Silva, will showcase their installation work at Sargent's Daughters gallery in NYC this spring. The Silvas are the 2023 prize winners of The Ariel Bybee Endowment at the Center for Latter-day Saint Arts.

Inspired by the work of fellow Argentinean and female pioneer of electroacoustic music in Latin America, Hilda Dianda (1925), the Silva's project responds to

Dianda's *Dos Estudios en Oposición* ("Two Studies in Opposition", 1959). The Silva's "two studies in collaboration" is conceived as a mixed-media installation that explores two distinct frameworks: the dialogue between graphical music notation and its relationship with contemporary visual art; and a review of Latin American, female representation within the canon of contemporary musical history.

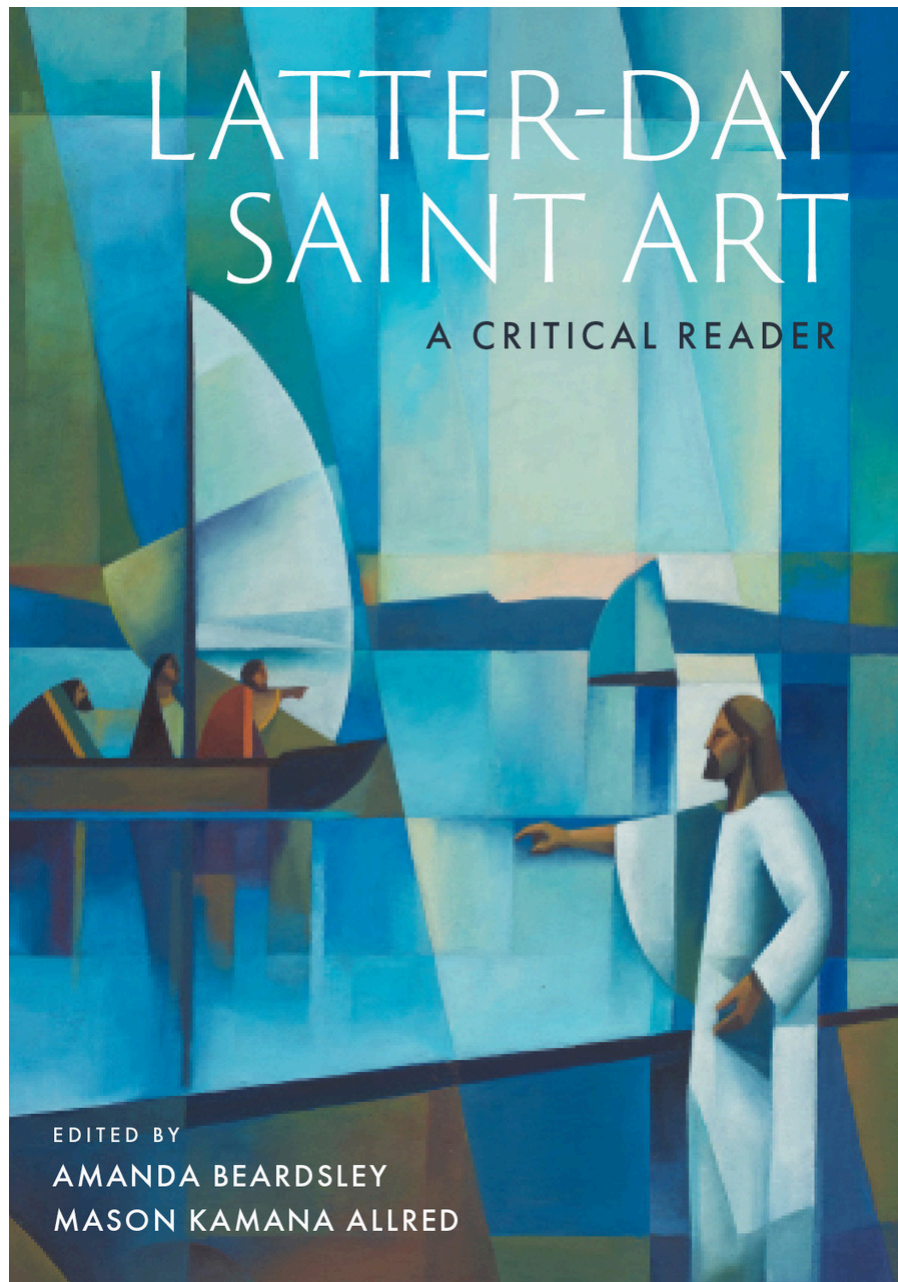
More details on the forthcoming exhibition will be shared soon.

Latter-day Saint Art: A Critical Reader from Oxford University Press:

The volume, a project of the Center for Latter-day Saint Arts, includes twenty-two essays from twenty-four scholars working in various disciplines, perspectives, and backgrounds. Together, they offer rigorous research and analysis of Latter-day Saint artistic production and culture alongside elegant reproductions of more than 200 works of Mormon art, including panorama paintings, quilts, architecture, sculpture, and cartoons, to film, gallery installations, indigenous works and more. Highlighting a broad range of critical approaches from scholars both inside and outside the faith tradition, this manuscript is the first of its kind about Latter-day Saint art from Oxford University Press.

Included in the 600-page manuscript is a chapter from Terryl Givens on "A Theology of Mormon Art." In addition, Jennifer Reeder's writing on "Creating Something Extraordinary: Nineteenth Century Latter-day Saint Women and Their Folk Art" and Paul Reeve's work, "Race and Latter-day Saint Art." The volume is edited by Amanda Beardsley and Mason Kamana Allred with a foreword from Center co-founders, Richard L. Bushman and Glen Nelson.

The volume may be [pre-ordered now](#) or is available for purchase on August 2, 2024.



***Work & Wonder*, a visual arts exhibition at the Church History Museum:**

Opening September 26, 2024 through February 2025, *Work and Wonder: 200 Years of Latter-day Saint Art* is organized by the Church History Museum and the Center for Latter-day Saint Arts, whose donors helped make the exhibition possible. Heather Belnap, Ashlee Whitaker Evans, and Brontë Hebdon are the curatorial team behind the exhibition.

As the Church nears the bicentennial of its organization in 1830, this exhibition surveys two centuries' worth of art and objects created by individuals connected to the faith. *Work and Wonder* is the largest and most comprehensive attempt to

show the variety of works by Latter-day Saint artists around the world from the Church's founding to the present. It includes imagery from a broad array of backgrounds, materials, and styles and invites audiences to consider both the historical traditions and future trajectories of Latter-day Saint art. Rather than telling a story chronologically or geographically, the exhibition is organized into four thematic sections: Memory and Archive; Individual and Church; Sacred Spaces; and Identity.

Ashlee Whitaker, one of the three curators for the exhibition, shares "It is a privilege to be part of the Center for Latter-day Saint Art's efforts and contribute to the increasing scholarship related to Latter-day Saint Art through this exhibition. It celebrates the ever-expanding understanding of the faith's artistic tradition."

Work & Wonder invites audiences of all kinds to learn more about the legacy of cultural output from the Latter-day Saint tradition. Information for visitors of the show in downtown Salt Lake City is forthcoming.



The Church History Museum in downtown Salt Lake City, 2010.

John Held Jr., an exhibition at the Museum of Art at Brigham Young University:

Originally an exhibition for the Center for Latter-day Saint Arts in New York City, *John Held, Jr.* is curated by Glen Nelson, co-founder and director of special projects at the Center.

The first exhibition of Held's work at the Museum of Art, it celebrates his commercial work, paintings, drawings, watercolors, prints, and sculpture, as well as his almost-entirely unknown body of fiction. Nelson states, "Held's humor and style defined an era, but there are surprising parallels between the 1920s and the 2020s: in both decades, society emerged from global pandemics, wars, and financial uncertainties to find upheaval on college campuses and gender roles in dynamic transition."

John Held, Jr. will be on view at the museum December 6, 2024—April 2025.



Images from the John Held, Jr. collection.

Ongoing Programming:

In addition to these major 2024 publications, events, and exhibitions, the Center will continue to offer its mainstay programming. A leader in Latter-day Saint arts and artistic development, ongoing programs include:

- The weekly Come, Follow Me (Art Companion) provides artistic supplement and useful questions for Gospel study of all ages. A pioneering resource, the Art Companion is a tool for families and individuals alike.
- Monthly podcast interviews from the Center Studio Podcast with host, Glen Nelson. Now in its 7th year, the podcast highlights interviews with artists, thinkers, and leaders within the Latter-day Saint community.
- The second year of The Artists Residency at the Center, which invites artists to apply for a one-week, all-expenses-paid residency in the cultural capital of the world. Last year's inaugural cohort claimed the experience was "life changing...the best thing [they] have ever done for [their] art and [their] faith."
- A yearly and continued prize cycle for The Ariel Bybee Endowment at the Center for Latter-day Saint Arts to honor the legacy of Ariel Bybee and to foster the creation of new works by Latter-day Saint artists in disciplines that correspond to her varied career and interests in music and related arts. 2024 prize winner, Mia Black, will develop her work on American folk music, a collection of folk songs for the elementary school classroom.
- **A virtual discussion and professional development series** organized by the Center's advisory board will continue in the May 2nd online workshop from Steven Peck and Jackie Leishman on the value of cross-disciplinary collaboration. Peck and Leishman's most recent collaboration featured Jackie's visual art paired with evolutionary biologist Steve's poetry investigating the loss humans will continue to experience with climate change. It received critical acclaim and was published in *Whitefish Review*.

Other examples of the Center's professional development series include the March 2024 panel discussion from award-winning composer Benjamin Taylor, critically-acclaimed playwright Melissa Leilani Larson and nationally-acclaimed visual artist Sara Lynne Lindsay on portfolio management and tips and tricks for applying to awards or residencies.



Top: Richard and Claudia Bushman with the first cohort of The Artists Residency at the Center in NYC;
Bottom (R to L): The King will Come performs in NYC (2023); *I AM: The Journey* premieres at BYU (2024).

About the Center for Latter-day Saint Arts

The Center for Latter-day Saint Arts exists at the intersection of divine creativity and cultural relevance. We believe that God is the ultimate creator and that art is the common language of our human experience. We draw from a diverse spectrum of Latter-day Saint creators to connect with a worldwide audience – artistically, intellectually and spiritually.

###

The Center for Latter-day Saint Arts is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit registered in the State of New York.

For more information (press only):

[Emily Larsen Doxford](#) | Communications Director, Center for Latter-day Saint Arts



Copyright © 2024

Our mailing address is:

P.O. Box 230465
New York, New York 10023

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update](#) or [unsubscribe](#).